

The Aardsma Weekly

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A Work Day



6:00: The day begins. I get up and dress for the day. Matthew has been up for a while and is just leaving for work. Our house cat is mewing in her cage, so I let her out and she runs around the house.

6:15: Rebekah is up feeding two newly hatched lovebird babies. I clean my room and play with the cat while I wait for breakfast.

7:00: Breakfast is ready. Rebekah has made eggs and sausage.

7:15: Rebekah goes outside and starts working in the garden while I start on the dishes. Timmy and Caleb make their appearance and eat breakfast.

7:30: The boys go outside to do the chores. The house is quiet as I finish up the dishes and begin the other routine housework.

8:00: Mom and Dad get up. Mom immediately starts in on a mound of laundry.

8:30: Dad has eaten breakfast and goes to his small trailer to start work. I hang out laundry while Mom gets dressed and tidies her room. The boys come in from doing the chores and clean their room. Mom gets to work on office accounting and places some orders for Dad.

9:00: More laundry to hang out. I wash the bathroom floor and put away the breakfast dishes. Timmy and Caleb go back outside to help Rebekah.

9:30: I join everyone outside and weed asparagus. Rebekah is tilling the garden, and the boys are working in the barn. The day is sunny and warm, and it is pleasant to be outside.

10:00: Rebekah goes inside to make bread and start lunch. Mom is making phone calls, trying to get back a rebate for her new computer. It doesn't sound like it's going too well!

11:30: I go inside and work on the next Aardsma Weekly for a half hour. Rebekah soon calls me into the kitchen to help her with lunch. Mom and Caleb start school in the dining room.

12:00: Lunch is ready. Matthew gets home from work and we gather to eat.

12:45: After family devotions, Matthew leaves to rake leaves and Rebekah and I start on the lunch dishes.

1:00: The dishes are done and Rebekah and I settle down with books and knitting for an hour of relaxation. Mom tidies the laundry room and gets some bags together for the Goodwill.

2:00: School begins. The house is quiet as everyone is occupied in his or her own room. Caleb settles down in the living room with books and a tape.

3:00: Mom herds Rebekah and I outside for our daily walk. Rebekah takes our dog Freckles along, and the boys grab balls, bikes, and jackets so they can come too.

3:45: We are home from the walk. Dad and Mom leave for their walk, and I bring in the laundry and fold it so Beka can put it away before we continue our school. Timmy does school while Caleb does some odd jobs around the house.

5:00: Timmy, Caleb, and I gather around the radio in the kitchen and listen to the nightly *Adventures In Odyssey* show. Matthew is home and comes into the kitchen to find some supper. Rebekah makes herself some Ramen soup and sits down to listen in on the Odyssey.

5:30: Supper is over and Matthew heads to his room to do school. Beka joins him while I take a bath and Mom, Timmy, and Caleb do the supper dishes.

6:00: The boys are playing checkers in the living room. Dad comes over and helps Mom with a problem on her computer. I join Rebekah in Matthew's room and play with the cat while Matthew reads us his history lesson about medieval times. Mom marks school and tidies the house.

7:30: The boys go into Dad's room and snuggle down in the big bed with Dad, who reads to them from 'Caddie Woodlawn'. I come in and do Mom's hair while she works on her website.

8:00: The boys are in bed. I go into Beka's room where she is reading in her loft bed and we chat for a while. Matthew comes in briefly to tell us something funny, and then leaves to take a bath. We can hear Mom and Dad working on website problems.

9:00: I go to bed. Rebekah and Matthew feed the baby birds and Matthew talks Beka into making him some vanilla pudding. I am too sleepy to care that they are eating it all without me.

9:15: Beka goes to bed. Matthew brings Freckles in from outside. I get up and turn off the kitchen lights. I make sure the doors are all locked while I am at it. Matthew's light goes off.

9:45: Mom and Dad get up to make their rounds of the house. I am just barely awake. The house falls silent, except for a few suspiciously mouse-like noises from the kitchen. A soft glow comes into my room from the night-lights in the kitchen and I fall asleep to the sound of Mom and Dad's muffled laughter.

The Weekly Bible Verse

Psalms 84:1-2: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

David: A Man After God's Own Heart

By Rachel Aardsma

Part 9.

David strummed his harp listlessly. His eye wandered over his peacefully grazing sheep and towards the distant hills, where Jonathan and King Saul were fighting the Philistines.

He sighed at the thought of Jonathan. It amazed David how much he really missed Jonathan. He had not realized they had become such good friends.

David missed King Saul as well. King Saul could be a little sarcastic at times, and he did have a temper, but David loved him anyway. How could you help loving someone who had taken you into his palace and treated you like a beloved son?

"David?" The voice of Nethanel, one of David's brothers, jolted him back to the present.

"Some fine shepherd you are!" Nethanel joked, giving David a playful nudge. "You didn't even hear me come up, did you? Good thing I wasn't a lion! Why weren't you paying attention? All that king stuff has made you too grand for such a humble job, eh?" David smiled. He had to admit that it was good to hear Nethanel's good natured ribbing again.

"What are you doing out here?" David asked, as Nethanel joined him on the ground. "Playing truant from the fields?"

"No," Nethanel replied with a laugh. "Father sent me. He wants you to bring some food down to Abinadab, Eliab, and Shammah down at King Saul's camp..." David bolted upright.

"Nethanel! You're joking! Hurrah!" David took off down the hill at top speed. Nethanel watched him go and shouted after him.

"Don't worry about your poor sheep, by the way, David. I'll just watch them for you. I guess you weren't doing to great a job, anyhow." David shouted his thanks over his shoulder and took a flying leap over a bush. He was going to see Jonathan again!



A Word About The Weather



It was very warm this week until Friday, when the temperature dropped. A cruel wind and rainy weather made Friday and Saturday miserable. We're hoping the weather will warm up a little so we can finish up the garden work for the year before the ground freezes and the snow flies.



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Bits and Pieces



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This week we did a lot of garden work. Rebekah had to till the whole garden and spread gypsum and lime over everything. Timmy and Caleb helped her. Rebekah complained afterwards that both her little toes hurt because the boys stepped on them as they helped her push the spreader.

After the garden had been tilled and the lime spread, we spread manure over several sections of the garden. I had to help with that. Matthew taught me how to use his big, powerful Craftsman lawn tractor, something I did not want to learn to do.

It didn't take me long to learn how to do it, though, and soon we were in business. I would drive the tractor at a crawl, with a trailer of manure hitched up to the back, and Beka would walk behind with a hoe and spread the manure. Timmy and Caleb came along for the ride.

We now have Clue tournaments every Sunday night. I bought the game with some birthday money this summer, and Rebekah, Matthew, and I played a few times. Dad wanted to learn how to play, and so he played a game with us. Dad, the great logician and scientist, loved it. So now, we play a game every week. (Even Mom, the not-so-great logician, has started to play!)

So far, Matthew has won almost every game, but Dad is working on his strategy, and we all expect him to surface as the newest champion soon.

Mom always makes snacks for the night. Last week we had vanilla ice-cream floats, and microwave popcorn. Not very healthy, but it added greatly to the fun of the night!



A Word of Wisdom



When you are on the Internet and a big sign pops up saying you won a free laptop, **NEVER CLICK ON THE 'ACCEPT' BUTTON!!!!** All you will get out of the deal is a bunch of advertisements bombarding your e-mail account daily. (Mom made the mistake of accepting her free laptop. We never got the laptop and yesterday she counted 130 advertisements in her e-mail. By the way, Mom gave me permission to write this!)