

What am I supposed to do now?

Anita Moran

Okay, it's all Don and Ginny Spoon's, Keith Keppel's and Rick Tasco's and Roger Duncan's fault. Well maybe not just them, but they are the worst. I was being so good. In 2008, I decided to concentrate on my arils and arilbreds and of the 450 tall bearded cultivars I had I kept seventy-five of the ones I just could not give up, ones like 'First Wave', 'Kathy Chilton', 'Daughter of Stars', 'Grape Harvest' and 'Decadence'. You all know the tall bearded take up so much room, fall over in Maryland storms, hide the dwarfs, but worse, for me at least, they took space away from my arils.

Now I know what you are thinking, that this is about arils and arilbreds. Boy do I wish, but they would not stop, none of them give a thought to us poor sick people with this horrible disease that no matter how much we fight it we cannot win against the onslaught of new introductions. I moved what was left of my collection of tall bearded down below, out of the way, and was very proud that I did not order any tall bearded iris at all. Okay at least that year and as hard as it was I was good for 2009 as well, ok mostly. Then that's when they really did it. We all know that to fight an addiction you must stay away from the addictive substance. Well I would like to know how



'Reckless Abandon' (Keppel 2010) Photo By Keith Keppel



'Haunted Heart' (Keppel 2010)
Photo by Keith Keppel



'Pretty Kitty' (Keppel 2011)
Photo by Keith Keppel

to do that when it is delivered directly to your door or worse for me I am the regional editor so I have to visit gardens, well we all know what that leads to.

The first to subject me to torture was Keith Keppel when his catalog arrived AND his put up a web site at the same time. And what, I ask you, was on that sight, eye candy so sweet that it was painful. The picture of 'Haunted Heart' was the first thing that took my breath, but he didn't stop, no, he continued the torture with a

picture of 'Reckless Abandon' then I turned the page and there was 'Nobel Gesture'. I am only human how much torture can I take? Well I ordered all three, but only three but he was not finished with me as he added 'Sun Shine In' as an extra, well yes I kept it. Then I got this year catalog from Keith, well he out did himself this year as 'Pretty Kitty' literally sang to me from the pages of his catalog, how can I resist a 'Pretty Kitty'?



**"Winterberry' (Spoon 2010)
Photo By Anita Moran**

Then Don and Ginny Spoon was next to attack, oh the pain as I walked through Winterberry Gardens, subjected to torture and pain at every turn with seedling and new introductions, and then I saw the new love of my life 'Winterberry'. Never have I been drawn to an iris this bad since I first saw 'Syrian Princess' I just had to have it and a few steps away was 'Red Hot Mamma' the only relief was that it was a FUTURE INTRODUCTION, yea that'll stop me. Oh but they were not finished with me since they sent 'Corn Dance' with my order. Hello, this tall bearded rebloomer bloomed its head off the first year after planting and then rebloomed with temperatures in the 20's and snow on the ground, it just held its buds tightly protected and as soon as it felt warmth it opened up. How can you fight something like that? I shudder to see what else the Spoons will be tempting me with this year.



**'Red Hot Mamma' (Spoon 2011)
Photo By Anita Moran**



**'Black Magic Woman' (Tasco 2008)
Photo By Rick Tasco**

And then there is Rick and Roger, oh I fought not to pick up 'Black Magic Woman' when it first came out but you see they are sneaky because Rick introduced 'Exotic Treasure' and sucked me in with that beautiful arilbred and I was lost. Then this year thinking I was going to be Oh so good they introduce 'Dragon King' by Rick Tasco and 'Go West' by Roger Duncan the Marquis de Sade was not so mean.



'Dragon King' (Tasco 2011)
Photo By Rick Tasco

Well ladies and gentlemen I gave up. I just cannot fight it any longer and still keep some semblance of sanity. I will have to re-establish my Tall bearded bed again and make a new one besides to hold all the treasures I am collecting. My only hope for the future is

that I get busy enough not to be able to look at the

catalogs, the websites, Facebook, Cubits, TWiki, well never mind that won't happen. Ok Guys go ahead and punish me.



'Go West (Duncan 2011)
Photo by Rick Tasco