

Dear Hugh and Carly,

I hope 2019 has treated you well. As you know, my year has been consumed with the creation of my new novel. Writer's block has been quite a torment these past few months since my move from a one-story home to this 4<sup>th</sup>-floor walk-up. The people-watching that had inspired my characters has become increasingly difficult. All I see from my window now are the tops of heads and the backs of dogs. It's difficult to even read vanity license plates anymore, if I'm being honest. You're probably wondering why I don't just peer straight across the street for a view of my neighbors through their blinds. I've certainly tried! But their wallpaper is just too busy. Their facial expressions get lost among the forest flora wallpaper!

But enough about my problems. I know you're looking forward to the newest chapter of my novel. I'll share what I have so far. As you can see, it's not perfect, but it's the best I can do with the lack of inspiration I've been given by my surroundings. I do fear slightly that my lack of access to g-darned facial expressions has affected my work slightly, but "the show must go on," as Nanny used to say, so I shall plug along, writer's block or no.

#### Chapter 7

This year's trip to Yellowstone for the Mosses was different than years past. For one, more people were wearing hats. There were floppy hats and skin-tight beanies. There were what looked like soft felt hats and hats with wooden (!) brims. There were also ample dogs to play hide and seek with among the large mountain-bottom rocks. The dogs who had long snouts were matched only in number by the dogs who had shorter snouts.

At the end of every day that week, the Mosses, expressionless, spread a checkered blanket under a tree and consumed their family picnic lunch.

That's all I have of the chapter at the moment, but I hope to finish it soon! There are descriptions of lunch plates and crescent-moon-shaped biscuits that I'd certainly like to add.

Please write back soon and tell me everything that's going on in your lives. If it's possible to include photos of your family close up and from the front, that would be ideal. Tata for now!

Your loving cousin,

Jeanine