



December 13, 2021

Dear Friends and Family,

Another pandemic year is nearly behind us and I can proudly report that I spent this one binge-watching over 150 different television series, specials, and documentaries. As you know, I am all about spreading the joy, so below I highlight the best of the best.

*What's Everyone So Excited About?*

This twelve-part documentary on the exclamation point follows the progression from its early days when it was known as the boy-howdy-that's-a-humdinger point to its ubiquitous use in modern day social media.

*The Jan 6 Commish*

Michael Chiklis reprises his groundbreaking role as Tony Scali, "The Commish." Only this time around, his department is investigating the January 6 insurrection in Washington D.C. Scali applies his own brand of hardboiled humor as he encounters lawlessness, doublespeak, hypocrisy, obfuscation, and Viking helmets.

*Huh*

Oatmeal enthusiast Eb Endflo saunters through his tiny hometown of Meh, MO, taking time to stop and examine those things he finds mildly interesting, nod slowly, and utter a quiet but resolute, "Huh." In just the first episode, he encounters an oak tree, a disco ball, the remnants of a dropped ice cream cone, a middle-aged couple making out on a park bench, a three-legged dog with a spot reminiscent of the Virgin Mary, and a *Casper the Friendly Ghost* comic book from 1977.

It is never made explicit whether this show is meant to be a drama, a sitcom, a reality show, or a psycho-philosophical examination of the mundane. Whatever the case, it's both uninspiring and a hoot.

*Science, Schmience*

An animated series filled with adorable, anthropomorphic, science-repudiating animals. Recurring characters include Connie the COVID Denier, Flat Earth Frank, and Antivax Max.

Standout episodes include "Condensation is a Government Plot," "Darwin Was a Dick," "1 + 1 Equals 2 Is Only a Theory," and "You Can Keep Your Experts: Everything I Ever Needed to Know I Learned from Twitter."

*Vaccine Wars*

Receivers of the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are pitted against each other in a Jeopardy-style quiz game in which all answers must be posed in the form of "I received the X vaccine and the answer to that question is Y." Contestants who have already received booster shots are awarded 400 bonus points. The show is pointless, derivative, and confusing, yet somehow endlessly engaging.

*Squibb Game*

On this fascinating game show, Academy Award nominated actress June Squibb murders contestants as they play Candyland, Battleship, kick the can, and other childhood games.

I think you'll agree that these shows rise to a new level of television artistry and I hope you enjoy them as much as I have.

Here's a quick rundown of what's been going on with the entire family throughout the year.

#### January

Me – watched TV

Stella (my dear wife) – got a much-deserved promotion at work; meticulously planned a vacation to Hawaii for the two of us in February, for what would be our first getaway without the kids in more than 11 years

Delilah (our precocious 11-year old) – built a magnificent snow castle in the yard; started taking guitar lessons

Jeff (the baby of the family) – learned to use the potty by himself

#### February

Me – watched TV

Stella – took a solo vacation to Hawaii when, according to her, I couldn't be bothered to pull myself away from the idiot box

Delilah – learned how to cook for herself and her brother, as well as how to take an Uber to school

Jeff – cried a lot

#### March

Me – watched TV

Stella – took up day drinking, staring at me from across the room, and mumbling under her breath

Delilah – won a poetry award at school; persistently asked Stella, "Are you and Daddy fighting?"

Jeff – to be honest, I'm not really sure what Jeff was up to at this point

#### April-December

Me – watched TV

Stella and the kids – moved out on April 4, with Stella, on their way out the door, shouting something about "lazy ass," "off the damn sofa," and "get a f\*\*\*ing job!" I've heard little from them since that time other than through our lawyers.

Anyway, that was 2021 in a nutshell for our family. Have a terrific holiday season and here's to a 2022 filled with original, high quality television programming.

Sincerely,

David M.