

TRUE STORY

THE PEACEFUL & CHARMING AMBIANCE OF SHOOGIE BOOGIES® & THE GARDEN ROOM CAFE, WAS DESIGNED BY KATHRYN KITTINGER, PHOTOGRAPHER & CREATIVE ENTREPRENEUR. THE COMMON THREAD BETWEEN KATHRYN'S PHOTOGRAPHY & OTHER ENDEAVORS IS HER "CREATIVE VISION". KATHRYN ONLY DISCOVERED THIS GIFT, AFTER SHE RESIGNED FROM THE SECURITY OF A LUCRATIVE CORPORATE JOB, IN SEARCH OF HER LIFE'S CALLING.

(IN HER OWN WORDS)

"IN 2001, I REALIZED ONE MORNING ON MY DRIVE TO WORK IN SILICON VALLEY, CA THAT MY ARRIVAL AT THE NEXT HIGHEST PAYING JOB HAD BROUGHT ME GREAT FINANCIAL SECURITY, BUT HAD LEFT ME WITH A VOID. I HADN'T PLANNED TO RESIGN THAT DAY, BUT I DID SO SPONTANEOUSLY. NOT BECAUSE I WAS COURAGEOUS OR HAD A PLAN, BUT I JUST KNEW SOMETHING IN MY SPIRIT TOLD ME I WAS FINISHED WITH THAT CHAPTER OF MY LIFE. THEY OFFERED TO PAY ME MORE, WHICH I THOUGHT ABOUT FOR A FEW SECONDS AND THEN POLITELY DECLINED.

I SORT OF DROVE OFF IN A FOG FIGURATIVELY & QUITE LITERALLY INTO THE FOG OF BEAUTIFUL MONTEREY BAY, CA, WHERE I SPENT THE NEXT 6 MONTHS IN SOLITUDE & PRAYER. DURING THIS TIME, I MADE A PROMISE TO GOD....

"IF HE WOULD JUST SHOW ME MY TALENTS, I WOULD FOLLOW THROUGH & TELL HIS STORY FOR HIS GLORY!"

DURING THIS TIME OF REFLECTION, NOT ONCE DID BEING A PHOTOGRAPHER OR CAFE DEVELOPER HIT MY TOP 100 LIST. I WASN'T QUALIFIED FOR EITHER!! AFTER MONTHS OF SOUL SEARCHING, I GAVE UP. PACKED MY CAR & CONSIDERED A RETURN TO THE CORPORATE WORLD. IT WAS IN THAT "SURRENDER" THAT THE ANSWER CAME & IN THE MOST UNLIKELY OF PLACES, BY A PERSON "I NEVER SAW" ONE DAY IN A REMOTE PUMPKIN PATCH, IN CARMEL VALLEY, CA. THERE I WAS IN A VALLEY LITERALLY & EMOTIONALLY. LITTLE DID I KNOW THAT DAY WOULD FOREVER CHANGE MY LIFE & IMPACT SO MANY PEOPLE.

A DEAR NEIGHBOR HAD ASKED ME TO PHOTOGRAPH HER BABY GIRL IN THIS PUMPKIN PATCH, WHO WAS DRESSED UP LIKE A PUPPY DOG FOR HALLOWEEN. I DID SO, BUT I WAS QUITE SURE I WAS OFF TRACK FROM MY CAREER SEARCH. SOON AFTER THE PHOTO SHOOT, MY PHONE RANG & A WOMAN INTRODUCES HERSELF AS THE DIRECTOR OF A PARENTAL EDUCATION CENTER IN PACIFIC GROVE, CA.

UNBENOUNCED TO ME, SHE HAD OBSERVED ME PHOTOGRAPHING MISS MARLEY & TOLD ME, "I CAN TELL YOU ARE A GOOD PHOTOGRAPHER BY THE WAY YOU MOVE." AFTER REVIEWING JUST A COUPLE OF MY PHOTOS, SHE INSTANTLY HIRED ME TO PHOTOGRAPH 600 INDIVIDUAL BABIES FROM ALL OVER MONTEREY COUNTY. I THOUGHT I WOULD FALL OFF MY CHAIR, WHEN I HEARD MYSELF ACCEPT THE OPPORTUNITY. ONCE AGAIN, IT WASN'T COURAGE. MY SPIRIT JUST SEEMED TO LEAD ME.

THE LONG STORY IS PETRIFYING & FUNNY FUNNY! THE SHORT VERSION IS MY "WEAKNESS BECAME MY UNIQUENESS". RATHER THAN USING TRADITIONAL LIGHTING & EQUIPMENT, I FORK LIFTED A REDWOOD TREE STUMP INTO THE MIDDLE OF HER PARKING LOT & BUILT A TEMPORARY GARDEN FOR THE 4 MONTH SHOOT. I CONTINUED TO PHOTOGRAPH 600 BABIES EACH FALL FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS & BECAME KNOWN AS A CHILD PHOTOGRAPHER WHO USED NATURAL LIGHTING & PRETTY PHOTO BACKDROPS, SUCH AS REAL BISTROS & BOUTIQUES.

THE REST THEY SAY IS HISTORY!

FAST FORWARD TO TODAY. NOW, YOU ARE DINING IN MY PERMANENT GARDEN PHOTO STUDIO. WHO WOULD OF THINK IT? IN 2008 A MAGAZINE WROTE I WAS "ONE OF AMERICA'S PREMIER CHILDREN'S PHOTOGRAPHERS." ONLY GOD COULD WRITE A STORY LIKE THAT!

IN 2005, I MOVED TO SARASOTA TO LIVE CLOSER TO MY PARENTS & BOUGHT THIS PROPERTY EXCLUSIVELY TO CREATE A PHOTO GARDEN STUDIO THAT WOULD SERVE AS A WORKING SET OR BACKGROUND FOR MY PHOTO SHOOT. FOR THE FIRST THREE YEARS, THE GALLERY REMAINED CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC, AS I WORKED ON MAKING EVERY SQUARE INCH OF THE PROPERTY PHOTO FRIENDLY. I NEVER DREAMT NOR COULD IMAGINE IT WOULD DEVELOP INTO ANYTHING MORE THAN A GALLERY-PHOTO STUDIO!

ONE DAY, I DECIDED IT MAY BE FUN TO OPEN THE DOORS TO VISITORS. TO MY SURPRISE, THEY STARTED TO BUY MY INDOOR & OUTDOOR ACCESSORIES, INCLUDING MY DESK LAMP, WRITING PEN & TELEPHONE. REALIZING THAT PERHAPS MY GIFT FOR VISION COULD EXTEND BEYOND THE LENS, I BEGAN TO PURPOSEFULLY DESIGN AND CREATE A SHOPPING OASIS. THEN, I NOTICED VISITORS SEEMED TO LINGER & RETURN TO ENJOY THE GARDEN. SO, I STARTED TO REFINISH THE IDEA OF OPENING A CAFE. AFTER ABOUT 1500 VISITORS SIGNED MY GUEST BOOK SHOWING AN INTEREST, I DECIDED TO GLT MY GARAGE STORAGE ROOM & DESIGN A DINING EXPERIENCE. IN 2011, I WAS HUMBLER FURTHER, WHEN THE CAFE STOOD ON ITS OWN COMPLETELY SEPARATE FROM PHOTOGRAPHY. SARASOTA MAGAZINE HONORED US WITH THEIR "BEST OF THE BEST" AWARD & BIZ(941) MAGAZINE TURNED THE CAMERA AROUND ON ME FOR THEIR COVER FEATURING "CREATIVE COMMERCIAL DESIGN STARS". TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY!! I WAS JUST A GIRL WITH A PACKED CAR, A PRAYER & A WILLINGNESS TO SERVE.

MOST EVERYTHING ON THE PROPERTY IS AVAILABLE FOR SALE, FROM THE NAPKIN HOLDERS & TEA POTS TO THE UMBRELLAS, GARDEN PLANTS & EVEN THE GARDEN COTTAGE ITSELF. THE DARLING BLACK BUILDING AT THE END OF THE GARDEN WAS IMPORTED FROM ENGLAND TO DOUBLE AS BOTH A CAFE & AS A COTTAGE SHOWROOM. WE ARE "OFFICIALLY" THE FIRST IN THE SE OF THE U.S. TO REPRESENT THIS COTTAGE COMPANY & CAN BUILD CUSTOM DESIGNS INTERNATIONALLY. THE COTTAGE VISION/INSTALLATION IS ANOTHER MIRACULOUS STORY. OUR RUNNING JOKE IS "COMPLIMENTARY MEAL WITH THE PURCHASE OF A CUSTOM COTTAGE."

PHOTOGRAPHY IN SRQ & CA IS STILL THRIVING. HOWEVER, NOW I WORK WITH A FEW CLIENTS AT A TIME, GIVING THEM ONLY MY VERY BEST WORK. THE REMAINDER OF THE TIME, I ENJOY EXPANDING THE BUSINESS IN NEW DIRECTIONS. NEXT UP...OIL CHANGES, WHILE YOU DINE. ONLY KIDDING! MANY WONDERFUL THINGS HAVE COME OUT OF THAT WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE IN MY LIFE. I HAVE BEEN BLESSED & PRAY FOR BLESSINGS OVER YOU, MY GUEST.

TO LISTEN TO A 1 HOUR RADIO SHOW OF THIS STORY ONLINE: [HTTP://WWW.SHOOGIEBOOGIES.COM/PROGRAM/NEW_PERFECTIVES/](http://www.shoogieboogies.com/program/new_perfectives/) (CLICK ARCHIVE 12/02/10 INTERVIEW)

SHOOGIE BOOGIES WAS A FORM OF ENGAGEMENT GIVEN TO KATHRYN BY HER GRANDFATHER. SHORT STORY ABOUT HIS INFLUENCE AT WWW.SHOOGIEBOOGIES.COM

(MANY THANKS TO MY WONDERFUL EARLHOLME FAMILY WHO KEEPS THIS PROPERTY RUNNING & BEAUTIFUL)

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1919 MORRILL ST. SARASOTA, FL 34236
941-951-5437 WWW.SHOOGIEBOOGIES.COM

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

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