



Happy Holidays From The Smith Family!

Hello dear friends and family! We hope 2020 is treating you well! The kids keep calling it a “dumpster fire.” I remember when my oldest was little and the roofs were on fire, now it’s the dumpsters?? I’ll never understand these things.

This year looks different for us in oh so many ways, as I’m sure it does for you too. John’s brother, Randy, has temporarily moved in with us. We are so glad that the guest room is being put to good use. With more time on his hands, Randy has been starting so many little projects around the house. They come with some colorful language, free of charge! There is yet to be a completed one that I can share with you. There is, however, a work in progress that has already been getting some usage. It’s the minibar Randy has been putting together in the guest room. It goes with Randy’s favorite saying, “It’s 5 o’clock somewhere!” And do you know what? I like that saying and decided to have some wine while writing this to all of you!

Our youngest son, Christian, who is now 15, enjoys documenting the experience of living with his Uncle Randy. He’s always playing with something called Tic-Tac on his phone and telling Randy he’s going to be viral. Well, I should hope not! I always make sure Randy doesn’t become viral by reminding him to put on his mask when he leaves the house. Ha! He sounds like Batman or something! What’s the opposite of Batman? Randy.

Other than being entertained by his uncle, Christian mostly keeps to himself these days. Between e-learning, Tic-Tac, and video games, we rarely hear a peep out of him! He has come up with some silly nicknames for John and me. He calls John “Boomer” and me “Karen”. Is calling someone another person’s name considered a nickname? I don’t get it. That kid . . . full of snark!

Side Note: A nice big bottle of Pinot Noir is a great pairing with writing newsletters!

Miranda, is almost 25, can you believe it?? She and Ted are doing well. They live in a studio apartment in the city. We don’t get to see her as much as we use to. Covid or “The Vid’ as Randy likes to call it, seems a bit convenient for these kids to not visit their parents.

Miranda is adjusting to working from home instead of going into the office and as usual, Ted just eats and sleeps. There have been several items suddenly knocked onto the floor since Miranda's been home more, though. So, I guess Ted is somewhat active at times. Yesterday I nearly died laughing when she told me about him coughing up a hairball in her shoe. Oh, Ted, you silly cat.

Besides Ted, Miranda brought another guest to our Thanksgiving call this year, her therapist, Diane. Diane was only able to stay on the call for 30 minutes, and we weren't allowed to get to know her. Miranda told us she was there to observe us, not chat with us. What are we, a zoo exhibit?? I wanted to know if she was married. Randy and her could maybe hit it off! I wonder if she's on Tic-Tac?

I took a break to open another bottle of wine, but I'm back now!

On to our next winner, John Jr... Honestly, I don't even know where to begin. John is still with his nice friend, Sharon. "The Vid" has postponed many events this year, so it looks like they are putting yet another year of being engaged under their belt. They've seemed to flip the timeline around! Three months dating, four years engaged. Oh my!

They also have a guest staying with them. Sharon's life coach, Brad recently has moved in with the "Dynamic Duo." I don't know what a life coach does except spend a lot of time with Sharon. My mother taught me "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." Moving right along . . . Cheers!

Lastly, there's my beautiful daughter Gwen, her delicate husband Terry, and my lovely grandbabies that I miss so much, Rylan, Parker, and Sinclair. They were already adjusted to this pandemic type living with the gardening they do harvesting their own food, homeschooling the boys, and recycling just about everything. I wouldn't be surprised if they were already wiping their butts with their old socks before the toilet paper shortage. Cheers!

I can't help but wonder how my gramsons are doing without their Nana sneaking them donuts and candy while letting them watch TV. Did you know that they don't own a TV?? What century is this? Those kids thought I was a witch doctor the first time I showed them a TV! I don't know what John would do if he couldn't watch Netflix. Have you seen the Ron Howard show on Netflix about all those people on drugs? It has a boy that gets beat by his mother. Very heartwarming, you would like it a lot. Chers!

Oh.M.Jesus thats lot of wine! I should finish this. I'm not letting Johm proof it. He's always like "MaryJo, you shouldt be calling people thatNot everyone needs to know these things. Then he changing it and making it soundssstupid. I'm orinting these out and making Randy them in the mail. Screw you John! I love you so mcuh. Craaap I forgot pictrs!! Oh you know we look like.

HARPY HOLIDAYAS yo flity aministrals!