



december inspiration...christmas tree stories

All of us who put up Christmas trees as part of our holiday celebrations, have Christmas tree stories. Since I am usually alone for the 20+ hours that it takes to trim our tree, I usually end up reminiscing about Christmas' past, and those memories seem to often involve a "tree snafu". There are many, but these are a few that always come to mind.

My favorite Christmas tree story is from the movie *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. In that story, a squirrel pops out of the family's Christmas tree and it sends a normal (well questionably normal) family shrieking and screaming and running up and down the stairs. The squirrel thinks that the family is chasing him and the family thinks that the squirrel is chasing them. Hilarious!!!

We didn't have a squirrel, but we did have a mouse - a teeny, tiny, field mouse. I was about 6 and my two younger sisters and I heard ornaments "tinkling". The sound became louder, branches moved, and all of a sudden, the mouse leapt out of the tree! We had no stairs, but trust me, there was a lot of shrieking, screaming and running around in circles.

Three years ago on Christmas morning, I was in the kitchen refilling the coffee pot when I heard a very loud "whoosh" followed by a huge crash coming from the living room. Then...dead silence. It was the "we are all in shock" kind of silence. My entire family watched our 9' tree tip to the right and then slowly crash to the floor. That tree went from Mountain Pose to Corpse Pose in a matter of seconds (you Yoginis know what I mean). So shocked by this event, the entire group sat in total silence baffled by the fact that they could do nothing to stop it. Needless to say, there was quite an ornament catastrophe. We also discovered that standing a trimmed tree upright is much dicier than standing up an untrimmed one. The moral of this story is before one decoration is taken out of it's box, always check the lock on your tree stand.



Year's ago, we purchased a converted general store in the country and were about to spend our first Christmas in our new home. I arrived the week before, two little boys in tow, eager to start the holiday preparations. I was so organized that I stopped at a Christmas tree farm on the ride from the city, selected a beautiful 10ft Blue Spruce, had it cut, wrapped in netting and then tied to the top of the car. One detail I hadn't thought about was how I was going to lift/hoist/roll that tree from the top of a very tall SUV by myself. My husband wasn't arriving until Christmas Eve, and our neighbors who happened to be weekenders as well, wouldn't be arriving for a few days. Oh well, I had a lot of other things to do and I decided I would just wait until one of our neighbors arrived. For four days I drove around a small country village doing errands...post office, grocery store, hardware store, etc., with a monstrous tree tied to the top of my car. I actually never gave it a second thought until a elderly woman in line at the post office asked me if had decorated my car. I think she was joking, but I can't be sure. It was only then I realized I was probably the laughing stock of the town - silly New Yorker. However, the story ends well. I mustered up courage and asked neighbors I had never met before to help me. They were happy to be helpful and we bonded over homemade cookies and a bottle of wine and became fast friends. After all, what are neighbors for?

To all my neighbors, friends, and clients, wherever your holidays may take you, best wishes for wonderful memories, peace, health, and prosperity in the new year.



The Queen gets delivery of her tree,
Buckingham Palace 11/28/13

Happy Holidays!

President

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