

Possessed appliance spews forth cursed flood upon home

Like many other workers during the pandemic, Áine Calgaro occasionally multitasks during her home-based workday. One day last spring, she started a small load of laundry before sitting down at the computer to review her to-do list – very convenient, as the Calgaros’ washer/dryer is right on the main level of their house.

Some 15 minutes later, she stood up to let a barking dog outside. “That’s weird, I wonder when the washer will stop filling up,” she thought.

To her horror, she looked down and saw that the floor before her was covered in water. Immediately she sprung into action, splashing through the immense puddle towards the washer. Fluids were spurting from under the lid and flowing down the sides of the machine like so much sudsy lava.

Unfortunately, the flow continued despite Áine’s attempts at punching all the buttons and beseeching the heavens. Finally, she yanked the plug from the wall, hoping this would stop the onslaught.

She ran to the basement for the Shop Vac and heard a steady trickle above. Directly below the washer was Pete’s work area filled with electronic

equipment and musical instruments. And the ceiling lights were leaking.

Pete rushed home from NBC15 on foot after

receiving the frantic news about the rising floodwaters. He bravely wielded the Shop Vac as Áine called mitigation services.

After several days where giant, noisy fans circulated air through the house, experts determined that any poltergeists had departed the vicinity. However, the flooring and some drywall would need to be replaced. Áine insisted on fully cleaning the slate by painting the interior walls as well.

A revolving parade of professionals kept Áine company and transformed the home in early July. The packing crew moved through the home like locusts, wrapping and boxing everything in their path including dirty dishes, keys, wayward mice, etc. At one point, Áine was convinced that her glasses had been



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Flood of 2021 upends reality

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packed away and opened at least half the boxes before Pete spotted them on a high shelf.

They wonder how bad the damage would have been if the flood had lasted longer than a half hour, and have made an unbreakable vow to never again leave any of their electrical appliances unsupervised. But they do like their new floor. 🧡



LEFT: Some of the dozen or so workers who descended upon the home. Only one of them was the victim of sandwich theft. The perpetrator was swiftly apprehended and put behind bars. (Áine's office, with a baby gate.)

Couple takes exotic vacation to different part of Wisconsin

Pete and Áine Calgaro, like many others throughout the world, spent most of the past two years looking at their four walls and wondering when they'd ever travel again. At least those walls had some fresh paint!

In October 2021, they decided to venture on an exciting journey, driving a whole three and a half hours north to Door

County. They stayed at an AirBnB with their confused dogs, Kavik and Trax, who were so upset being carried up the narrow stairs leading to the small, dark second story bedroom that Áine ended up relocating to the living room sofa so they could watch her as she slept.

The dogs and humans enjoyed a ferry ride to Washington Island and explored many of the parks and waterfronts there.

They also enjoyed visiting with the AirBnB's owner and other guests, including a very small, elderly, deaf and blind pomeranian named Meridian. Áine had the opportunity to hold the pup and had heart eyes the entire rest of the trip.

On the way back to Madison, the family took a quick side journey to Fond du Lac, where Gabi and Zeph (see page 3) treated them to a tour of their apartment. 🧡



LEFT: The Calgaros at the beach, Wisconsin style.

Family reunites; finds out not much really happening

Calgaro progeny Rachel and Peter took COVID-19 quite seriously. The entire family rejoiced when the vaccine became available and they could once again consider face-to-face contact with one another.

Pete and Áine decided that Minneapolis would be a good place to escape to while their home was empty of furniture and accessories (see page 1). They packed up the dogs and journeyed northward to Rachel's home in Golden Valley, MN, where she lives with her dog Deadpool, partner Mitchell, and roomie.

While in the Cities, they celebrated Rachel's 30th birthday and enjoyed a number of outdoor attractions and dog-friendly dining establishments.

Rachel later stopped in Madison en route to Chicago, where she was putting

a pair of cats on a 6 AM plane to Japan as if that's a completely regular thing that people do.

At age 27, her brother Peter works as a driver and lives in Madison with his longtime roommates, their cats, and an occasional buddy crashing on the sofa (or the floor).

The entire family was reunited over the Christmas holiday and enjoyed much laughter while also discovering that nothing much has changed during the past year. 🍷



ABOVE: Siblings reunited!

Resident alien nears full integration

Brazilian Gabriella Medeiros Ducheny is well on her way to a full embrace of the red, white, and blue.

Or rather, the green. "I finally get to work for actual money," she reported. Plus her green card is coming soon!

Gabi had volunteered as an EMT in Mazomanie, but now earns cash and benefits as



ABOVE: Gabi and Zeph demonstrate their football alliances as they hike.

a medical assistant for an urgent care in West Bend while she decides on a path for graduate studies.

Gabi and her husband Zeph, a native of Grafton, WI, enjoy many American activities such as watching Packers games and The Bachelorette.

Pete and Áine join Gabi in hoping that her parents Yasha and Grazi can visit the U.S. in 2022. The last time the Calgaros or Gabi saw them was on separate trips to Vietnam nearly two years ago. "We actually wish we could get them to integrate into American society as well," Pete and Áine confessed. 🍷

Finger morphs into terrifying form

Just days into 2021, Áine Calgaro made a routine trip to the Walgreens drive-through with her dogs Kavik & Trax. But as she was carrying Kavik into the house, she took a misstep and crashed to the pavement, flinging the dog aside as she went down. He trotted away unscathed.

She wasn't so lucky. Soon she discovered that not only was she bleeding, one of her fingers was twisted into an unnatural position. Urgent Care had closed five minutes earlier, so Pete dropped her off at the ER and waited in the car since he wasn't allowed to go in with her. Clad in a t-shirt, sweats, and slippers, disoriented and bleeding from the head, Áine made quite an impression as she stumbled into the lobby and stated, "I need help."



LEFT and BELOW: Áine's injuries.



X-rays showed her bones were intact, and apparently she was making too much sense to have a concussion. Several hours later, her dislocated finger yanked back into place, she was bandaged up and sent on her way.

Áine has recovered from the embarrassment of being taken down by a pinky finger injury, and works tirelessly to regain as much function as she can. 🍷

Ancient myth of "down time" debunked

Pete and Áine Calgaro have debunked the concept of "down time," a widely believed phenomenon where jobs cycle through heavy workloads followed by periods of quieter, less intense activity.

"Unfortunately, 'down time' has been shown to be a myth," said Pete Calgaro, after yet another late night editing video for NBC15.

Áine, Creative Services Manager for the Lung Cancer Research Foundation, agreed with his findings. "Sometimes working from home makes it way too easy to spend extra hours at your desk. And it certainly interferes with personal activities such as cleaning the house or even putting together your yearly holiday greetings."

Fortunately, Áine was able to take PTO in late December after completing a month's work in half the time. Pete is just glad that the Christmas Eve special "Sounds of the Season" is done so he can have his weekends back.

They both look forward to a few days of rest before it all starts again in 2022. 🍷

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petecalgaro.com - listen to and order Pete's original music including the stuff on instruments you didn't know existed