Looking down on the floor of the SHOT Show in progress.

Through New Eyes

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This year was a very special SHOT Show for me on a few levels. With a new knife design debuting with TOPS Knives and recently being named the new Editor of *Knives Illustrated*, this year held a profound level of excitement and responsibility unmatched by previous years. But the highlight this year was having my son with me.

This was the first year that he was able to attend the show with me and I got to watch his expression and witness the amazement as he walked into the halls of the Sands Expo Center for the first time. It took me back to my first time attending the SHOT Show. Living vicariously through him, I was almost envious of the fresh perspective he brought with him.

Having attended the show numerous times before, I had almost let slip the awe of witnessing miles and miles of new gear from leaders in the industry. I had almost forgotten that there are booths that take up as much floor space as my home, yet on the map of the show they look to be no more than small specks in a sea of other similar booths. At these shows, we get so caught up in the list of to-dos that we forget to look around us and take in the magnitude and scope of what is actually happening here. Every cool new product and every cool new knife that will be hitting shelves within the year are here, together under one roof. It is a fortunate thing to be a part of.

By the end of the week, as my son sat on the floor, head in hand, I could see that he had experienced the show to its fullest. As for me, the opportunity to meet with old friends, speak with the different knife manufacturers about the new designs coming out and knowing that my son got to participate in something unlike anything he has ever seen made for a wildly successful trip.

As for the new knives coming out this year, I can honestly say that you will not be disappointed. We have covered quite a few for you here — believe me when I say there are great things to come in 2016.

Stay sharp and keep it real. KI