

## **Greetings from the Dreadful Family!**

**Our little gothlings are growing up so fast! Our teeny terror, Batricia, finished 4th grade happily surrounded by her favorite stuffies in the comfort of her room. She's too old to bring her stuffed animals to school, which is for the best as some have started to decay enough to get a bit stinky. A reminder to always pay the higher price for quality taxidermy instead of cheaping out and using the dear old man who lives under the park bridge. Lesson learned. Batricia decided to try her hand at stuffing her own animals during lockdown but her interest, and the number of local wildlife, seems to have waned.**

**Our middlist monster, Crowley, happily finished 8th grade online too. Though his sisters torture him at home, none of their devices sting as much as the harsh judgement of middle schoolers. It doesn't help that puberty is setting in so there is hair sprouting from all sorts of places. Hats weren't working as his eyebrows still poked out and the hair on his knuckles bunched up underneath gloves. We decided to have them threaded until his hormones calm down. This came in handy as I really got into macrame during the lockdown and they made some lovely bracelets to sell in our store.**

**That leaves our obstreperous oldest, Grimelda. We had a bit of a scare at her in-person high school graduation. A tattling sibling helped thwart her plans to "add" her manifesto, despite how well filmed it is, to the selection of videos we were forced to watch about the other students. We already worked hard to get the school to forget about her previous videos and attempts to kidnap "bad kids" she felt Krampus had missed. She's such a go-getter! Imagine all that on top of school work, her ghoul scouts meetings, and leading her knife throwing team! We worried we might be "lawnmower" parents but thankfully Mr. Dreadful didn't need to take a lawnmower to the school board. I reminded him we are still in a pandemic and a lawnmower is only effective if you are less than six feet away anyway. The internet helped us win our case. And always remember, everything you post on the internet is forever.... everything...**

**We spend our summer "staycationing" at home. The kids build escape rooms in the basement (the mail carrier we found down there raved about it!), learned to disarm bombs with their weekly surprise boxes from their Uncle Dreadful, and dug their own catacombs in the backyard. We decided to homeschool Batricia and Crowley this fall since they flourished like weeds while schooling at home last year. Grimelda started her freshman year at Transylvania University majoring in Forensics.**

**Mr. Dreadful and I are looking forward to a much needed break after a busy fall holiday season. Moving our business online in 2020 was the best decision, we continued to be successful throughout 2021. We were worried people would be less interested in spell kits and potions by the end of 2020 but they are still flocking like a murder of crows to our site. I guess there will always be a need for protection candles, healing potions, and hexes in the "new normal" times. Unfortunately, our packages have been taking longer to ship lately and we haven't seen our UPS driver since the summer. We look forward to spending much needed downtime enjoying the scent from the simmering cauldron while we cuddle up together in front of the fire.**

**Wishing you a fiendishly festive holiday!**