



Past vs. Present

Taja Kysilovsky

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Published by A Made Up Company

Book layout, cover art, photography and design created and copyrighted © 2014 by Taja Kysilovsky.

ISBN-01: 123-4-567-89101-1

ISBN-11: 1-098-76543-2

Printed in the United States of America

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A photography book by Taja Kysilovsky

Author's Note

Past Vs. Present is a personal project and collection of photographs that had originally started as just something entertaining to do after looking through old family photographs- comparing the “then” photos to now, the year 2014. I had noticed all the changes in one of the rooms in my house and compared it to the old photo in my hand and, eventually, this led to a whole project that I had created. I could see that some things in my home had changed, while some had remained completely in tact and unchanged. I then started to drive around, carrying some of my photos with me and revisiting old places to see what else was the same or what else had changed. It got almost depressing to see how many things had changed and seeing people or places in the photograph that were no longer with me. However, at the same time, it is always fun to go back to a place that you forgot about and think back to where something started and the memories that come attached to a place. It is definitely a project that gets you thinking and really makes you appreciate where you have come from and to continue cherishing every moment before it's gone. The photos that you are about to see are a small collection of photos that I took around my own home and my hometown, each one having a different purpose and serving as a reminder or a single memory of something that once was. Although I wish to go back to these times, as they were more simple, this project should serve as an eye opening reminder- to myself as well as you- that there is no time like the present and to keep making more memories that you can look back on in the future.

Maybe that moment is even the one that you are in right now.

Sable

2004

Revere home

Sable was the first dog I ever got, back in the summer of 2000. She passed away in 2012, so seeing her in pictures, being so healthy, was hard at first. She looks so much healthier here and so much more like herself as I want to remember her, which turned the initial sadness into a more joyous feeling. Having all of these memories of her is so important and anyone who has or has ever had a pet will agree with me when I say that a dog is your best friend. Always cherish the memories you have with your pet because they're never here as long as we wish they could be.



Taja with Sable

2005

Inside my Revere home, Kitchen

Other than the obvious fact that this photograph is of Sable with myself, this photo looks confusing because of all the interior changes within my living room. The large yellow block in the old photo is an island wall that was in the house when we first moved in, back in 1997. Not as noticeable is the tiles on the floor that don't match because my father and brother had torn them up and re-done them all on their own. Funny enough, that gate is still there today because when it wasn't kids running around, it was the dog. It's important to remember every aspect of your childhood home because eventually there are going to be changes as we get older and there is no going back.



Sable as A Puppy

2000

Inside my Revere home, Parent's bedroom

Getting a puppy when you're at such a young age is a blessing and a curse. If you start off so young with a dog, you will always feel as though you need one to be a part of your life. It is also so much harder to remember them when they were at such a small and cute stage in their life, just as you were when you first met them. The photos that you have of them are so important to remember them when they were at their youngest, just as you once were, too.



Taja Playing Softball

2000

St. Mary's baseball field, Revere

Softball was the only sport that I ever committed to and stuck with. I played softball for 9 years at the same baseball field and then eventually to the bigger leagues for 3 years. Starting sports at such a young age keeps you active and looking back on the photos reminds you that it is important to stay active. Eventually, you are going to get older and only dream of being so young and agile, running around and playing the sport you once loved.



Gabrielle Longo at Third Base
2000
St. Mary's baseball field, Revere

I met my best friend, Gabrielle “Gab” Longo, at just five years old, where we were both kindergarden students at the Whelan school. I would say that I am the one who convinced her to play softball since I was always playing and practicing so much. We ended up on the same team for 2 years, but she ended up quitting because she just didn’t enjoy it as much as I did. Looking back, I think it was for the best that she quit when she did because you never want to do something just because someone else wants you to. If you don’t enjoy it, you will only regret that time you wasted.



Gab Longo and Taja At Church

1998

Immaculate Conception, Revere

Ironically, Gab and I also went to the same church for our CCD classes from Kindergarden all the way through to our sophomore year in high school, when we recieved our confirmation. Although I don't really remember if either of us convinced our parents to talk to the other one's parents so we could attend the same church, what I do remember is that having her there made it a lot less boring. It's important to have your best friends there to make the bad times seem a lot less awful.



Annette Lustenberger Sledding

(also pictured: Robert Kysilovsky)

2005

Backyard of my Revere home

Annette and I met in fifth grade reading class, because we were the “quiet” ones that no one ever really talked to. So, we would always talk to each other. The winter of 2005, when we were in 8th grade, we saw a lot of snow and we made the best of our snow days. I didn’t really live on or by any hills, so a make-shift hill made of my deck stairs were the best we could get, though my parents said it’d be dangerous. This picture shows that, although I still live in the same house, with the same scenery, my backyard has changed the most of any places in these pictures. Although I don’t have that pool or that deck anymore, the memories will live on through the photographs.



Rob Vertullo with Robert Before Junior Prom

2012

Outside of my neighbor's home, Revere

Rob Vertullo had been my family's downstairs tenant since I was about 9 years old. We had had a woman who lived there for about a year before him and she was so kind, so I was nervous for this new guy to move in. However, after living there for about a year or so, he became just like family. On our birthdays, he would take us out for ice cream and sometimes he would just let us hang out with his dog when he went away on vacation or even just because. He moved out in 2014, after thirteen years of living downstairs, but changes happen and you either avoid it or embrace it. It just goes to show that you don't have to be blood to be family.



Mason Playing Basketball
2009
Backyard of my Revere home

My younger brothers, Robert and Mason, played basketball for a couple of years and they're the reason why my father believed that having a basketball court in my backyard would be a fantastic idea. They would play outside for hours, whether it be just throwing the ball around alone or playing a game of one-on-one. Nowadays, however, neither of them plays and we are all stuck with an empty backyard, only good when it comes to summer parties or winter snow ball fights. Appreciate what you have while you have it, before it's gone.



Taja, Robert and Mason's First Day of School

2006

Outside of my Revere home

I'm sure a lot of people can relate to the typical first day of school picture that your parents make you take every year, as a documentation of how much you've grown up throughout the years. It's crazy to look back and see how much older that you actually have gotten as the school years flew by. I may still be the oldest, but I'm definitely no longer the tallest. The light posts are gone and the fence is more worn, but my family is still everything and the memories that house holds are something nobody outside of it would ever understand.



Acknowledgements

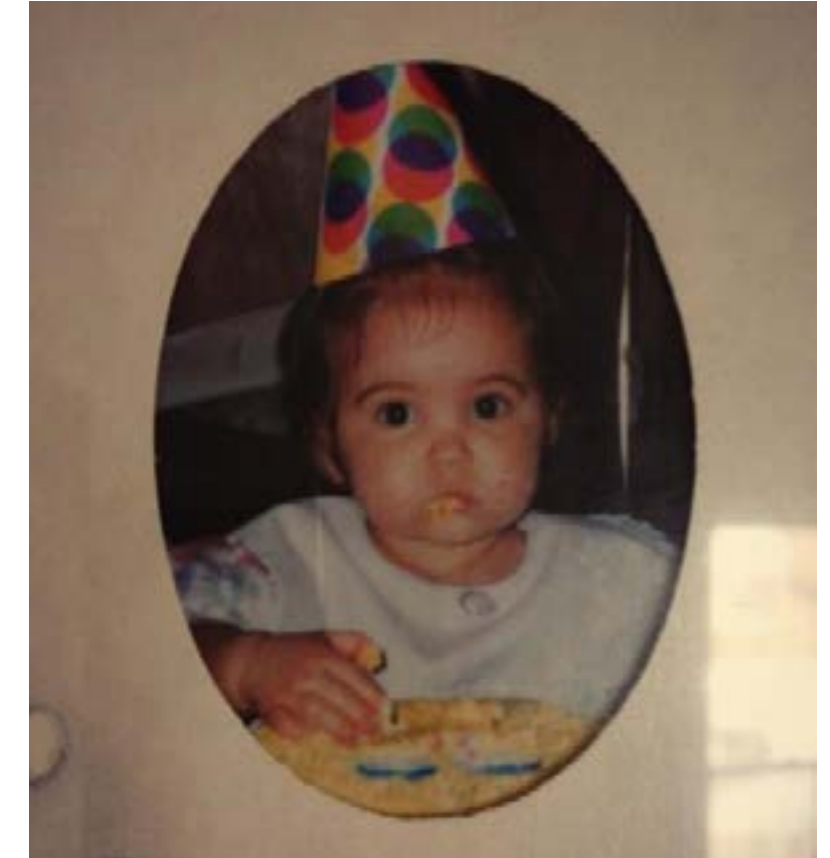
This book is dedicated to my dog, Sable, who passed away and knew she was always my favorite subject to photograph.

Thank you to my mother and father for letting me pursue photography and believing that I could be able to make something of myself in the art field.

Thank you to my friends for also letting me carry my camera everywhere and use them as my subjects whenever the time arises, which we all knew can be unexpected and sporatical.

Most importantly, a huge thank you to my family and friends who let me use the photographs with them in them and allowing me to publish them in this photo book.

About the Author



Taja Kysilovsky is a 22 year old Digital Art Major, currently in her senior year at Northeastern University. She lives in her home with her mother, Rhona, father, Bobby, two younger brothers, Robert and Mason, Robert's girlfriend, Yeraldine, a Puggle named Lily and a cat named Kali. She grew up, and currently resides, in Revere, Massachusetts. She graduated from Revere High School in 2010, where she first started taking photography classes, though she was interested in photography long before, when her older cousin was taking those same classes. She is currently working in the Facilities Customer Service Center on campus and also in the process of being hired as a freelance photographer at her city's recreation department.