

MY VISIT IN OREGON WITH RAINA



June 9, 2007

I arrived at Raina's house in Portland, Oregon today. She was not home when I arrived, but her husband Scott, let me in. When Raina came home, she promptly let me out of my travel box. She was very excited to meet me. I spent the night in with several of Raina's dolls. Here is a picture of the girls greeting me before we all went to bed. The Cinnamon's were very excited to meet me. They are so cute!

June 10th

I woke up to the little Cinnamon's making mischievous plans. They engaged me in sneaking up on Scott, Raina's husband, while he was sleeping and wake him up. Little Cinny jumped right on Scott's head. He was not amused. Fortunately, he has a good sense of humor!!!



I got reacquainted with my long lost friend HTF Crissy. We knew each other in at the Ideal Toy factory in 1969. We lost contact years ago. We figured it must have been around

Christmas time. She was showing me her wardrobe, and she let me wear one of her new outfits. We decided to dress alike just like the good old days.



As we were looking at her wardrobe, the Cinnamons were up to their mischievous ways. We had asked for some time alone, but the Cinnamons kept trying to get in on the big girl fun. We didn't know they were sneaking up on us. They are funny little girls!





Crissy then took me out on her deck to show me their Buddha, and then we sat down outside to have a nice chat.





Crissy and me, best friends forever!!!!

Here I am with Raina's Dog, Mariah. She wasn't so sure about me at first, but we quickly became good friends.



Here Crissy is showing me Raina's amethyst geode and her statues that she bought on her travels to Thailand.



She taught me to meditate.



Then she taught me some Yoga postures.



All of Raina's Crissys got together and had a nice greeting for me. Here, I am shaking hands with a Canadian Crissy.



Here I am telling a funny story from my travels. I told them about the night that I partied with Shirley Temple. I drank a bit too much that night. Oh, what a terrible hang-over. That Shirley is a wild girl!



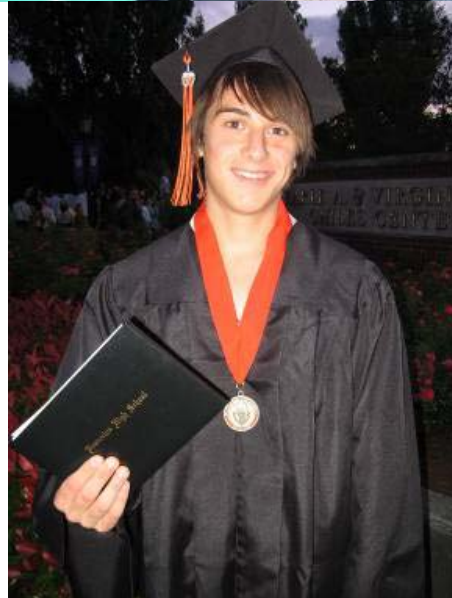
June 11th, Monday

Raina had a business appointment today. She brought me a long to help her prepare for her presentation. Here I am programming her navigation so she does not get lost, and reading her prep notes as she drives.





That night Raina's son, Tyler, graduated from High School. Her son's graduating class was approximately 400 seniors!



Here is a picture of Tyler. I think he is a real nice looking guy. I could not get him to take a picture with me. He was too embarrassed. I think he has a crush on me and that was why he would not take a picture with me. He is a little shy. ☺

When we got home I decided to try on Tyler's cap. It was a bit big, but I had fun playing with his stuff! It was my way of getting a picture with him. ☺



They next day, Raina gifted me with my own nursing outfit. Her collector friend, Caro Lynn made it for me. The pin is Raina's 20 year service pin from Providence Health systems. She has been a nurse for 23 years. She gave me a quick nursing course, so that I could come to work with her.



She is a home health Mental Health nurse. She visits her clients in their homes. She mostly cares for the home bound elderly, but she does have some younger clients that are homebound due to disabilities. She starts from her home, and all of her client's information is in this laptop. Here I am reading the clients charts that we are going to see today. I am going to help Raina with her visits. I am very excited to meet her clients!





I wanted to drive, but Raina felt it would be better if she did the driving. I don't know why that was, but I relented and played co-pilot.





We had an amazing day. Our first client was an 80 year old woman that lives in an adult foster home. She is being seen for depression. She does not have any children or family, and she has been widowed for 4 years. Raina has been counseling her for about one month. This lady was very sweet and quite excited to meet me. You should have seen her face light up when we walked in. She instantly marveled at how beautiful I was. She loved my face and said that it made her very happy to look at me because my smile was full of such joy. She loved my nursing outfit. She used to work for Providence hospital as a nursing scheduler. She commented on how much she loved seeing nurses wearing all white and wearing their caps. She misses that era when nurses wore nursing caps. She also recognized Raina's 20 year pin. She has one of her own from her years of service at Providence hospital. The visit was extremely therapeutic. Raina told me that what we were doing was a combination of play therapy and reminescent therapy. She responded well to our approach. Raina was so happy with the way this lady responded to having me around, that she has decided to give her one of her Crissy dolls the next time she visits.

Our last client of the day was a 49 year old lady that has multiple sclerosis. Raina has been counseling her for over a year. This client was tickled pink to see me. Raina showed her Beth's website and we read some of my travel journal. She was quite entertained, and is looking forward to reading all of my travels and checking out Beth's website. This client remembered when Crissy dolls were around, but she never had one of her own. Her caregiver has a 6 year old daughter and when she saw me she knew that she had to get one of my friends for her daughter. Raina gave her Beth's website address so she could show her daughter all about us. Every where I go every one is so nice, and they always are interested to know more about me. Raina said that she uses her Crissy dolls in her counseling practice for play therapy, and that she finds it a great tool for healing, and bringing joy into people lives. I was very happy to be a part of helping these clients.

I learned a lot about being a nurse. I also learned about how stressful it can be. When we got home I was tired and had to take a rest to regenerate myself.

Here I am after a long day of work. Phew!!!! I am exhausted!!!!



June 14, Thursday

Raina had a meeting with her colleges at the hospital. I went a long to help. I also got to see the hospital where she started her nursing career in 1983.



Here I am at the meeting. We had to teleconference a few nurses in as they were not able to come the meeting. Raina let me facilitate the meeting.



After the meeting she showed me around the hospital. Here is a model of the campus. It is a large hospital.



Raina went to visit a few friends of hers. She worked at this hospital for many years. We went to the day surgery area. She worked here about 6 years ago. Her friend Candace, is the assistant head nurse on this unit. Raina took me to meet her. Here I am with Candace.



Another ex co-worker, Julie, put her service excellence pin on my outfit. They all were pleased to meet me and remembered me from their childhoods.



This lady is a volunteer for the hospital. She took me around and I helped her do her volunteer job. I liked learning about the medical profession. I also think I look real hot in my nursing outfit!!!!



June 15th, Friday

Today Raina took me to the salon to have a facial and eyebrow waxing. After all my hard work, I need some pampering!!



This is Cristi (above), she did a wonderful job on my eyebrows, and I had a great time being pampered!!!! I am looking real good now and ready to go out on the town.



June 16th, Saturday

Raina and her family took me out on the town in Portland. Raina's niece, Malia was in a dance performance at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts. Malia has been studying dance since she was 4 years old. She is now 11. The studio, in which she studies, had their yearly dance performance. It was an extra special night because it was the studio's 75th anniversary. I had a grand time and several people at the center recognized me. I realized that I am quite the celebrity. I borrowed this dress from Raina's Crissys. I felt so beautiful and had a grand time!!! Portland is a beautiful city and they have many wonderful cultural events. This center is very beautiful.

Here is am before the event; all dressed up and ready to go!



Here is my own special ticket for the event.



Here I am in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center. I am standing next to a very cool statue made by a local artist (below). It is a chair and they encourage people to sit on it. I think it is a real cool piece of art!



This area of the lobby is open to all 4 stories and has a real beautiful skylight. Check it out! I feel like I could soar up into the sky as I look up.



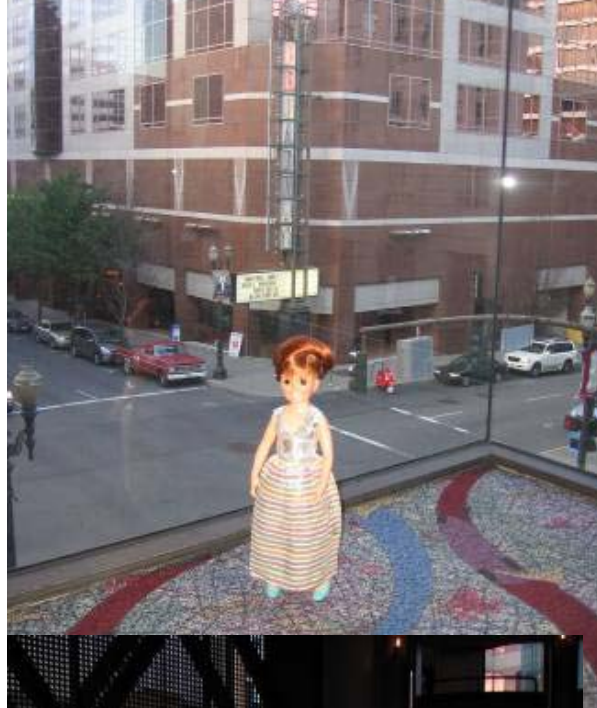
This usher thought I was real special and wanted to have his picture with me (below).



Here I am reading the program getting ready for the performance to start.



This is Raina's sister, Michele (below). She was excited to meet me. She used to have a Crissy when she was a child. Her Crissy doll got lost in a house fire. She was very sad. Raina bought Michele a new Crissy doll last year, and Michele was brought to tears when she received her. Michele is a hairdresser. When she was little girl she loved to style her Crissy dolls' hair.



Here I am getting to know Malia after the performance. She is a sweet girl and a great dancer!!!!



We had a great time getting to know each other! The other picture is me with Raina's mother, Dee (below).



Here I am outside the Performing Art's Center. Portland is a beautiful city!



June 20th

Today is the day that Raina was going to send me off to Steve's home. She was taking me to her sister, Michele's beauty salon to say good-bye to Michele, and to have my hair professionally styled. On our way there, Oh my God! We got into an accident. Raina rear ended someone. She was devastated. This is her new car which she has only owned for 1 ½ months. It is a 2007 Honda civic hybrid. The firemen and police came because we were holding up traffic. Wow, what a scare. Luckily, we were going slowly when it happened. It was at a traffic light. We were all stopped and the line of traffic had started to move. Raina really does not know what happened, except that the lady in front of her must have slowed down or put on her brakes suddenly. She tried to avoid hitting her by slamming on her brakes, but she couldn't avoid hitting her. The lady's car was much bigger and her car had minimal damage. Basically, there are a few scratches on her bumper. Raina's car, being a small car, took a good hit. I got to meet all kinds of people. The policeman was very nice and took a picture with me, as well as the tow truck guy. What a day!!!! I will have to wait until tomorrow to head off to Steve's house.



Look at this, Raina doesn't even have her permanent license plates on her car. How sad to have a brand new car in an accident. Raina is very upset!!!



Here is the tow truck coming to take Raina's car to the repair shop. She could not drive it because it looks like there was a puncture in her radiator.



Well, Raina decided to make lemonade out of her lemons, and see the glass of half-full, so, she said "We might as well have fun!" I got to know the tow truck guy, and he let me drive his truck. Why not, Raina can't see to drive. I am thinking that I should drive for now on. She scares me!!!



Here I am with the tow truck guy. He was real nice to us. The receptionist was also very sweet.





We had to get a rental car. Here is the nice guy that set us up with the rental car. I think he is hot!



This is my last night at Raina's. The girls threw me a "pajammin" party.

We got out the instruments and had a great time . Dianna Ross came over for the party. It was really cool to meet her. She is quite the sexy lady. I thought her choice of PJ's was a bit inappropriate, but hey, she is a celebrity!





June 21st

Today is my last day. Raina and I finally got to her sister's Salon so I could get my hair styled. I had a great time! Michele also, let me help out in the salon. I felt right at home.



Michele had a blast styling my hair in different ways.
This one she calls the runway style.



I think I would like to be a hair stylist. This was fun! Much less stressful than being a nurse! I didn't tell Raina. I didn't want to hurt her feelings. I think her sister is real cool! I am more of a fashion girl like her! I think Cricket is more of the nurse type.





Well, I have my new hairstyle and am ready to head off to see Steve. I had a wonderful time seeing Portland. Raina said she enjoyed my visit, and thanks Beth for putting her home on my travel schedule.



But wait! There's more! You haven't met Raina!

Raina is very funny. She does not like to have her picture taken. Photography is one of her hobbies. She is always taking pictures, but she does not let any one take pictures of her. Well, I got Diana Ross to help me out. She surprised Raina, and I grabbed Raina's Camera and took some pictures of her. She was determined to not have any pictures of herself. I couldn't leave my stay with her without having a picture of her. She wasn't very cooperative in the beginning, but she finally gave me a good shot. I think she is beautiful. I do not know why she is so afraid to get her picture taken.

See you all soon, after I get to Steve's place!!

