

## One Person's Inadequate Tribute to My Friend Kate Woods



This is a picture of Kate from around the time I first met her.



Having fun with her partner in crime, my beloved Cindy Reifler (now Relfler-Flores).

My friend Kate Woods was killed in a single car accident on May 25, 2017. It took a while for me to process this and this is what I came up with. Where do I start? When I first met Kate back in the early 1980s, the first thing that I noticed was a RAZOR sharp wit and a complete unwillingness to take any BS from ANYONE. That, coupled with an intimidating intellect, drew me to her immediately.

At this point in her life, Kate was, shall we say, a little bit on the wild side. Fearless doesn't begin to describe her personality and I can honestly say that life around Kate

was never, ever, ever...EVER dull. Because of her job as a Mariachi, you needed to be a bit of a night owl. In fact, Kate once chastised me for waking her up too early. Her exact words were "You woke me up at the crack of dusk". She then demanded, and received, some, as she called it, "plasma" (Coca Cola) for my indiscretion.

There are SO many funny stories about hanging out with Kate, but the most important thing about her, to me, was the gentle, caring heart beneath a very tough exterior. Once Kate trusted you and let you in, there was no better friend. For some, getting past that shell may have been difficult. In fact, it may have been difficult for me, but I didn't, and don't, see it that way. I was happy to spend time with her and when I did, time flew by. I suppose that's what happens when you love someone and I genuinely loved her.

The fact that Kate and I had a "complicated" relationship and I hadn't seen her in many years in no way lessened the love I felt, and feel, for her. I know people are celebrating her life, but, at this point in time, I can't celebrate anything about her passing because the loss I feel just knowing that she isn't with us anymore is a little bit too sharp and painful.

I will love her, remember her, and miss her forever.