



SANTA CLAUS WORLDWIDE

TOYS WITHOUT BORDERS

Christmas 2018

Dearest Sharon, Dssa and Jay,

First, I would be remiss if I did not thank you for the phony milk and—what, no cookies? I had to settle for a Snickers? And the Fun Size, at that? (Hint: if you want to earn a lifetime place on Santa's Nice List, next time make it an Extra Large.)

It's been another turbulent year for Santa & Co. Getting into your country just to drop off the toys has become nearly impossible. For one thing, the elves were mistakenly identified as the children of asylum-seekers, and I haven't seen them since July. For another, we were mistakenly identified as a caravan from South America, so you can only imagine the tsuris we've encountered.

But what is really killing the Santa business is the new tariffs. They are absolutely destroying any chance we have of making budget this year. In recent years, in order to keep costs in line, we've had to lay off a few elves at the Pole and make up the difference in China. This year, to get all the toys made, we had to scramble to find some temp elves for the season. Since we were offering minimum wage and no benefits, we were competing with every retailer in the world—and we also had the maximum height requirement to deal with. (Fortunately, there aren't that many retailers left, so I was able to scrape by.)

But enough about me. Santa hopes you have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and that you get everything you wish for. (Well, one of your wishes might have to wait a couple of years, but keep the faith.)

Yours in custody,

Santa