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Growing Up Red Hook

Mother Nature's got nothing on me!

by Danette Vigilante



So, dear readers, how is your skin feeling after last month's ... ahem, facial tip?
 Now, on to this month's revelation.

Recently, I've discovered that I possess a mighty power. One which, not only I enjoy, but one you can, and have, enjoyed as well.

I'm quite excited to say the least. It's not every day that a person realizes they can out smart Mother Nature herself.

Last winter, while we were being battered snowstorm after snowstorm, I, along with probably every other New Yorker, grew weary of shoveling the walkways outside our house. The only way I knew how to fight back was to buy a snow blower. Expensive, yes but I was willing to haul our pennies to the nearest hardware store, plop our cash down on the counter like an old time saloon patron and wait patiently while the good proprietor supplied my husband and I with our wares. Only, said proprietor was not so good. In fact, he just about busted a gut with laughter. Snow blowers had sold out FOUR or FIVE storms ago.

We were too determined to let some lame, unprepared hardware store deter us from our mission. With a huff on our lips and determination in our hearts, we retrieved our cash and continued on. After all, New York isn't exactly a one hardware store kind of town.

But store after store held the very same disappointment for us until finally, a sympathetic store owner offered to order us one. He couldn't promise us a delivery date and it certainly wasn't the success we had imagined but it was the success we had to accept.

A few storms and a couple of weeks later, we got THE call. Our snow blower was awaiting us. We oohed and aahed over it admiring its gleaming parts. Parts that would save our aching arms.

Then, we watched the skies and gleefully waited. And waited. And waited. To our disappointment, we had seen our last storm.

This year, I set my sights on having a fireplace installed. How I loved the thought of cuddling up in front of it with a good book while listening to the cold wind howling outside. I impatiently watched the installation progress hoping it would be complete before the icy winter gripped us in its cruel hand.

When the last piece was in place, I waited for winter to get started. For Old Man Winter to really show us what he had. But again, I waited and waited but the only thing that happened was my flower bed began to awaken after too short of a winter's nap. Apparently Old Man Winter went on vacation.

With this realization in mind, I'm heavily weighing what next winter's project should be. Any suggestions?

Danette Vigilante is a children's author living in New York City with one husband, two daughters, Mr. Noodle, her love hog Yorkshire terrier and Daisy, a cat with a seriously bad attitude. Her newest book, *The Trouble with Half a Moon*, is in local bookstores and available for purchase online at Amazon and other booksellers.



PS 15 PTA

PRESENTS

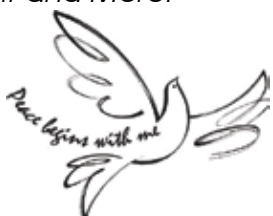
THE RED HOOK SPRING FLEA

SATURDAY MAY 5TH, 2012, 10AM TO 5PM
LOCATED IN THE PS 15 SCHOOL YARD
ON VAN BRUNT STREET
BETWEEN WOLCOTT & SULLIVAN

After the successful Fall Flea, Red Hook's local community school PS 15's PTA will be hosting the "Spring Flea" flea market. Come and find that missing treasure, browse, chat, eat, and enjoy the many activities available. The day promises to be a joy-filled celebration of the unique community of Red Hook.

Sellers of all stripes include: **VINTAGE, NEW AND USED CLOTHING & FURNITURE, JEWELRY, HAND CRAFTS, BOOKS, DVDS, TOYS AND LOTS OF LOCAL EATS AND SWEETS!**

Activities for the whole family throughout the day include: Yoga & Swing Dancing by Cora Dance, Triumph Fitness Kick Boxing, ZumbAtomic Zumba Dancing, as well as Art Projects, Robot Making, Music, a Bouncy House, "NEEDS Fitness" by Sessions Fit and More!



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