



INTRODUCTION

I never thought my dad would write a Christmas letter. He always had this tradition of reading out about ten Christmas letters during our Christmas Eve gatherings and would jokingly accuse everyone of bragging. With his deep voice and New York accent, he'd say, "They're all a bunch of braggers, I tell you!" He'd read those beautifully crafted letters and playfully make smart remarks about them. The only letters he enjoyed were from my cousin Debbie who always wrote loving stories about my grandmother and the letters from family friends with a talented and accomplished concert pianist for a son. When he read a letter about a family tragedy they experienced, he paused. They wrote about their struggles with sincerity. Dad pointed at it. "Y'know, they're not braggers. I think I'll write a Christmas letter this year"

A CELEBRATION OF FAMILY

He started by expressing his love for his wife, his partner of over forty years. He talked about the deep bond they shared and the journey they had taken together. Then, he spoke about the successes of his eldest daughter, of whom he was incredibly proud.

He also felt the need to acknowledge that she was competitive and materialistic. He moved on to his eldest son, praising him as an amazing athlete and a strong-willed individual. He also mentioned he had gained some weight. Dad wrote about his youngest daughter with great



admiration, highlighting her perseverance in overcoming learning disabilities. She was spared the snark his other children could not avoid. More importantly, my dad openly expressed his love and pride for his gay son, without a hint of bragging. He even humorously mentioned how his son embraced materialism; similar to his oldest daughter, but Dad made it clear that he was proud without reservations. His bold conclusion to the letter was as follows: "And yes, he's still gay! Does anyone have an issue with that? Because I certainly do not."

In the end, my dad's Christmas letter that year became a beautiful testament to love, acceptance, and a celebration of each family member. He cherished and embraced each one of us, flaws and all, without ever boasting about his own parenting. It was a letter that brought warmth and joy to our hearts during the holiday season, creating a tradition of love and acceptance in our family. 

