

**Happy Holidays!!!  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from the Van Sinclairs**

Dear friends,

The Van Sinclairs have been so busy this year I was worried I wouldn't be able to find the time to write our annual Christmas letter and catch everyone up on our comings and goings in 2023.

But I was wrong!!!

Many thanks to our majordomo for making sure I had some uninterrupted quiet time to write to you all.

I'm happy to report that we've had a most "productive" 2023!!!

Buffy and her handsome hubby Dean welcomed baby Morgan Anastacia in April!!! Their Colombian surrogate's family was so happy to receive enough to eat for an entire year in return!!! Buffy says not having stretch marks and not going through labor was well worth it. My personal shopper at Neiman Marcus almost bought out the entire baby department. Little Morgan will have enough frilly socks to last her through pre-school.

Dean, of course, was so relieved he was free to travel and not have to go to obstetrician appointments. He didn't have to miss a single trip to Asia to check on our clothing factories. Poor Dean, I don't think he counted on being airborne so much when he married into our family!!! Ha Ha!!!

Dean says seeing all those sweet little children's faces light up when they see "boss man" *ALMOST* makes up for the long flights. Of course, we are all so pleased to be able to help the children take care of their families. Caring for the less fortunate, as you know, has always been important to the Van Sinclair family. We were so happy when we discovered Dean fit right in.

You're not going to believe it!!! We were ALL able to fly to Sinclair Island for Thanksgiving!!! Tyler wasn't able to make it. He had a competition in Poland. Well, maybe next year!!! Ha Ha!!!

The plane was full!!! If our family keeps expanding, we might have to buy a new one!!! Ha Ha!!!

Thanksgiving was lovely. It probably helped that we brought our cook and most of the ingredients with us!!! Some of what passes for food on the island looks suspicious. Ha Ha!!!

SURPRISE, SURPRISE!!! Remember in last year's Holiday Letter when I wrote we planned to build an extension to the compound on the island? I know some of you thought it was a "crazy" idea, the island being in the hurricane zone and all. (I'm still a little annoyed with our realtor about that.) Well, GUESS WHAT???. The extension was complete by the time we got to the island. There was plenty of room for our growing family and the nannies. And we only had to replace one wall that was blown away in the hurricane.

The natives did a "wonderful" job on the extension. I don't know why some people say they're lazy. We find that as long as you have the right man in charge of them, things get done very well and on time. Of course, he makes sure we don't pay the workers more than the going rate on the island. After all, you don't want to upset the economy and spoil the workers for the next project, do you???. Ha Ha!!!

There's been an exciting addition to the stables, too. We have high hopes for Kalico Al Shahib, our new grey colt out of Princess Adira Al Casbah by Marwan Al Shabab. What an impressive family tree!!! Marwan has been a busy boy. We are expecting three new foals in the New Year!!! THREE!!! Can you believe it??? We may have to build an extension to the stables, too!!! Ha Ha!!!

Tyler has decided to take another gap year before enrolling in Brown, Howard's *alma mater*. Tyler will be spending 2024 abroad again. He and Douglas, his good pal from boarding school, are busy, busy, busy. They are competing in figure skating contests all over Europe!!! (I must remember to remind him to ask for an absentee ballet!!!)

I hope our conversations over dinner will become a little less "raucous" when Tyler finally returns to the United States, starts college and comes home for the holidays. Honestly, some of the things that come out of that boy's mouth are astounding. You'd almost think he's turning into a *Democrat*!!! Heaven forbid. Ha Ha!!!

This fall, Dakota Elizabeth had her sweet sixteen party with 50 of her closest friends at the Ritz Carlton. Everyone is always so lovely to us there. She selected the menu and games all by herself. She is getting to be the family's party planner!!! There were a few times when Morgan asked me to leave the room. She said I wouldn't like some of the games. They had something to do with mirrors and rolled up dollar bills. This younger generation!!! Ha Ha!!!

Howard and I are fine and in good health, all things considered. Ha Ha!!! He's busy defending so-called false electors and I'm working hard and regularly with the tennis pro at the club. He's such a nice and "athletic" young man. My backhand is certainly improving under his private tutelage.

Howard and I are thinking about sailing the yacht to Portugal this summer. There's a house we might buy. It's near the Winston's place on a private beach. It may not need as much renovation as our place in Aspen did. Ha Ha!!!

If you're going to be anywhere on the Iberian Peninsula anytime this summer, get in touch. Maybe we can meet for lunch.

I'll let you know in next year's holiday letter if we buy the house. After all, "*a minha casa, a tua casa*" (Portuguese for *mi casa, tu casa*!!!) Ha Ha!!!

All our best wishes for a happy holiday season and a healthy and wealthy New Year!!!

Always thinking of you,

*Sissy Van Sinclair*