



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBIN SUBAR

Allison Peters of Hinsdale is a blogger, author, and former actress. A mother of four with husband, Nick, she started a children's book series about a boy with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Peters is also a member of the Hinsdale Historical Society's Women's Board and the Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club. You'll find her singing at Grace Episcopal Church on Sunday mornings. Here are some of her favorites around country and town.

Mantra? Some people wait for the storm to pass; others dance in the rain.

Guilty pleasure? Mexican hot chocolate from La Fortuna in the winter and their iced blueberry green matcha tea in the summer.

Favorite foods? I'm part Italian, so I have a natural-born love affair with food. Like my Sicilian grandmother, I've never met a shrimp I didn't like. Also, hot peppers!

Music you love? Some days, all I want to hear is Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, or Billie Holliday. Some days, it's Aaron Copland, Rimsky-Korsakov, or Handel. Some days, it's something from Broadway, like 42nd Street.

Best advice ever given to you? You do you. I feel like it goes with one of my favorite quotes by Oscar Wilde, "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."

Best advice you've given? Be kind always.

Earliest memory? In preschool, I told my friends that I had a unicorn who lived under my bed and would visit me through a secret portal.

Before bed, you ...? Look up from the computer, think to myself, "How is it already so late? Just one more paragraph ..." I've always been a night owl. Now, it's the only time I can get my work done.

What's on your bookshelf? I have some old favorites that I could read and reread again and again. I also have books that I've been meaning to read and haven't quite gotten to yet. Next on my list is A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.

You can't live without? A sense of humor. Sometimes you have to step outside of yourself and appreciate the ridiculousness of your situation.

Love to escape to? The theater! I love seeing new plays that challenge me to think in new ways or consider other viewpoints.

Advice you would give to your younger self? There is tremendous power and freedom in not caring what other people think.

WHEN IN THE COUNTRY

Your style is? Frazzled mom trying to find matching clothes. My uniform seems to be jeans, ballet flats, and a solid-colored T-shirt.

Can't leave the house without? Four different kinds of snacks for four different people, four newly-refilled-with-cold-water thermoses, and lots and lots of baby wipes.

Transportation? Most of the time, you can find me in my swagger wagon, "Prometheus," a Honda Odyssey minivan.

Place to eat? Frank's on First for their burgers, specialty hot dogs, and fries (especially the absurdly-delicious pork fries).

Shop? Like so many moms, I rarely shop for myself, but am a total sucker for my kids. I'm a regular at My Sister Kate in Hinsdale and Beautiful Beginnings in Western Springs.

Best thing about the Country? A community of people who look out for each other and raise their children to do the same.

Worst thing about country? Feeling inadequate most of the time. It's hard living in a place where everyone looks beautiful and successful and much more pulled together than I do.

The perfect day is ...? I love summertime when we can ride our bikes/walk into town for ice cream at Dips & Dogs, meet up with friends, and end up in an impromptu cookout in our backyard while the kids play a game of pick-up baseball that dissolves into catching fireflies in jars when the sun goes down.

WHEN IN TOWN

Your style is? "I'm out of my house!" free and easy! I'm most comfortable in dresses, so I usually choose something ultra-feminine with bright colors.

Can't leave the house without? My theater tickets, my phone, and a bottle of water with a little twist of lime.

Transportation? I love to drive so I take our little silver Toyota Prius (a.k.a. "John Adams") into town. It's a perfect city car.

Driving music? My go-to lately is the Hamilton mix tape, which I play alongside the original soundtrack.

Place to eat? I have some old haunts that I always like to revisit (like Mexique or GT Fish & Oyster); I also like trying little hole-in-the-wall spots with off-the-normal-rotation food (Demera for Ethiopian or Simi's for Nigerian).

Best thing about town? The art and culture!

Worst thing about town? The parking. Hinsdale has spoiled me with meters that still take coins.

The perfect day is ...? In a perfect world, my husband and I would sleep in and wake up just in time to go to Wrigley Field for a Cubs game and lunch, wander through Millennium Park, then head to Uncle Julio's at North/Clybourn for pre-theater fajitas and margaritas before a show at Steppenwolf.

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