

# CLEAN BEAT

January 2024

## A Lasting Impression:

### A Father's Love Knows No Distance: How One Simple Act Brightened a Stranger's Life

By Jerry Kessie

Years ago, when my daughter left for college in Greenville, SC, I found myself struggling with the fact that my little girl was no longer in the same city as me. I felt helpless and worried about her wellbeing, as any parent would. That's when I decided to start sending her a morning text message each day, just a small something to brighten up her day and let her know that I was thinking about her.

As the days turned into weeks, and eventually months, my list of text message recipients grew to include my nieces. These girls were like daughters to me, and I relished the opportunity to share a little bit of happiness with them each morning. One day while waiting for my wife to finish up some shopping I decided to send a message to my niece Moriah asking about her upcoming wedding. I received a reply a few minutes later that was both shocking and heart-warming. The text read, *"I am not Moriah, my name is Tori."* At first, I was confused and a little bit embarrassed that I had been sending messages every morning to the wrong person. But then Tori's story began to unfold, and her response stopped me in my tracks.



Tori was just 18 years old, but she had already experienced more heartache than most people do in a lifetime. Her father had died when she was just ten years old, leaving her feeling lost and alone. But somehow, my daily messages of hope and encouragement had found their way to her phone, and they had helped her more than I could ever have imagined. She said, *"I know the messages were not meant for me and I should have said something, but would you please continue to send them to me?"* Hearing Tori's story brought tears to my eyes. I was overwhelmed with gratitude and a sense of purpose. Of course, I would continue sending her the messages – how could I not? And so, I did, for months on end, until life got in the way, and I missed a message, and then another.

Tori's impact on my life has stayed with me over the years. We connected through social media and occasionally I'll hear from her. She has a family now and a four-month-old son, who they named, Jerry – *"NO THEY DIDN'T!"*

I realized that sometimes, the most powerful things we do in life are the smallest, most seemingly insignificant gestures. A kind word, a thoughtful message, a simple act of reaching out can mean the world to someone else and can shine light into their darkest days.

I love this quote, *"The biggest mistake someone can make is to do nothing, simply because they can only do a little."*

### Week 1 New Year's Resolutions:

***"The Gym is Packed, The Fridge is Empty, and We're Already Tired"***

Ah, the new year. A time for fresh starts, clean slates, and an overwhelming sense of pressure to improve ourselves. But hey, at least we're all in this together, right? Whether you're resolving to hit the gym five days a week, learn a new language, or simply floss more regularly, you're not alone in your quest for self-improvement.

In fact, according to a recent survey, roughly 60% of Americans make New Year's resolutions with the intent of following through on them. Unfortunately, only about 8% actually succeed in achieving their goals. But don't let that discourage you - after all, failure is just a necessary step on the road to success.

So, as we venture into week one of 2024, let's take a moment to commiserate with one another. We may be sore from our first workout of the year, starving ourselves with kale salads and green smoothies, and already feeling the weight of our lofty resolutions bearing down on us, but at least we can laugh about it together.

Remember, it's not about being perfect - it's about making progress, one tiny step at a time. And if all else fails, at least we can look forward to the inevitable slew of "I gave up on my resolution" memes in a few weeks' time. Here's to another year of trying our best, even when our best is just ordering takeout and binge-watching Netflix.

But enough of that - let's talk about some truly crazy resolutions that people have made. According to a survey conducted by GoCompare, some of the most bizarre resolutions include:

- Learning to speak whale.
- Becoming a mermaid,
- Learning to play the didgeridoo,
- Finding the Holy Grail,
- Visiting space



While these resolutions may seem outlandish, it's important to remember that setting goals is a personal process and what may seem crazy to one person may be completely reasonable to another. So, if you want to learn to speak whale or become a mermaid, go for it!

New Year's resolutions can be a fun and empowering way to kick off the new year, but it's important to set realistic goals and have a plan in place. And if your resolution happens to be a little on the crazy side, embrace it and go for it! Who knows, maybe you'll end up speaking whale by December 31st.

## Keep Your Carpets Merry and Bright with these Top Tips!"



**Did your guests get a little carried away at your Christmas Party? We can help!**

After the holiday season, we know that your floors and carpets have taken a beating from all the food, drinks, and holiday decorations. You may find yourself struggling with stubborn stains from gravy, wine, and even dirty tree water. Don't worry, we're here to help you get your home back in tip-top shape. In the meantime, here are some cleaning tips to help you battle those post-party blues.

Firstly, let's tackle gravy stains. These can be particularly challenging due to the oil and protein content. The key is to act fast by removing any excess gravy with a spoon or knife, then dabbing the stain with a clean cloth or paper towel to soak up as much of the liquid as possible. Next, mix one tablespoon of liquid dish soap with two cups of warm water, and apply the solution to the stain with a clean cloth. Blot the area with a dry cloth and repeat the process until the stain disappears. Remember to avoid using hot water or rubbing the stain, as this can make it worse.

Now, let's move on to wine stains. Red wine can be especially difficult to remove from carpets, but with the right technique, it can be done. Firstly, blot the stain with a clean cloth or paper towel to soak up as much of the liquid as possible. Next, mix one tablespoon of ammonia with one cup of warm water, then apply the solution to the stain with a clean cloth. Blot the area with a dry cloth and repeat the process until the stain disappears. If the stain is still visible, mix one tablespoon of white vinegar with one cup of warm water, and repeat the process as before.

Lastly, let's address the issue of dirty tree water. This can often contain sap and other sticky substances that can be challenging to remove from carpets. The first step is to blot up as much of the liquid as possible with a clean cloth or paper towel. Next, mix one teaspoon of liquid dish soap with one cup of warm water, and apply the solution to the stain with a clean cloth. Blot the area with a dry cloth and repeat the process until the stain disappears. If the stain is still visible, mix one tablespoon of white vinegar with two cups of warm water, and repeat the process as before.

We hope these tips help you tackle those post-party stains and get your home back to its pre-holiday glory. Remember, if you're still struggling with stains or need a deeper clean, don't hesitate to contact us for our professional carpet cleaning services. We're always here to help.