

Greetings and Happy Holidays from the Peltzer family,

Rejoice for another year! Will and Kate here, wishing you the happiest of the holiday season! It's during this time of year that Kate and I reflect on our friends and loved ones, take a few moments to catch you up on our lives, count our blessings and to remind people of some helpful advice for the holidays..

Even though Kate and I continue to live in New York state, we relocated to Old Forge, near the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness (fun fact: Ha-De-Ron-Dah is derived from the Iroquois word for "bark-eater" and is also a more accurate spelling of the native word Adirondack!). We enjoy having our peace and quiet away from everyone and would never return to the hustle and bustle of New York City life. We fill our time with long hikes, writing the occasional opinion piece for Clamp's online news division, and taking care of our fur babies, Lil' Barney Jr. and Gizmo.

Mom and Dad (Randy and Lynn) are both still doing well in Kingston Falls. Although they're getting on in years, it still hasn't stopped them both from traveling the country. This year they visited New Orleans and really dove into the food and local culture. They even brought some trinkets back that they purchased in a tiny voodoo shop (although...you'd have thought Mom would have prevented Dad from buying strange things from small shops ever again). Dad still spends a few hours every week in the garage tinkering with his "inventions" hoping to land on a million dollar idea.

Like many of you know, historically, this is a difficult time of year for Kate and I. Kate, sadly lost her father in a terrible accident on Christmas Eve when she was 9 years old. Finding your father, dressed as Santa, loaded with presents, with a broken neck in your chimney days after he had gone missing has obviously left Kate with a dislike of anyone wearing the festive red and white of Santa during this time of year.

In 1984, Kate and I had our entire hometown of Kingston Falls would fall prey to its own tragedy on Christmas Eve. The entire town, overrun with wild animals, was attacked. Most residents were merely frightened but many sustained injuries from their encounter. Sadly, there were a few reported deaths, including Ruby Deagle who met her untimely death in a freak stair chair lift accident that year. The wild animals had also created a gas leak in the local cinema (most likely drawn by the smell of popcorn) and caused the entire building to explode.

No one realized that as a result, Kingston Falls spends much of the Christmas season with a gloomy air about it (much like the coastal town of Amity Island does on the 4th of July) as it collectively remembers the horrific (but ultimately PG-13) event that once took place there.

So, it's for these reasons that Kate and I take this time of year to be grateful for our good fortune, friends, and loved ones. To remind everyone to enjoy the good moments, that tragedy could always be near. To keep that which you hold dear close to you...and to never expose it to sunlight, never let it come into contact with water, and *most importantly of all, never feed it after midnight.*