



happy holidays from

# THE DIDDLYWINKS

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Goodness me, what a year it has been! Bert and I have been busy here at the bee farm - the ongoing copyright lawsuits from the other "Burt" and his "bees" can be a real drag, but they sure keep us on our toes!

Early in the pandemic, we hunkered down with the kiddos and tried to spend more time on our hobbies. Bert's picked up the old bagpipe again, and I've dusted off my tap dancing shoes. It's been a long time since our performing days, but with all this practice, I think we might have a Tapkick Diddly's reunion tour coming soon! Our precious Eileen is all grown up now and sings just like her father. I mean, COME ON, how lucky could we be to have so much beautiful music in our home? I swear, at this moment, it means everything.

Our seven-year-old, Ned, started watching a LOT of YouTube. We went through a rainbow hair-dye phase and a "street dancing" phase, but Ned finally settled in on watching endless hours of good old-fashioned Ted Talks. Bert even helped him build a stage in the yard for performing his own educational speeches, which he calls, "Ned Talks."

Grandma Betty moved in with us early this summer. She couldn't stand the nursing home lockdowns, and felt safe here, as we've been taking our quarantine very seriously. It was great to have mom around - she was such a big help with making sure our meals weren't too seasoned and we were always caught up on the news (no matter where on the property you were, she kept the volume high enough for all of us to stay informed!). It was a lovely few months, but she decided to move back into the home this fall. I know she missed having her own space and is happy to relax (though Eileen insists it's because she finds Ned Talks "tyrannical," "oppressive," an "exhibit of incorrigible youth arrogance," a "maniacal display of failed parental discipline," and the "definition of mansplaining" - a word she learned from Eileen). We sure do miss having her around!

This Christmas will be a humble one - like so many families, we lost our main source of income, as Perky (our beloved purebred Wackadoodle) was let go from her high paying job earlier this year. We knew they would have to temporarily halt production of "DCIS: Doggy Court & Investigative Scams" but we never thought they would outright cancel the show. We're trying to stay positive, but Perky has been taking the unemployment hardest of us all, barely even finding the energy to tear up our shoes. It's the longest a pair of sneakers has lasted in this house, and that just breaks my heart.

On the bright side, Bert's persistent diarrhea problem has lessened to a mild sticky-poo (vs. the bursts of splashy fecal matter that you're used to hearing about). And in other good news, our cat, Richard, died suddenly several weeks ago. No longer will our Christmas cards be full of hairball tales or a recounting of every carpet we've had to replace after finding yet another old piss stain. Even after such a hard year, there is much to celebrate! Joy to the world!

With love,  
**The Diddlywinks**

