

# Gypsy

DJ Kane

It happened again; a harbor seal trekked her way to the Estates at Ponte Vedras By the Sea Resort. As it had before, a harbor seal had made itself at home in northeast Florida, but not on a sunny beach resort as it had before, but still not too far from the beach, taking refuge in a pool.

The story began on one a very cool and breezy December morning, at about seven. My wife and I had an early appointment to keep, and we decided on walking our dogs quite early. With both of us walking our dogs in opposite directions, thus hoping to achieve a common goal, as fast as we could. Counting on our dogs walking in different directions, they would do their business much quicker, as we had limited time this morning.

I returned, and waited a half hour later for my wife, and became a little worried. She was taken too long; and we had a very

important appointment to keep. As I had exited the door to locate her, my wife came running up to the house, breathing heavy, and carrying our dog, and rushing into my arms, which remains a great feat within itself. Our dog is quite large in size, and heavy boned, Shepard mixed.

“Hon, hon,” she tried to explain to me, without her taking a deep breath. “You'll never believe what I had seen in the pool.”

“With you carrying our dog, I could believe almost anything, and I did say almost anything,” I answered her.

“I ssawww a,” she tried to say it, but remained excited,

“Now slow down, come inside, catch your breath put the dog down, I know he'd appreciate it also, and breath. Start over again, but slower, and slowly,”

“I saw a seal in the pool”

“Of course, you did dear, this happens to be a resort area, even a seal deserves some comfort, once in a while”

“Don’t make fun of me, I did see a seal, and the seal was chasing three birds from the pool.”

“Of course, it did dear, but for now we have a very important appointment to make, so let’s get started, and when we get back, we’ll deal with it.”

Hoping my wife would forget when we would return would be my goal, but I don’t think so, not a Rat’s chance in Hell.

Not knowing if seals ever had ever landed in Florida, I still listened intensely to my wife, though she thought I was she probably knew I wasn’t, but didn’t care. My goal was to make our appointment, and hoping the seal saga would end, but deep inside just knew better.

When we returned to our home from our appointment, there was a large crowd circling the pool, and a truck from, Harbor Seal NOAA fisheries-Wild Life, State of Florida. The neighbors had informed us a harbor seal was found early morning

swimming in the pool, and keeping all the residences from the pool.

My wife nudged me in my ribs saying, "See I told you Hon, I was right, that was a seal."

We were later informed, that harbor seals have been sighted in South Florida, as south as the West Palm inlet on February. 17, 2014, a rare find indeed, and one was spotted east at the Ponte Vedra Beach, close to where my wife and me were staying at the resort. We also learned the residences had named her Gypsy, as she surely was.