

Hi Miranda,

Happy New Year! Your Christmas card from the Minnesota ski lodge made me smile. Who says we hot young singles can't send out a "family" Christmas card with our chosen squad?? #2024goals

Things have been quiet here in Newark. Mostly just been reading. You still in that book club you mentioned on spring break? I just started a new one by A.J. Jacobs. You know, the stunt journalism guy who lived by the Bible for a year? This one's called "It's All Relative." Have you heard of it? It talks about how we're all basically related because we all came from the same few people from Africa, I guess. In one chapter, it even talks about a woman who writes to say she's *dating* her cousin! Wild, right? Apparently half of U.S. states allow marriage of first cousins, which at first surprised me but maybe makes sense? I mean, science says at least 80 percent of all marriages in human history were between first or second cousins! I guess it couldn't be that bad. In fact, it says cousin babies aren't any sketchier than babies from women over 40! Who'da thunk?

Makes you wonder why people come down so much harder on cousins than other people. Hell, my mom and dad's genes could have increased my risk for Alzheimer's, or Uncle Harry and Aunt Becky could have made you more likely to get cancer, but nobody stopped them from bringing us into this world, right? Nobody would even think of doing that. Just sayin'.

I think it'd be fun to get together and discuss this book sometime. I could bring the wine and cheese. You like brie, right? Maybe that's genetic – that we both like brie! Who knows how much we have in common because of our genes!

Speaking of having things in common, you probably guessed that Janine dumped me. Haha whoops- I don't mean she dumped you, too (did she? JANIIINE!!!! LOL). I just mean my mom- that's Aunt Carol to you!- told me you gave Scott the old heave-ho. If he's anything like Janine, he's always saying we "don't like the same things." Me and Janine, I mean, not you and me. We've got brie. No big loss- I hated her parents– they were always telling her I was so awkward. They sure aren't like our folks, who have so many funny stories from growing up together and really crack us both up.

Remember how when we were little, I used to sneak over to your place on Sunday nights, climb in through the window, and we'd read tabloids you'd taken from the corner store? Screw book club, we should do *that* again. That's the kind of thing I missed, being with Janine. I'd have to come in through the front door this time, though; don't want to drop the wine trying to shimmy into your bedroom! ROTFL #adulthood I bet I could climb up hella fast now, tho. You may not have checked your Facebook lately, but I've been getting pretty buff. Wanna check my climb time?

Hope to hear from you soon! Or I'll just drop you a message in the family text chain.

Your cuz,

Jason