

FRIDAY FOLLIES

January 5, 2007



Hey!

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Well, lookie here!

My new baby!

Yup... a BLUE Monk Parrot!

I was told right. They did

reduce him after Christmas!

He is (she is?) six months old

and adorable. Very, very

loving. I got him last night and

he is still rather scared, but he

already knows how to "step up"

and how to give "bird kisses."

He is fascinated by Ollie,

confused by the canaries, and

won't even make eye contact

with the 19-year-old cat,

Maggie.



I went after work tonight and got a nice, big, shiny, new cage for him and he immediately took to it and is very peaceful and happy now. He immediately knew it was his. Very sweet. Don't you just love little creatures? They expect so little and give so much!

I named him "Beau BBOH" (pronounced "BoBo"). "Beau" for beautiful - and "BBOH" for Blue Bird of Happiness! My Beautiful Blue Bird of Happiness! "BoBo." He already reacts to his name! Very smart. Very smart, indeed. He was my Christmas and New Year's present to myself. He will bring many hours of joy into this house - that is for sure - especially with a life expectancy of 35 years. Ha! Jessica better like him a lot, because she will probably have "Bobo" for her own before this is all over...

I have to tell you - the Follies are usually light-hearted, everything is glorious and wonderful, and for the most part, things are. I still believe every, ordinary day can be made EXTRA-ordinary - I really do believe that. But this Christmas and New Year's... Man... the bottom fell out! I won't even BEGIN to go into it in the Follies, but trust me, there is a lot more that goes on than what you read in the Follies each week.



Everything is fine. I am in good health, in good spirits, and am still thankful every day for the life I lead, but it was probably one of the toughest holiday seasons I have ever been through. I had nice times, nice invitations, and went to a few, very nice events, but my heart just wasn't in it. There were many others I just didn't attend.

One of these days, I will bare my soul and tell you all that is really going on. It would curl your hair! So those of you who write and say you are jealous - please don't be. These are the FOLLIES! Right? Everything is "OK" in the Follies!

Enough said. But I will say that there is hardly one aspect of my life that did not take a very traumatic blow these past couple of weeks. Not -one -aspect.

But realistically - if you really, honestly think about it -- I am not dying -- that I know of. I am still employed. I still have a roof over my head. I still have two wonderful children whom I love with all of my heart. I still have great friends and live in an awesome home and city and state and nation. I still have hobbies and interests that please and define me. I still feel like I am contributing and am useful... well, most of the time.

So, why not just "shut-up" about it, then, right? We all go through rough times, and sometimes there looks like there is no light at the top of the well -- but if you squint very, *very* hard-- you can just make it out!

Ah! *There* it is!

I know one thing. Writing these Follies each week **MAKES** me focus on the positive. The Follies make me weed out the unsatisfying, the unsatisfactory, and the unimaginable from the things that are good and gracious every day - every week - every year. That in and of itself is a good thing. I know the emails I receive week after week from every corner of this globe confirm that and make me continue. They sustain me.

Do you realize that this year - 2007 - marks the **TENTH ANNIVERSARY** of these Follies!
10 years!!

They go out (almost without fail) every, single week and have now for a decade. That in and of itself is pretty amazing. It amazes me, anyway. But you want to know what the really amazing thing is? The "real life" stuff that goes on behind the Follies.



I actually wrote a book about it. I did! 300 plus pages! It was about the Follies that have gone out to the “world” every week for ten years and about the “real “ life that was running juxtaposed to them. I was actually allowed to send this book to a very well-known literary agent in New York City who does not review unsolicited book proposals. Very interesting feedback - indeed. I was actually very pleased with what he had to say. Most agents do not give you any feedback at all. In this case, I am simply not willing to do what he wants.

Bottom line, the time is not right for me. Too much else on my plate to fool with it at the moment. I may decide to publish it, but right now, I am thinking of adding it to my website as an e-book or a blog. I really haven't decided yet. I know I want to do some revisions before it goes “live,” though, to protect the ones who have been so faithful and strong and supportive.

No, this is actually not one of the aspects of my life that went wrong during the holidays. It is just something I wanted to share with you. I have a feeling there is another, more important book welling up inside me. When it starts, there is no stopping it! Maybe I will just write these books and allow them to be published after I am gone. Hey! There is an idea. I just know I have many things to say, and one way or another, I am going to say them. I have been quiet - far too long.

OK. Enough of that, really didn't mean to get off on that tangent, but just wanted to share that with you. I feel it is pretty significant. There is a tremendous amount on my mind and heart at the moment - more so than I can ever remember. I am faced with decisions and choices that leave me empty... with no idea which way I will go. That is nothing different from anyone reading these words. I know that. Just felt a need to say it since all you ever get from me are the Follies.

New motto for this year - “ A little bit of Heaven... in 2007!”
How do you like that, eh?

I want to thank my very dearest friend for stopping by -- just to sit and talk today. It meant the world. Honestly. Such a simple thing, but such an important one. We didn't solve a single problem, my friend, but it sure feels better. (Smile).

Please pray for our men and women who are in Iraq. Let's bring them all HOME, safely and soon...



Ollie and Pearl say, “Hi!”

Hey!
We added friends in Poland this week! Make them feel welcome!

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, New York, Oregon, Russia, Maine, Australia, Europe, 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!