

*Abigail Never Fail...except for when she does.*

December 13th, 2023

# Hello friend, family and, strangers!

## **First, a big thank you! I'm not sure why... It was on the template;)**

Happy Christmas and Merry Hanukkah and all of the other holidays we throw in between Thanksgiving and New Year's. It's been another year. And I would say that this year was no different than the year before except I would have to disagree with myself. I didn't know what I was going to share with you and so I sat down and I went through the photos on my phone (huge convenience, I don't need my memory anymore), and checked my medias so we can stay social. I made a long list.

I've got to say, one big plus for not having kids, is that I can do what I want when I want. Aside from working, cleaning (who am I kidding I don't clean) doing the laundry, dishes, putting gas in my car... Ok, I can't do what I want all the time. An example though, Sunday, I was able to go to breakfast with a friend who was in town for a family holiday get together, come home and do a video call with a different friend who lives across the country, chomp the corner of a gummy, because I was cramping and tired of the pain, have sex, nap, make a late lunch, and fold laundry while I watch Doctor who! Then start writing this letter.

I digress back to the point of this letter. For the record, I want to say that I have always wanted to do this Christmas letter exchange with Tony, however he has always seen it as an adventure that he does by himself. So this year I'm writing a letter too!

We started this past year with some gummies, wow we sound like potheads for people who don't partake in THC very often. Maybe two or three times a year. Anyway, we started by watching squirrels that were trying to figure out how to get to the bird food hanging from a very large wind chime, that would dong loudly when the squirrels jumped for it. 30 minutes later, those little fuckers had figured it out and ate the whole thing. We don't do much in the frozen tundra over the winter. I guess that's repetitive because if I'm talking about the frozen tundra you probably know it's winter. We're not outdoorsy people. Sometimes we go for walks. We've gone skiing, like a weekend 2 years ago. And both of us skied as children. A couple times. We don't snowmobile, we don't snowshoe, it's pretty for about the first month of everything being frozen and white and stuff. Right now it's just Brown, everything looks dumpy. It's cold.

Oh, before I forget, we watched so many movies, some good a lot not. We started and finished Ted Lasso! Don't Look Up, was good. Don't Worry Darling, we watched Saturday night, that's going to mess with me for a while. No Hard Feelings, made me laugh. I almost had water coming out of my nose or

whatever I was drinking at the time. If it had been about a man there would be some serious issues with the movie. The politically correct police would have been out all over it. Moving on. Well good on me. I took Netflix and HBO off my phone. I can't look up any more movies or TV shows that I adventured through this year. One last note on that, if you haven't seen the second Bridgerton, it's not worth it...

There was a lot of art and creativity to get us through the year. I have finished six paintings. And another one is close and hopefully by the time 2024 rings in the 7th will be done. Tony's creativity is a lot different than mine. He has revamped our entire garage with storage, shelves, and boxes and lots of empty boxes stored in empty boxes to store other empty boxes. That whenever we might need a box, don't you worry, we have boxes! Also he has made me frames for my paintings, super creative and they are beautiful! He has also made storage for his records out of wood! They're cool. I appreciate how much he lets me be creative and is supportive of my endeavors.

In other big news I left the school district after 7 years. I was hoping with all of my work with nonprofits that my federal student loans would be paid off. Between 7 years at one district, one at another, six months at another one, and Americorps for a year and a half that would be enough to have my student loans forgiven. I worked over 10 years with nonprofits but don't you worry, our government isn't doing what they said they would. There's always a loophole. and my Federal loans probably won't be getting forgiven. not that I'm bitter. However, I left for a job where I get to work with clients helping them get jobs with their disabilities (the different abilities that they have due to the disabilities they were born with) and be able to be a working helpful part of the society. Which is kind of what I have been doing for the last 6 years with the district I left. However, now I have more control over my schedule and therefore that means I have more control over when I'm able to be working on my creative endeavors and painting. So Yahtzee.

In the spring we have gotten used to waiting for the permafrost to finally melt. To be able to start our garden that is outside our lovely, looks like every other door, thanks to the association rules, townhouse. They did plant new plants two years ago but ours are boring. So this year we had 22 smaller planters and two large multi plants in our rock bed and along our walkway. I'm so grateful that you thought to think gee, what kind of plants did you have?

Well, let me tell you. We had herbs (such as cilantro, thyme, oregano, not that kind of funny herbs. We had sage, about three or four different kinds of sage, rosemary, basil, like three different types of basil, cuz Tony loves different types of basil. We had lavender at least two, probably three types of lavender cuz I love lavender. It makes really delicious tea. So does the sage. Sage is super good for your throat) and mints (we had lemon balm, lemon mint, chocolate mint, spearmint and I don't know probably two or three more types of mint other than that. Did you know mint is the slut ((by the way, being a slut is not a bad thing. If you like sex it's totally fine and if you had a dick they would hold you up and praise you for being such an awesome dude. know thyself. Be safe about it and know that you are enough. And know that you can say no if you choose to. If you want to have sex again, be safe about it. use condoms, use a form of birth control, I don't care what kind of birth control you use, learn your body, keep track of your periods. Also, read Ejaculate Responsibly, it's an amazing book!)) of all herbs. That's why you want to keep mint in separate containers. If you have it in your yard they will get all around,

up, about and, all over the place. mint is really great at keeping mice and ants away. If you do have containers, keeping them around your entrance to your front door is not a bad idea.) We also had vegetables, peppers, different grasses like lemongrass and another one like lemongrass that wasn't lemongrass, we had onions, ginger and so many tomatoes, probably five or six different types of tomatoes.

Also, if you have the plants all up in your front porch and in your rockbed it's a great place to shield your front sitting area. That way you can watch the neighbors. Not that that's creepy at all. They're kind of fun to watch. People are so strange. From this letter you can totally tell that I am the most normal of normal individuals that is out there. Tony is a weirdo though. that's why we love him.

Moving through the year. This summer we did a couple different adventures. Tony and I went tubing down Cannon falls river. We do that at least once if not two or three times a summer. It's a very enjoyable activity. The water has been low for the last couple years and at this point sometimes a 3 or 4 hour adventure. Us being as white as virgin snow means lots of suntan lotion. Also, not great for the river but leaves us not feeling like shit for several days. I'm not going to mention that the river being so low might have something to do with the fact that we as humans consume, consume, consume and don't take care of this home that we all share whether you have white skin, black skin, yellow skin, red skin or even orange skin. This year however, was a little different. I found out about a quarry that's only an hour and a half away from home. I ended up going to the quarry once with a friend and then the next week instead of going tubing again I dragged Tony's happy ass to the quarry. It is a magical place. It was like a fairy tale. There were high rocks to jump off of, the water was the color of the Mediterranean sea! Possibly the most beautiful color in the world. Crayola even makes a color named after the Mediterranean Sea. That is how beautiful it is, no shit!

We've made it to fall and as you know I didn't go back to school. I'm working kind of like a contractor. It's doing what it needs to do. I'm also painting and that draws me to this point. I'm bored of writing this letter and my banana bread is out of the oven. I'm going to end it here saying thanks for making it this far into my rantings. Love you all. Have a wonderful holiday season and I hope you've come up with ideas and adventures for your 2024...I'm going to take a train trip around the country! Of course for my art.

Lots of love,

Abigail...and Tony even though he didn't help me write this he did join me on my adventures.

P.S. How could I have forgotten to tell you about Burg? Burg is our newest addition to our lovely little family of two. Now we are a family of about 500. It was 502. Because when we got Burg they came as 500. Sadly, two have committed suicide by climbing out of our container. But now we are the happy owners and loving parents of 498 red worms! The cool thing about red worms is they keep relatively the same number all the time. Worms are intersex. So, we are calling them, they/them, because they can be both female and male. When they need more females they change to female and when they need more males, they turn male. When they need to procreate they change to the sex that they need to be. How Forward thinking of them? Anyway, we're super excited to introduce you to Burg, they/them have one name. In my mind I picture them with bow ties because there's a bow for the

female part and there's a tie for the male part. Burg welcome to our family! Thank you for joining us and helping us to make compost out of our food. We will be able to use the castings next spring to fertilize our garden in front of our townhouse. Oh my god! I also totally forgot to tell you I held a snake this year! Part of the reason I was able to do that, was when I was learning about the worms and I was doing the castings, which is pretty much playing with worm poop. That same day I also got to hold a snake and it was pretty cool and now snakes no longer bother me. I took a breath, I opened the space around my heart and I let the fear go. If you want to you can read the Untethered Soul and that might help you own your shit and get over your own shit. Then people won't bother you anymore because you'll realize that they're them. You are you. you'll be able to release the traumas and the hurts from your childhood. That means that the asshat driving in front of you at 40 miles per hour, is actually just giving you more time to look around and see the beauty that surrounds you. check it out, Untethered Soul by Michael Singer. If you are so inclined. And if you're not cool you do you.