

Tracy's Boat Trick

Tracy had a trick she liked playing on friends when we were out water skiing. From about age two she was water skiing with me, wearing a custom fit impact flotation vest. She would start in my arms, then climb onto my shoulders.

Once when we went down hard, I looked up to see her skipping across the water like a skipped stone. I quickly swam to her fearing injury to find her laughing and telling me, "That was fun. Let's do it again." One of her games was to try to cover my eyes, pull my ears, or any other means of causing a crash.

Her trick was playing out the child being ignored by the adult, something we both had witnessed often. "Dad, Dad, Dad, Dad," was ignored as planned until without comment to our visitors, I would pick her up and tossed her from the moving boat.

No one ever said a word to me, just looked with open mouthed disbelief. Both Tracy and I would check for other traffic before execution, and after a few seconds, I would one eighty back to pick her up.

Tracy often had to explain that it was planned, so stunned were our victims.