



Beware of Author!

by Mathilda Gregory, Editor-in-Chief

Although the tourists we all love to hate are not quite so thick upon the Hardy Falls ground at this time of year as they are in the fall, you may have noticed there is one particular woman haunting the town. In fact, one finds it difficult to escape her.

She has purchased books at the bookstore, bowled incompetently at Murphy Lanes, and eaten at The Country Time Bar and Grill. All the while, she has smiled, talked to people, and asked questions. I assume she is trying to make friends with members of the community—or at least give the appearance of making friends. Albert Cromwell has described her as “charming.” I beg to differ. Albert, I am sad to say, is easily charmed.

When I confronted other regulars at the Country Time about this woman, they informed me they spoke to her only because they assumed she was a reporter working on this newspaper. She is not. I don't know how they could have made such a mistake as she is *far* from college-aged.

After Hildy Bennett pointed her out to me and told me just what she has been doing, I contacted Chief Kline to see if there was a way we could protect our privacy. It turns out the chief had already spoken to this person. Her name is Betsy Horvath, and she is, reportedly, a writer.

Moreover, it seems she has been stalking the residents of Hardy Falls as part of her research for a series of “romance novels” she claims to be writing.

Yes, you heard me correctly. Romance novels. Honestly, if a writer is going to make a pest of themselves around this town, couldn't they at least write *real* literature? Couldn't we inspire a Thoreau, a Faulkner, a Delillo, or a Proulx instead of this...person?

Please note that I do not call Ms. Horvath a “hack,” as I am informed this might be viewed as litigious.

Chief Kline says there's nothing to be done to force her to leave, and the merchants are happy with the money she's been spending, so this column is intended as a caution. Beware of the author! I know gossip is second nature to Hardy Falls, but use your heads, people. You never know what might turn up in her books.

Assuming she writes any books at all. Only time will tell.