

Dear Captive Audience Member,

Wow! I cannot believe I made it this far to 2020. There is little for which I can provide updates this year, considering I have made it another full year perfectly content without children. I know this is terribly disappointing, as I am unable to tell you how well the developmental milestones are going thus far for child X. Hell, I was not even promoted. I got a measly 2% merit-based pay raise, which continues to go unnoticed after taxes, and yet the Dept of Education continues to threaten raising my income based student loan payment. What a joke!

All that said I am happy to report that my long term relationship is going strong after nearly a decade. Some would even say it is "perfect". People constantly stop me and ask me, "Hey, what are you doing to foster such a healthy and happy relationship?" I thought I would put this in a holiday newsletter, rather than having to talk about it each time with each person. First, let me check in with you. How are you doing? Is my happiness bringing you down? Do you even care about my relationship? If you answered yes or no to these questions, you are welcome to recycle this piece of paper. I can relate to the gratifying feeling of throwing someone else's pride in the bin.

Anyways, this is about my relationship. What do we do to keep going strong? We simply have to "show" up for one another. Every night, I come home tired after a long day at work. He is ready, waiting for me to snuggle up on the couch, dog curled up at my feet. He talks to me and shows me things until I fall into a deep sleep, sometimes while he is still talking. He never judges and understands when I am too deep in REM sleep to answer him when he asks if I "am still there". In 2019, we have been on many adventures together. We went to France and journeyed through the country together. We saw all the historical sites from World War 2. The adventures we experienced as a couple in 2019 are bountiful and rich. We even saw a glimpse of Heaven, or was it Hell? Who the Fork knows? With the help of my partner, I am up to date on historical documentaries, foreign films, and The Good Place, which leaves me in a really great place. As long as I continue to pay my internet bill with my 2% pay raise, Netflix and I will continue to go strong. While the state of Illinois does not recognize a marriage between a human and a medium for streaming movies/television shows, I am content in our commitment to each other and an internet signal. I cannot wait to see what 2020 has in store for us!

Let the adventures continue!

Happy Holidays,

Binge Watching Betty.