

APART FOR THE HOLIDAYS

*Together
in Spirit*

MERRY CHRISTMAS
from the Sermaks

Tom, Lysa, Danny, Kylie,
Nikki & Lucy
2020

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We hope that this letter finds you all healthy and safe from COVID-19. Wow, what a year this has been. Who would have thought we would be in a middle of a pandemic? 2020 Stink, Stank, Stunk!

In February, we finally booked Lysa's dream vacation by going to Hawaii (Oahu & Kauai) in May. We have been trying to go there since our wedding, but something keeps coming up and we cannot go. In the middle of the month, we decided to take a long weekend to celebrate Tom's 63rd birthday up in Estes Park, CO which is our favorite mountain town. We spent two nights at one of Lysa's co-worker's condo. We also went into Rocky Mountain National Park so Tom could get his 'Lifetime National Park Pass'.

In March, the bottom fell out with COVID-19. Tom was able to work from home again and Danny worked in his apartment. Unfortunately, Nikki and Lysa had to go in since they are considered an 'essential employee'. Nikki worked in the kitchen at a retirement home, and Lysa had to drive in everyday to handle Accounts Payable and deposit checks.

In May, the bottom really fell out. After 16 years, IBM informed Tom they no longer wanted his services (along with thousands of others across all of North America) effective June 22nd. We know Tom's manager did not want this to happen when he called to notify him, because it took him 25 minutes into the call before he broke the news to him. It was corporate's decision and not a managerial decision. Tom received a letter later this year that started 'Dear Retiree', so we thought it was a forced retirement which we have seen happening in IBM. Tom's collecting unemployment now, but fully expects to retire when that runs out. We pushed our Hawaii vacation trip from May to October. Also in May, Nikki moved in with a high school friend in Boulder. She wanted to be closer to campus at the University of Colorado – Boulder. We are happy to say that Nikki got a 3.9 GPA for this last semester!

In July, Danny bought his first new car, a 2020 Mazda 3, and brought home his new girlfriend, Kylie. Later in the summer, he flew to Pittsburg to meet her family and over Thanksgiving, they flew to Orlando, FL to meet her brother and then drove down to Coral Springs, FL to see Tom's sister Janice and the rest of the family. Things must be getting serious and she is a very sweet girl. They both work at Lockheed Martin. Tom's cousin, Danielle came into town with her boyfriend, Glenn, and we had a wonderful dinner on the Pearl Street Mall in Boulder.

In August, Nikki's roommate bailed on her with two weeks notices, so she moved back home. The good part of that is we now get to listen to her playing the piano again daily. Our empty nest only lasted three months. We have decided to cancel the Hawaii trip in October due to COVID-19. We did take out insurance and found out that it does not cover pandemics, but if you are unemployed, they do cover that. We took advantage of the unemployment and got our money back. With four weddings to go to next year (three of them out of state), we will wait until 2022 and try again for our 30th Anniversary.

As we end this letter, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Remember, the bar is always open here in Colorado!

Love,

Tom, Lysa, Danny, Nikki and Lucy (woof)