



Florida Woman Stops Alligator Attack with a Small Pistol

This is a story of self-control and marksmanship by a brave, cool-headed woman with a small pistol against a fierce predator. What is the smallest caliber that you would trust to protect yourself? A Beretta Jetfire testimonial.

Here is her story in her own words: "While out walking along the edge of a pond just outside of The Villages with my soon to be ex-husband discussing property settlement and other divorce issues, we were surprised by a huge 12-ft. alligator which suddenly emerged from the murky water, and began

charging us with its large jaws wide open.

"She must have been protecting her nest because she was extremely aggressive. If I had not had my little Beretta Jetfire .25 caliber pistol with me, I would not be here today!"

"Just one shot to my estranged husband's kneecap was all it took.

"The 'gator got him easily and I was able to escape by walking away at a brisk pace.

"It's one of the best pistols in my collection! Plus the amount I saved in lawyer's fees was really incredible!"

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Art Box Artist of the Month: Jen Aquia

For over 15 years Jen Aquia has been living in the Keys. For 9 years Jen owned and captained the catamaran snorkel boats Reef Roamer & Quicksilver. Eventually she began pursuing another of her passions by opening a company called Aquaholic Adventures Paddleboard and Kayaks where she rents standup paddle boards and kayaks as well as providing lessons and eco tours. When not out on the water, Jen is an avid artist.

Jen graduated with a Masters of Art from Maryland Institute College of Art in 2000. Her original degree was to be in medical illustration, which focuses on a very realistic approach to drawing. This can easily be seen in her work, which is highly precise with extreme detail. Jen then received an art scholarship to go to Maryland Institute where they only accepted 15 people into the program that year. At the same time



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she was offered a scholarship to work at Disney but she chose the masters degree instead.

As a young girl, Jen was always referred to as the "artsy" one in the class, all the way back to preschool. Jen painted murals both in her middle and high schools, and painted theater sets in college.

Jen is a very compassionate person, and it shows in the various montages she has done. These montages, in pencil or pastel, are created after she spends time getting to know someone and

sharing in the moments of their lives. This helps her form an image that represents the memorable moments. She talks about how it is very emotional to connect with someone while creating a visual compilation. Listening to her describe the genuine feelings involved, you can feel her joy.

One of Jen's most notable montages was done for Ellen DeGeneres, the talk show host. It features Ellen and her mother and was given as a Mother's Day gift. Though Jen did not get to see the response Ellen had to

it, an article in the New York Times featured Ellen in her office where the montage hung proudly above her desk.

Jen has recently chosen to begin putting even more focus on her art, and will be expanding and branching out. Some of Jen's work will be on display at The Art Box for the month of October. She will also have her work on display at the Morada Way Art Walk on the Third Thursday of October. For more information about Jen, please contact The Art Box or visit her website at japortraits.com.

