



Merry Christmas

THE TITAN CHRONICLES
December Issue





FROM ONE OF OUR STUDENTS...

"Festive Sunrise"





An old Christmas myth...

The Legend of Krampus!

Krampus, in central European popular legend, is a half-goat, half-demon monster that punishes misbehaving children during Christmas!

Originating in Germany, his name derives from the word *Krampen*, which means “claw.”

Krampus was thought to have been part of pagan rituals for the winter solstice. According to legend, he is the son of *Hell*, the Norse god of the underworld!

Festivities involving Krampus include the *Krampuslauf* (“Krampus run”). In this activity, people dressed as the creature parade through streets, scaring spectators and sometimes chasing them. Beginning in the late 20th century, amid efforts to preserve cultural heritage, Krampus runs became increasingly popular in Austria and Germany.

During this time Krampus began to be celebrated internationally, and the monster’s growing appeal was evidenced by numerous horror films.

-- Encyclopaedia Britannica



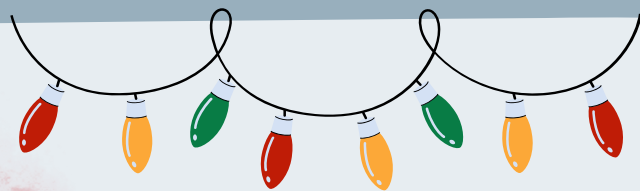
OUR CHRISTMAS FAVOURITES



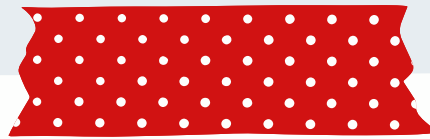
Movies



- Home Alone
- A boy called Christmas
- Nightmare before Christmas
- Rise of the Guardians
- The Polar Express
- The Grinch
- It's a Wonderful Life
- Deck the Halls



OUR CHRISTMAS FAVOURITES



Songs

- Merry Christmas Everyone
- All I want for Christmas
- Santa Claws is Coming to town
- God Rest ye Merry Gentlemen
- It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas
- Oh, Miss Believer



INTERVIEW WITH TOMAS ZITA FORMER EXECUTIVE FOR SHANGRI LA HOTELS

BY: ELENI PLEMMENOU & ABBY RENIERIS

(FULL INTERVIEW IS ON OUR WEBSITE!)



Eleni: So, first thing that I want to ask is, where did your journey begin?

Tomas: As a background, 1997, I was retired from commodity trading. I was trading sugar and after a few years I decided to do something different and I was contacted by my colleagues, people I traded sugar with in Hong Kong. This group I used to trade with a lot, said I should look into coming to Asia to do something different. So, I said, why not? You know? I'm done with commodity trading, I wanted to do something different so my wife and I with four suitcases went to Hong Kong, to seek it out. At that time, Hong Kong was being handed back over to China. So, it was a very exciting time in Hong Kong, that's why I was also very interested in going because it was a very important event in the world, especially in Southeast Asia with Hong Kong coming back to China and the British leaving. There was a lot of celebrations when I first arrived there. I was arriving and the British were leaving. They said this is the opportunity that we have, obviously we cannot start you from a starting job, you will be way up already when you start, because I had been running companies at that point. I had my own trading company and I was doing a lot of trading around the world so I had a lot of international experience. So they said well we have specifically two areas where we would like you to get involved which is hotels and property management. Hotels are very interesting, I don't know if you've been involved in it but it is a very beautiful industry.

Eleni: It is a beautiful industry.

Tomas: So they offered me to be what they call in Hong Kong, a managing director, and then their executive directors, managing director is more or less the CEO of the company. Okay. So the company that I would be assigned to with the hotel side first, because I wanted to know a little bit more, and that's the Shangri La hotels, which you can probably google Shangri La. At that point, I'd say we probably had about 35 hotels in Asia, but these are all I would say six star because they're really high end, and they were expanding in China. So they said, Okay, you'll train with one of the managing directors, which is the owner. Our chairman who I know personally, they are in sugar, rice, they're, you know, they have all sorts of businesses in Asia and China, logistics, insurance, shipping. But hotels is something that was close to the the owners because it's, it's a reflection of their own character, whatever they build, right? And it's something different for them. So for the first five years I was learning how the hotel operates, how the management operates, and how to improve always trying to improve service and profitability in each entity. That's the way we operated. I mean, it's something different, something new. It's always nice to learn new things, right? In addition to visiting the hotels, which is great. I get involved in looking at new facilities and improving or renovating existing ones, which, again, is a very important part of keeping the hotels in great shape. Like, just to give you an example, in Hong Kong, okay. The hotels that were maybe when I joined them, probably already 10-15 years old. So basically we had to do renovations, in other words, you go straight to the bare walls, okay, everything inside is gutted. It's like building new hotel, but it's worse because they have existing pipes and air conditioning and all those things that you have to determine.





Eleni: How would you say that the international business perspective motivated you to keep doing what you do? And helping businesses grow?

Tomas: Well, I always enjoyed traveling. I always enjoyed meeting people. So, each place that I go to, you have local management, basically if I go to Thailand, they're all Thai. They have their own cultures, so you have to learn how to talk to them, you know, there are certain do's and don'ts. You have to learn how to tell them things or to do a job in such a way that they're not insulted. Because pride is very important for Southeast Asians. So, going international, again as I said, I love that the feeling of traveling, which I did in commodities we traded with the whole world. We used to go to London, Paris, Asia, all over. So it's something that I like, and I enjoy traveling and learning new things, from the culture that we build.

Eleni: Is that what brought you to America?

Tomas: Yeah, well, actually, when I went to the States, I just got out of college. And in our family there is a big emphasis on education. Once I finished, my parents said, well, what are you going to do? I went and took a job in the Philippines. And that time, I wasn't happy. I was working with Procter and Gamble, which is one of the largest American companies in the Philippines, and they produce a lot of consumer goods, from soaps and Tide detergent, and so on. But it was just not my thing. So I said, I better get out before I get too involved in it. I told my parents. Yeah, I think I'll go to the States where a lot of my siblings went and to try my luck. I applied to several schools, and I ended up in New York. I went to NYU, to get my MBA.

Eleni: And at what time was this in your life? You were how old?

Tomas: I was 18 when I went to NYU, but I mean, that was when I graduated college, because I went right after that. I graduated I think in May, and I enrolled for the fall term. But again, New York is a different animal, right? There's nothing like New York, either you hate it or you love it there. The moment I arrived in New York, I just fell in love with it, I said this is the place. It was a great decision, I think at that time. Still is.

Eleni: Having completed your Bachelor's in the Philippines, then to go on to complete your MBA in New York must have given you an edge.

Tomas: Yeah. Well, that's how they recruit you, right? Because obviously, it's a premium to have an American degree, which helped a lot when I moved back to America with my family. Well, at that time, my wife Kathy and I had our first child, she was born in the Philippines, where I worked for three years. And then I decided, I want to go back to New York. So I went back, even if I didn't have anything here. You know, I had no job, nothing. My wife, a baby and a couple of suitcases.





Eleni: What would be your message if you have a young aspiring businessman or businesswoman in front of you?

Tomas: Well, several messages, of course you have to believe in yourself, that you can achieve something. Because if you don't, if you cannot believe in your own self, then what else? You cannot assume that other people will do it for you. So you have to assume that you can do it yourself, you have to believe in yourself. So that, that's very important. And as I say, you always have to look at goals, because if there's nothing to look forward to, it's not a very pleasant life. It is living, you know, just for the sake of living without any purpose in life. I mean, not just for business, but even for life. Always be careful, because there are a lot of problems in life and how you adapt to it is very important. There's no such thing as a perfect world. And some of the days and choices made are going to be really, really bad. And that's how you recover from a bad mistake is also a good sign of, you know, your character, your resiliency.

FIN.

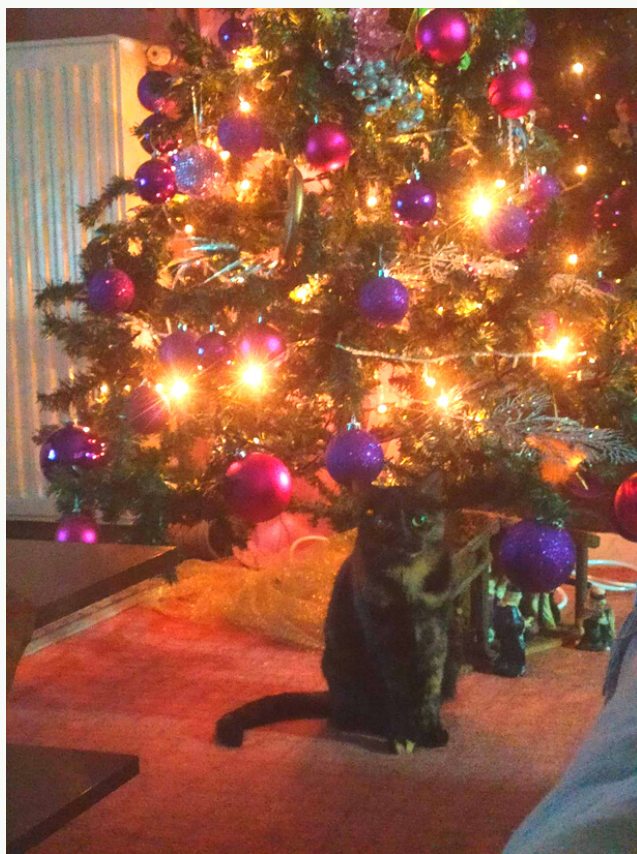




AND OUR GUEST STARS!



*Meowrry Christmas
From the very Festive
Furball and Cookie !!
Aren't they adorable!*





Dear Abby...

Dear Abby, What are the 3 best holiday songs?

-Anonymous

I don't know where to begin... I'd have to say Elvis Presley's version of Blue Christmas, BB King's Christmas Love, and then Last Christmas by Wham!... also a special mention for Do They Know It's Christmas? By Band Aid!!

Dear Abby, How many cookies is too many cookies for Christmas?

This is a trick question.. There's never enough cookies.

Dear Abby, I wanted to anonymously wish my classmates a Merry Christmas.

so sweet! Merry Christmas, friend!





*Merry
Christmas*

From

THE TITAN CHRONICLES
2022