

*Dear friends,*

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*Wow! What a year for the Crenshaw family! It started off with a bang—literally! Kurt was lighting fireworks to ring in 2013 and accidentally set fire to the kitchen, which ignited the gas stove and...you guessed it...blew up the house! Luckily, the kids Mallory and Nate and I were outside watching Ryan Seacrest through the neighbor's window, so we weren't hurt. It certainly was a memorable New Year!*



*After we traveled to Kurt's hometown to bury what was left of his body next to his father, we decided to check out colleges for Mallory, who was a junior at the beginning of this year—time sure does fly! As we were perusing the campus, Nate took a detour to a frat party and ended up contracting meningitis from a game of Flippy Cup. Poor Nate—he was just trying to make friends! Turns out it was his last attempt—who knew meningitis could be fatal? I always thought it was akin to a bad head cold or a mild case of polio—no big deal! Boy, was I wrong!*



*After we doubled back to Kurt's hometown to bury Nate next to his father and grandfather, Mallory and I decided to stay for a bit, so we rented a place on the outskirts of town. I got a job in accounting, and Mallory started taking classes at the nearby community college. Mallory's always*

*been dedicated to green living, so she forwent driving the hatchback and instead began commuting via pogo stick. She must have bounced a little too high at one point, though, because she hit her head on a tree branch and knocked herself out. When the police found her, they said that the family of eagles that she had displaced from the tree branch retaliated by eating most of her body before plucking out her eyes. Why they're a symbol of this country I'll never know, because that's not very American if you ask me.*



*Anyway, now it's just me, and I've been filling my evenings with knitting, listening to old records, and writing my suicide note in my own blood. I've been feeling dizzy, though— it's a long one, isn't it?— so I've been taking iron pills so I can finish it coherently. Has anyone tried those? They work wonders!*



*I hope this letter finds you all healthy, happy, and loved! This will be my last one, so feel free to frame it or use it as toilet paper— it's all the same to me! And happy holidays!*

*Love,  
Linda*