

It is with great pleasure the jurors announce the winners of the annual 2013 Ladies of the Lake Writing Competition. It was a difficult decision, however, with much deliberation consensus was finalized. A huge thank you to everyone who submitted their stories.

5th Annual “Ladies of the Lake” Writing Competition 2013

FIRST PLACE WINNER

Winning Entry is Ginny from FLORIDA !!!

Dusk to Dawn the Game Goes On...

I have two friends here in Florida where the three of us all play Scrabble on our iPhones. We all have scrabble nicknames... My name is Ginny, (aka Tikibad) and I am not much of a writer but here is my Scrabble story...

My good friend Boonie, (aka Boonie715) and my roommate from college, Missy (aka Mommalight) have been paying scrabble three-way on our phones together for years. The iPhone Scrabble Game App has lots of ingenious features! You can play a random opponent or challenge your friends. You can 'text message' your opponents... and there's even a Scrabble Teacher, who grades you with super-smiles, semi-smiles or just downright frowns! He or She instructs us on how good or bad we played out our Scrabble letters. We all decided the teacher was definitely a woman teacher, so we nicknamed her "ROZ".

Picture in your minds, Disney's Pixar Film, Monsters Incorporated. Roz, the Secretary! That raspy voice saying, "Well, that was a good play, but you could have played this!" My Scrabble Rack would have TRSDEAI and I would play STRIDE... then Roz would scold me and demonstrate how I could have scored 78 point if I had played TIRADES! What kind of word is that? We've all had a few 'choice words' with Roz... except for Boonie who usually wins, she is the Teachers Pet!

On a separate game, Boonie was playing a random opponent named Hapcat4 (Catherine). She is from Alberta, Canada. Eventually, HapCat4 and Boonie became FaceBook Friends and she was introduced into our three-way games. It was now a Four-Way International Scrabble Competition! We all would chit-chat back and fourth via the Scrabble text message feature and discuss the weather, what wine were drinking, big birthday celebrations, our husbands, cursing Roz and what is the real meaning of Qi??

One day, HapCat4 emailed Boonie a painting of three women playing Scrabble around a table in a beautiful setting nibbling on popcorn. "This is my favorite artist, Kathy Meaney. The print reminds me of you three women playing Scrabble at the beach," HapCat4 explained.

Boonie emailed Mommalight and myself the print, and after looking at the picture, we all jumped in...

"I'm the one with the blue hat, she has big boobs like me!" I said Missy nominated herself as the woman in purple. Boonie was the woman in red. And obviously, HapCat4 is the one taking the picture!

I thought to myself... "How cool would it be to send a print of these women, playing Scrabble, to all of us for [Christmas](#)". I contacted Kathy Meaney and asked if I could purchase four prints from her Ladies of the Lake series, "From Dusk to Dawn, the Game goes On"... Of course I wanted one for myself! I asked her if she wouldn't mind autographing each of them to our Scrabble Nicknames; Boonie715, Mommalight, HapCat4 and TikiBad.

The next day she replied...“Ginny, would HapCat4 be C.M? I am currently working on your order.” I thought, “OH NO, HapCat4 has the same idea and !!” But Kathy assured me that HapCat4 was not doing the same thing, but they were members together in a Friendship club. What a small world! I proceeded with the order and arranged to have them each mailed as a surprise gift from Santa (Tikibad)! It was my “so excited to give” gift for [Christmas](#)!

A few days before [Christmas](#), MommaLight texted me and said she was having a really bad day until she opened her mail... she received this really cool magnet from HapCat4, entitled “From Dusk to Dawn, the Game goes On...” Her day just got happy! We were all happy!!! HapCat4 has sent each of us a beautiful magnet enclosed with her [Christmas](#) Card with the picture of the women playing Scrabble in Florida! This magnet is so Fridge-Worthy! How cool was that? A few days later, the print I ordered arrived from Santa... HapCat4 and I were thinking alike! Even cooler!

As it turns out, Kathy Meaney DID know about the magnets! About the same time I placed my order, she was restocking her artwork at a local store. The clerk told her that a woman had been in the store a few days prior and bought some magnets for her ‘friends’ in Florida! She put two and two together and figured out that Catherine was sending the magnets to The Scrabble Women in Florida. Sneaky, sneaky ... Kathy Meaney!

Again, I’m not much of a writer or a Scrabble player, but I felt this story was so special it needed to be shared. Boonie, Missy and I have never met Catherine, nor Kathy Meaney in person, but somehow, this silly little game of Scrabble has brought all five of us together! And if you are reading this, please feel free to challenge The Scrabble Women from Florida on your iPhone (and our wonderful new friends we have met in Alberta, Canada) ... Boonie715, MommaLight, HapCat4 and Tikibad! By the way, Kathy Meaney (and her sister) LOVE Scrabble! They just needs a Scrabble Nicknames!

Kathy’s comment: We do have Scrabble names: SCRABBLE GEEK ONE & SCRABBLE GEEK TWO !!!

Congratulations Ginny et al !!