

From : nick maynard <nickandvan@yahoo.co.uk>**To :** zwebner@hotmail.com**Subject :** Adiel**Date :** Wed, 30 Apr 2003 17:14:14 +0100 (BST)

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To the Zwebner family,

We have just opened your e-mail and are devastated to hear of Adiel's tragic death. Our hearts and thoughts are with you all at such a sorry time.

We went to Madagascar for 6 months for many of the same reasons as Adiel's; to sink ourselves into another culture. After 4 months of travelling around the island, we were lucky enough to meet Adiel. It was one of those unexpected meetings, we knocked on his hut door late one night for a candle, and from then on, we stayed together and became friends, up until the point we waved him goodbye as he remained on a squashed taxi brousse going to meet his friend, Burak (?).

We had arrived in Ifaty, Southwest Madagascar after travelling down the west coast in a canoe and needed to rest. Adiel had done the best part of Madagascar, and much to our joy, cycled to many of the out-of-the-way places we had been to. He too needed a well-earned rest before going home. We had loads of stories to swap. He had a great spirit of adventure. He also had this wonderful ability to immerse himself in local culture. He soon befriended an English-speaking local and was dining with his family. Adiel arranged for us all to have a tour through the dry spiny forest with his new friend, which was great.

Adiel also appeared to have a slight eccentric side to him and was certainly charming. He had this unyielding desire to find any goat's produce, to the point that he charmed a local living in a wind-blown shack to part with some goat's milk for him, which he did. And 2 days later, in Tulear, he shared with us his prize find of fresh goat's cheese.

Each morning in Ifaty, we would all meet up to have coffee and pancakes with the locals. Days were spent playing with the children in the sea – Adiel had developed new ways of 'catapulting' children into the air, nights were spent chatting – Adiel was so funny and seemed very open – we learnt about his high rise window cleaning antics through to the political situation in the Middle East. But his favourite subject of the moment was dreaming of a meal he was to have at Chez Francise in Tana, apparently, the best food in the country!

Adiel's enthusiasm and curiosity for all things new seemed never-ending. He related a story to us about the time him and his friend spent with a religious community in Soatanana. Nick is a travel journalist and Adiel was very adamant that this would be a great story. We did go to Soatanana and the community remembered Adiel and Burak very well. Adiel was right; it was an unusual and very interesting place. Nick will be writing an article on our experiences there.

Reading about Adiel's death left us feeling numb, empty and unbelievably sad. There are many people that you meet in your life but so few have any genuine impact. Adiel was one of those few: In the time that we spent together, we all had such fun. Adiel's happiness was infectious but he also showed such humanity and was extremely non judgemental. He also had about him such an air of positive energy, it was hard not to feel uplifted in his company.

Since we came back we have had a couple of e-mails from him, which we have included below. We also have a couple of pictures that we would like to send to you. It would be great if you could forward us your address.

Having known Adiel, he made our lives a better place to be and we hope that with his love you will find great strength through these sad times. Our thoughts are with you all.

Nick and Vanessa

xxx

Here are a couple of Adiel's e-mails;

hey pommies
i'm back in israel.
the elections results are terrible, the economical depression is
deepening, there is no true hope for peace in the future, but it's good
to be back home.
have fun in the south, and send me information if you find some
interesting
things out there.
adiel

dear mates

just wanted to hear what's going on with you fellows.
hope you are having/ had fun in madagascar.
tell me what's going on with you and if you are back in london, so
maybe
i'll drop by for a hot cup of tea.
here everything is as usual, an explosion here and there, getting a new
pair
of chemical gas masks for the family, listening to the radio if there
is a
missile attack from dear Saddam.
have fun
Adiel

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