

## Kat's Trip to Pennsylvania



Wayne and I have one of those amazing relationships that has flourished quite nicely as we spend 24/7 together, which we've been doing for several years now. We pretty much go everywhere together and we work 4 feet away from one another. It must have been a surprise to those around us when I announced in December that I was going on a road trip – *by myself*.

Every once in a while you gotta do something different, don't you think?

On the morning of January 5, I picked up a red PT Cruiser from the rental place and off I went. It was a 6 hour drive and it had been some years since the last time I had driven that much distance by myself. I was a little bit nervous but also very excited.



It was cold but not frigid; a bright and beautiful day.

I felt much like what I figure a homing pigeon must feel; always happy to return to the roost while being equally happy to fly free for the moment. It really was like stretching my wings and flying free, it was an inspirational feeling. I believe it is good to reassert my independence once in a while – for myself, not for anyone else.



After an uneventful trip, my good friend Tracy met me at the door of the house he shares with his girlfriend Doni.



Doni got home from the office a few hours later.

The week was mostly uneventful, a nice relaxing holiday for me. Tracy showed me the many specialty shops in the small town of Tobyhanna, PA during the day and then we would cook dinner for Doni before she got home from the office. We watched some wonderful movies and concert videos, had long conversations about life and philosophy and of course music.



We had many late night conversations beside a warm fire.

[Tracy](#) is a brilliant musician. Not everyone is going to love what he plays as he does this innovative combination of techno and heavy metal, however those who love his music, *really, really* love it. And I am one of those that do. If you are one who appreciates all kinds of music, I

recommend you check this guy out and really listen a couple of times. He is in my opinion, worth the effort.

One night we got playing around with the camera. There are far too many pictures to offer them all to you at this time but I would like to share a couple of my favorites.

Tracy the mage is preparing to predict our future.



Me doing a fine imitation of '*Whach you talkin' 'bout Willis?*'

I have talked for over 15 years about getting a tattoo. Before going to visit Tracy and Doni, Tracy had told me that there was a reputable tattoo artist in a town next to Tobyhanna and suggested we go get a tattoo

together. I really wanted to do that however finding the image that represented the statement I was drawn to make had not worked out.

A tattoo can mean many things and everyone has their own take on what they are about. A tattoo can identify a person as part of a tribe or community; it can document an event, symbolize a belief or desire, be simple body art, or a number of other things.

In my opinion a tattoo is a stated intention permanently recorded on the body. Kind of like a spell if you will. My tattoo was to be both an intention and also the recording of an event. I knew I wanted a fairy but most fairies I found were either too detailed to be made into a tattoo while maintaining the integrity of the drawing or didn't express the intention I wanted to create.

To me a fairy represents the simple beauty and magic inherent in childlike playfulness, confidence in ones right to be, freedom of thought with a little mystery tossed in. So my tattoo would represent all of that and also it would represent a kind of graduation of sorts. I felt it was time to acknowledge that I have become aware enough that I know in

an intimate way that magic really does happen here on planet earth, for those of us who believe and also I wanted to acknowledge that I am now living a life that I only dreamed of a few years back... A pretty big statement to mark myself with don't you think?

During our exploration of one of the specialty shops in town finally netted the image I was looking for. We were going through a shop called 'planet earth' that carried many different crystals, stones and many other pieces of mystical paraphernalia when Tracy turns to me and hands me a card and says, 'is this what you have been looking for?' Yes! Yes it was. So we could now go and get that tattoo together. I was excited and very happy to finally find my fairy.

So the next afternoon, off we went to the tattoo parlor. The tattoo artists name is Maureen. That's me sitting in her chair.



My fairy completed. Maureen did a good job didn't she? I hear she is one of the best!

Tracy's nickname is Skull. It's no wonder he got another skull tattoo to go with his many others. Good job!!



Doni had always wanted a bellybutton ring so she joined in the party and got exactly what she wanted.

Getting a tattoo is an exhilarating experience. I can see how it just seems painful to some people however for me it was sensational, it the truest meaning of the word. I do plan to get more in the future. For anyone looking to experience something completely different, I highly recommend it!!

After the tattoo parlor we gathered at the house for dinner with the addition of Doni's friend Kris from work. I was honored that this woman who lives 2 hours from Tobyhanna came to have dinner so she could meet me.



Doni and Kris; two peas in a pod, they were obviously very good friends.

The next day was Saturday and the day before I went home. My trip and the excitement I had been experiencing was no where near over though. That night we drove the hour to New York City to visit Time Square. It was my first trip to New York and I wasn't disappointed.



New York City!! So lively and bright!

I grew up on a farm and for most of my life I thought I was a country girl. It was quite startling to figure out a few years ago that I am in actual fact, a city girl. While I love the country and hiking in the forest, the city turns me on in ways the country doesn't even understand. The energy of so many contrasting people, ideas, cultures and creative

juices is a vibration that I respond to in a way that can only be compared to a drug. Not only do I feel alive in the city, I feel fed and like every moment is new adventure.

There were so many wonderful things to see and beautiful people to meet. I always hear how unfriendly people are in the big cities but that has never been my experience. I have found that people are people where ever they are and they usually show up the way we expect them too. If we expect friendliness, that is what we see and if we expect unfriendliness, that too is what we see.



New York transportation - a rickshaw ready and waiting to take you where ever you want to go. I figure these guys must have enormous legs!!



A friendly doorman enjoying a cigarette on his break.



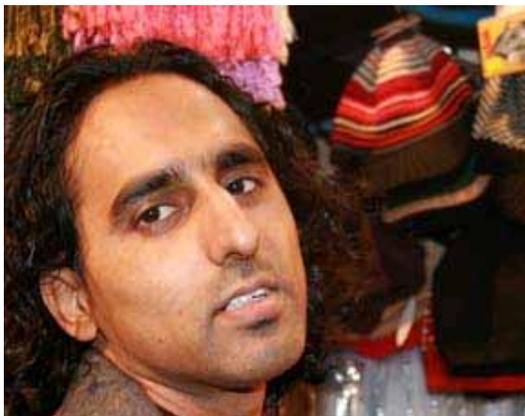
A photographer that seemed to enjoy having his picture taken for a change.

Tracy and Doni seemed to have a very good time looking at all the sites as well.



It seems that the young everywhere get a little wistful now and then.

This whole family was singing for the crowds on the street. It was an angelic sound and one I feel privileged to have heard. Really cute kids too.



The happy hat seller. We had fun joking around while he sold me a hat. :-). As you will learn over time, I am a lover of hats and so I just had to have one from New York City.



Me in my new hat with my new friends.



Doesn't Tracy look just like the boy next door?

Doni with the dolphins she loves.



It was a fun night and I had a really good time. New York felt a lot like Toronto to me, except perhaps just little bit rawer. I am ever so grateful that I got to see it and experience the vibrations of such a large city. I am anticipating my opportunity to go back and spend more time there with Wayne.

The next day it was time to go home. I was sad to be leaving my friends (which would turn out to be for a short time) while also being eager to get home. I missed Wayne and our two little buddies, a couple of cats named Whiskey and Socrates. You can learn more about them in our Pets Corner.

The drive home was filled with loud music as I listened to some CD's that Tracy gave me done by a man named [Praga Khan](#). Praga is a techno wizard (in my opinion) from Belgium and I will be eternally grateful to Tracy for introducing me to his music. It was a joy-filled fun ride home!!

In Gratitude

[\*\*Kat McCarthy\*\*](#)

[Email Kat](#)

Wayne's 2 cents:

What Kat and I have in our relationship is what most people dream of. We relish and value all the time we spend together to help amplify who we are individually.

When Kat approached me with her desired to head to PA to visit her friends, I was in total agreement. This is something she wanted to do at this time and who was I to halt her growth by disagreeing. This was all about her and her adventure.

Her almost daily communication only brought out how much excitement she was having in her adventure. I felt just as exhilarated, kind of like I was there and experiencing all of it with her. This adventure was way too cool for Kat and I am so happy that she did this one for her.

Peace and Love

[\*\*Wayne Parker\*\*](#)

[Email Wayne](#)