



FRIDAY FOLLIES

March 16, 2007

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Hey,



I didn't think I would have time to write this week, but I made it past one of my huge deadlines, so I decided to take a break and write. There has been a great deal going on this week - both professionally and personally. Just a busy time of year. But I managed to find a few minutes this past weekend to start a new drawing/painting. I wanted to try something a little different. Light brush strokes in watercolor and not the heavy stuff I usually do. I wanted to experiment with the brushes and what they would do. Here is stage one and stage two of this little country scene. Once I finish it, I may show it to you again. I really like trying to get the details right. May not end up being my style, but it is fun to try.

The bottom photo is of my office door covered in back issues of my publication I do where I work. It is only a small portion of what I do, but it is very gratifying when it is finished and I can hold it in my hand (or stick it on my door... Ha!) I have always been extremely fortunate to have the BEST graphic artists to work with. It is like they can read my mind. All very talented... that is for sure.



Well, quick little sound bites this week because I want to finish in time to see who gets eliminated from *American Idol*. I have to tell you - I LOVE that show - but I really find it a bit boring this year. The guys (even though I LOVE Chris who is from this area, and Blake, just because he is so "Blake") just are totally different from the girls - who are HUGELY talented this year - but all kinda sing in the same vein. I guess it will be interesting to watch, but where are the Kelleys and Katherines and Taylors? They made it so interesting last year! Heck - even Bucky added to the flavor.



On another note... I heard from my nephew for the first time since early January this week - in another part of the world. It was thrilling, to say the least. My whole family was caught up in it - as you can imagine...

Ya know, this world is getting so small... When my children's father was deployed on cruise years ago, there were no satellite phones, no email, and you were extremely lucky (actually unlucky because it meant something was terribly wrong) if you got a ship to shore call. My girlfriends and I would spend hours making videos, taking polaroids, and recording audio tapes to send to our husbands. Then we would box them up and ship them off - sometimes with the only way for them to be delivered - by air lift to the ship. This week, I viewed photos of my nephew in combat gear in another part of the world that were taken the very day I saw them. Immediately following that, while sitting at my desk at work, I received an email from him. It just amazes me how small the world has gotten.

I forwarded the photos to a friend and this was her response. I think she said it VERY well...

"Those pictures were amazing, Judi. As we live our lives... happy about, or worried about, so many less than profound things - you look at those photos and it puts it all in perspective. We are so lucky, all of us, in this country to be able to live the life of our choosing in relative safety and with such beauty and luxury. Taking a moment to view those photos puts so much in perspective. Even our homeless and truly less fortunate - still are not in that kind of a scenario. And so many of us are so very, very blessed. We need to do many things better in this country, but WOW do we have so much of IT right. How proud you must be of him. Worried for him too, I am sure. When I saw the photo of him with the Rooster - I thought of your painting. Interesting, timing I think, I can't recall but the rooster looks a bit like yours..."

Funny, when I saw that rooster, I thought the exact same thing. I have wanted to paint my silly rooster for years and finally did it, framed it, and hung it right before I received these photo. Coincidence? I don't believe in them... I think someday I will paint this rooster for him.



Well, Jessica has a new “friend.” They met, really hit it off, and after two weeks of going out every night, he left for his annual vacation to Mexico for a month. He owns a very well-established restaurant here in town and only gets one month off every year - so he usually heads to the beaches of Mexico. He has “it” baaaad, too. He has been “texting” her constantly. He also sends her lots of photos of the beautiful sunsets and surf. She came over one night last week and made me take a whole series of photos of her all wrapped up in winter garb. It was pretty funny! We had a good time with it. We sent them to him in response to his sunsets (it really was cold here) and he got the biggest kick out of them. He carries them on his iPod now. Anyway, I am happy for her. I will be anxious to meet him when he returns from his “southern trip.”

Well, we now have seven - yes - seven - canary eggs. I think Yellow Bird and Bee Gee may just make it to fruition this time. They are acting MUCH more comfortable with the whole thing. Those are her four eggs in the little thatched nest. I will let you know. Then, Beethoven and Baby Bee decided to get busy and Baby Bee is roosting on three of her own. The only problem is - even with two beautiful nests in her cage, she decided she liked the FOOD DISH! I have had canaries do that before. It is soft, smells good, and is easy to lay on, I guess. I doubt those will hatch, but you never know. I will give you a hatch-by-hatch description. Pretty cool, huh?





Also on the home front - Ollie was "fixed" this week. Actually breaks my heart. Why do we do that to our animals? I know, I know... I have heard all of the reasons, but I swear - it made me cry! He was such a little MAN before. I decided to get busy and paint my living room this week and here he is the night after surgery right in the middle of it. He was really out of it. He is pretty much back to normal now, but he had a hard time at first.

I also put up a new fence in my backyard, planted grass and roses, started painting the living room, put gravel on the side yard, decorated for St. Patty's Day and Easter, and still kept to my deadlines! Yea, me!

It is just that everything looks so bad after the winter months. It is so much fun to get out and get everything spiffed up and looking nice again. I actually saved all of my plants this year by moving them into my newly renovated garage. So I did not have to buy one single plant! Not even the hanging basket! Haha!

This weekend, there's tons going on, but I may just spend most of it at home continuing to get things done. I want to go to California soon, so I need to get busy. One thing I will do, though, is the Shamrock Marathon. Heck, I have to. It goes right past my house - as those of you on the Follies for a couple of years know. It is truly awesome! A bunch of friends are also going over to Ocean View in Norfolk to see the parade, but once again, I am steering clear of that. Still like to stay under that radar, ya know.





And then there was a great birthday party for Vicki last weekend!

Man! I saw folks I have not seen in AGES, and it was great to see Vicki so happy. Her place was PACKED! Just lots and lots of great folks, great conversations and libations, great food, and fun, fun, fun!

Next weekend, a friend of mine is having a BIG birthday bash down at the beach, and she has actually rented out a hotel! There are folks flying in from everywhere! Bands, you name it! It starts on Thursday and lasts all weekend. I will be lucky to make it for a few hours a couple of nights, but I truly, truly look forward to it.

Don't worry... I will take photos!

OK. Gotta go get a few other - *real* - things done...

Love to you all. Have a great St. Patty's Day, and remember to pray for our men and women overseas protecting us.



To all of you on my Friday Follies List, whether you are in Manila, Singapore, Kuwait, Bermuda, Virginia Beach, Mississippi, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minnesota, Indiana, Colorado, Lake Tahoe, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia, Washington D.C., Iraq, Costa Rica, Poland, Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, Florida, Saudi Arabia, Chattanooga, France, Phoenix, New York, Oregon, Russia, Maine, Australia, Bangkok, or Yuma, have a wonderful, wonderful week!

God bless.
Remember, life is short...
We need to make it a good one.
Grow in peace and wisdom.
Your Friday Friend,



Judi Godsey

P.S. NOTE OF CAUTION... 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent emails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20 were on our joke list - even though some of the attorneys who represent the company were!) I have asked each and every one of you on this list to tell me if the jokes that accompany these "Follies" place you in jeopardy, or even if they offend you. Please understand that they are intended to be light-hearted and are not mean-spirited in any way. If you are ever offended, do not hesitate to ask to be taken off the Friday Follies Joke List. PSS. If you send a joke and I don't use it, it is because it has been used before, and I try not to repeat. Remember, I have been sending these since August of 1997. One tends to go through huge numbers of jokes that way. Disclaimer: When anyone asks if I type all of these jokes, the answer is, "No!" I cut and paste one evening during the week (30 minutes, TOPS). Obviously I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day!