**50 Fond, Funky, and Funny Memories from 50 births**

1. Mom walking outside her apartment complex holding onto her neighbors fences during contractions. One neighbor walks passed and asks us if we need a mop….a mop? Haha why? Maybe he assumed her water was broken.
2. I remember the student nurse wanting to do a speculum exam to determine if my client’s water was broken, even though she was dripping on the floor.
3. I ran from my car after parking to get to the (3rd time) Mom and Dad when we arrived at the hospital, only to find her squatting in the hallway. The hospital staff was throwing chucks pads underneath her, cutting off her underwear, and pulling a curtain on wheels out to protect her privacy.
4. Once, an OB cut the umbilical cord which was wrapped around the baby’s neck even before the baby’s head was out without even trying to pull it over baby’s head. The parent’s wanted delayed cord clamping.
5. After over 36 hours of labor I started to feel a little sickly and asked the parents and nurse if they’d be okay if I sat down for a minute. I passed out in a chair and woke up to see a baby crowning directly in front of me.
6. One of my moms wanted to leave her house when it seemed like only the beginning of labor. When I saw her carrying bags out of the car I was sure we’d be heading back home soon. She was pushing less than 30 minutes later.
7. During laboring at home we decided to go for a walk. Instead of putting on my shoes while heading out the door, I put on the Dad’s. He had to stop me to tell me.
8. During an induction, I was at home waiting for active labor to begin, but instead of hearing that she was ready and needed me, I learned that my client had already gotten an epidural.
9. One time, the first thing I did when I got to the mom’s house was blow dry her hair for her.
10. I always stress the importance of sleeping in early labor. Once I was called to come and found the mom still lying flat on her back in obvious very active labor still trying to sleep because she just wanted to do the right thing. It was adorable and hilarious at the same time.
11. One time the first thing I heard out of a mom’s mouth when I arrived to her house was “I’m pushing.”
12. I tell the Dad’s to turn their hazard lights on to speed through traffic if the mom is pushing. On time the Dad did and had his windows down enough to hear a neighboring car inform him his hazard lights were on to which he responded, “ya, my wife is having the baby dude,” and the guy in the next car exclaimed, “well then haul ass bro!” (Only in San Diego)
13. Once, I was called to a home birth at night but went to the wrong house.
14. A mom fell asleep in the tub hanging over the edge. She started snoring. I counted 6 minutes. She had a 6 minute nap only to wake up to a strong urge to push and out slid her baby minutes later.
15. There was a birth that taught me how true it is that we can actually repeat our own births to the EXACT “T” if we haven’t fully dealt with issues with our mother.
16. One time the first thing a mom said to me when I arrived was “this sucks Karen”
17. I got to listen to a Dad pray so lovingly over his wife while she labored in the shower and he sat eagerly right next her on the toilet.
18. I said something pretty bitchy to a mom once when I thought she was being a tad diva-like in early labor, turned out she was in transition and I’m a total jerk.
19. Just to keep the momentum, I put a picture of a mom’s puppy and a picture of her and her hubby at opposite ends of the hall in her apartment building. I gave her a goal of make it to “6 puppies” (walking back and forth) before going back inside.
20. One time an OB prepped the OR in unbelief that this mom would be able to push her baby out after 4 hours of trying. The tiniest tug of a vacuum and one heroic push took this mom from repeating her own birth to kicking it’s butt.
21. A Dad informed me his wife was in labor by texting me in the middle of the night saying “the butter is melting! The butter is melting.” (butter birth is what we call a fast awesome birth in the doula world)
22. I snapped a picture of a mom and Dad laboring in their candle-lit bathroom with the mom in her tub. I can still see it like I’m there. It was so beautiful, you could smell the love and taste the courage in the room.
23. Surprise, surprise! One time I suggested a mom get an epidural. Yes, they have their time and place!
24. One of my moms decided she no longer liked the smell of my oils so I couldn’t use any of my aroma therapy, none of it! She didn’t want to smell ANYTHING.
25. I had to drive a mom to the hospital once because it happened so fast and there was no partner. She was pushing on the way there and eating a granola bar at the same time.
26. Once, when things picked up *really* fast, the mom came out of her room crawling across the floor. Stopped, and exclaimed, “What’s in your bag Karen?, Karen, help me!”
27. I had a mom who liked counting during contractions. We didn’t count to a certain number and there wasn’t any reason, she just liked everyone around her to count continuously. It was hours upon hours of counting and counting and counting.
28. Once we played an entire Michael Jackson album during labor per mom’s request.
29. I had the second mom I’ve ever seen deliver her baby on Pitocin but without an epidural at this time.
30. One time, the Dad was checking in while I was supporting the mom leaning on the wall right next to the nurse station. The nurse asked the Dad if he thought she (his wife) could give her a urine sample. He said, “let me ask” and turned to face his wife and she began to moan through a contraction. He turned back to the nurse and responded, “she said ‘mmmmmmmmmmmmmgggggggggggggggggggggguuuuuuuhh.” It took everything within me to not completely burst into laughter.
31. Once a mom fell asleep at 9 centimeters. She would half wake up for each contraction, then I would softly talk her back into a sleep state at the end of each one.
32. I was trying to sleep while the parents were waiting for active labor to start at their induction. I was woken up in an unexplainable panic. I asked God and he told me to pray for the baby because she had a nucal cord (cord around the baby’s neck). So I did. When I got to the hospital I pulled the doctor aside to ask if he thought there was any reason this could be true. He looked at me like I was crazy. When the baby came out he had to stop the Dad from receiving her while he pulled a tight cord wrapped TWICE around her neck.
33. I asked a mom to stop and eat before her induction and I would meet them at the hospital. She walked in with a large container of precut pineapples. (pineapples have a reputation of starting labor).
34. I witnessed an unfortunate event of a woman beginning labor while sick. Her uterus never seemed strong enough to create very effective contractions. She ended up being another one on Pitocin but still no medication after days of labor.
35. I got to the first time parent’s house after it had barely seemed to develop into active labor, only to receive a text that they already left for the hospital. I met them there with a lot of fear it was too soon, but it wasn’t! She was already 7cm.
36. This was the first time I saw a first time mom “breathe her baby down.” Just like HypnoBirthing teaches. I’ve seen a lot of serine births, but that one takes the lead for peacefulness by far.
37. When I could see that a baby wasn’t centered in mom’s belly and she could tell it was off to one side too, I asked her to do a few simple positions and saw baby change positions immediately. Her water broke right after that, and she was pushing minutes later. Another first time mom with less than 6 hours of active labor.
38. I watched a mom find her voice while being induced. She became a mom at that moment even before her baby was born.
39. I had a mom who never took her blindfold off the entire time at the hospital. She ROCKED that VBAC.
40. A Dad once wore a Go-pro on his head while helping to catch his baby.
41. I went with the parents to the grocery store while in full-on every 3-4 minutes strong labor. Funniest moment in my doula career.
42. One of my moms declined vaginal exams. The OB was a bit peeved and asked (paraphrasing), “then why are you here?” to which she responded, “because it’s time.”
43. When I met a mom she assumed she’d get an epidural and had the usual apprehensions about the discomfort of labor. A few months later I got to hear her explain to a room of women next to my side that her natural birth was basically pain free.
44. One time, my client was told nurses couldn’t remove her scar tissue on her cervix. Then minutes after she got an epidural her nurse rubbed it away and she flew from 1cm to 7cm in minutes.
45. I watched a 3rd time natural birthing mom have an epidural right there ready for her but she changed her mind and said, “never mind, I can do it.”
46. One time, I’d witnessed courage like never before when I saw the parents choose to have a belly birth.
47. I got to watch a surrogate hand the parents their beloved son. The mom took off her shirt and held that baby skin to skin and cried.
48. Recently, a first time mom was in active labor for less than 90 minutes.
49. The parents told me after the baby was born that they wanted me to care for her! Now I get to see the baby for a few hours every week!
50. I saw homebirth midwives handle an emergency situation with the same (or better) skill as the best OBs in town. They were completely prepared and mom and baby were just fine because of them.