

# NEWS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED

*Carla Cotropia*



## READ WITH CAUTION! VERY GRUMPY OUT-OF-LINE THOUGHTS

BY CARLA COTROPIA

I shouldn't admit this but I had grumpy thoughts in 2019 about firm Happy Birthday emails. Here is the situation. An email is sent on the person's birthday to the entire firm stating that day is Joe Blow's birthday and wishes him a Happy Birthday.

In case you are wondering what is wrong with this, I confess I am the grumpster. There is nothing wrong with it and it certainly takes effort to remember everyone's birthday much less send an email about it. So why does it irritate me? In a confessional mode, here goes:

First, the issue is now---everyone--knows today is the day. Who is going to respond and who isn't? What does it mean if someone doesn't respond? Does it mean I am liked or not so much?

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Second, I then start to agonize about what happens if I don't respond. Will I be considered, if I don't respond, the birthday wicked witch? Am I now the bitch in the firm that doesn't wish that person a Happy Birthday?" Is the birthday girl or boy taking note of who is sending or not sending the birthday wish? Are they keeping score of those that respond and those that don't?



Third, the nasty Reply All rears its ugly head. There are always some who love to hit the Reply All button. If you just say Happy Birthday to the birthday boy and girl and don't use Reply All, do you "look bad" to the others because the others don't know you did send that birthday wish?

Are the ones that said Happy Birthday and hit the Reply All button, feeling smug that they let Everyone know they are good birthday wishers because they definitely responded and said Happy Birthday.

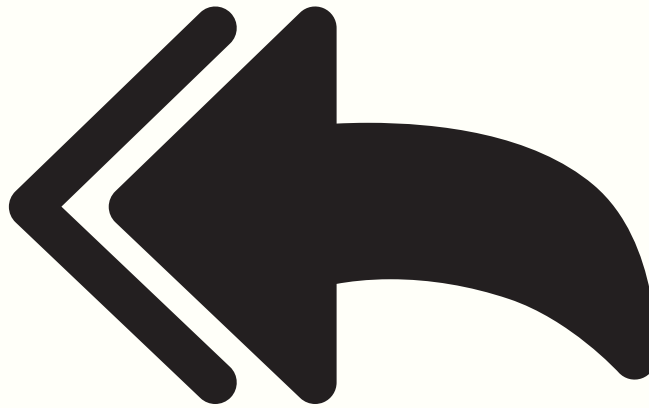
Are people taking note of who did say Happy Birthday and those that didn't? Are people making sure to hit the Reply All to send that Birthday Wish so they will be given credit for being good little birthday wishers. Maybe in their defense they don't get many emails and by sending a Reply All Happy Birthday it creates more emails for everyone and they are just being generous? Or do they use Reply All to Make Sure we all know they are responsible good people and of course, they wished the birthday girl or boy a happy day. OF COURSE they did and they want everyone to know it.

All of this points to me being the Birthday Scrooge, the Birthday Grinch and I admit it. I am way-out-of-line on this. I think part of it stems from my weak attempt to keep my emails down. Carla, does it really take that much time to delete those Happy Birthday Reply All emails? And why do you let this bug you so much? I bet there are plenty of people who enjoy seeing all of those Reply All emails.



**SETTLING CASES TWO SNEAKERS AT A TIME**

And while I am confessing my bad ways, here is one more bitch about Reply All. I appreciate seeing the cute picture of your kid, dog, or vacation shot that you sent to Everyone. It is the Reply All responses: “Isn’t he cute”, “Love the picture”, “My dog is cuter”, “Your kid is precious”, “I have never seen such a beautiful baby”. My finger is getting weak from hitting the delete button. If I get arthritis in my index finger for hitting the delete button so much, I am blaming it on Reply All.



And here is another one, the email goes out to everyone about a meeting. Here we go with Reply All. “Yes, I will be there and I will make sure I hit the Reply All button so everyone will know I will be there.” Well may they don’t want to know your schedule or what about maybe they don’t care.....I have to stop now because this is getting me worked up and making me look bad. So with that....Carla, you are way out of line but it felt good to get it off my chest and I won’t be offended if you hit the delete button.



**SETTLING CASES TWO SNEAKERS AT A TIME**

# IF AUSTIN IS THE WEIRD CAPITAL OF TEXAS, MARFA IS THE ARTSY CAPITAL OF TEXAS

I love the way Marfans (citizens of Marfa and yes that is what they call themselves) express their artistic side. Here are some examples:



**MARFA MARFA NEVERLAND WALL MURAL**



**YOU LOOK GOOD RUG**



**HOT LIPS MURAL**



**SETTLING CASES TWO SNEAKERS AT A TIME**

# Photos from the Artsy Capital of Texas



**MAKE YOUR OWN SHADOWS WALL MURAL**



**SHADOW ANIMALS WALL MURAL**



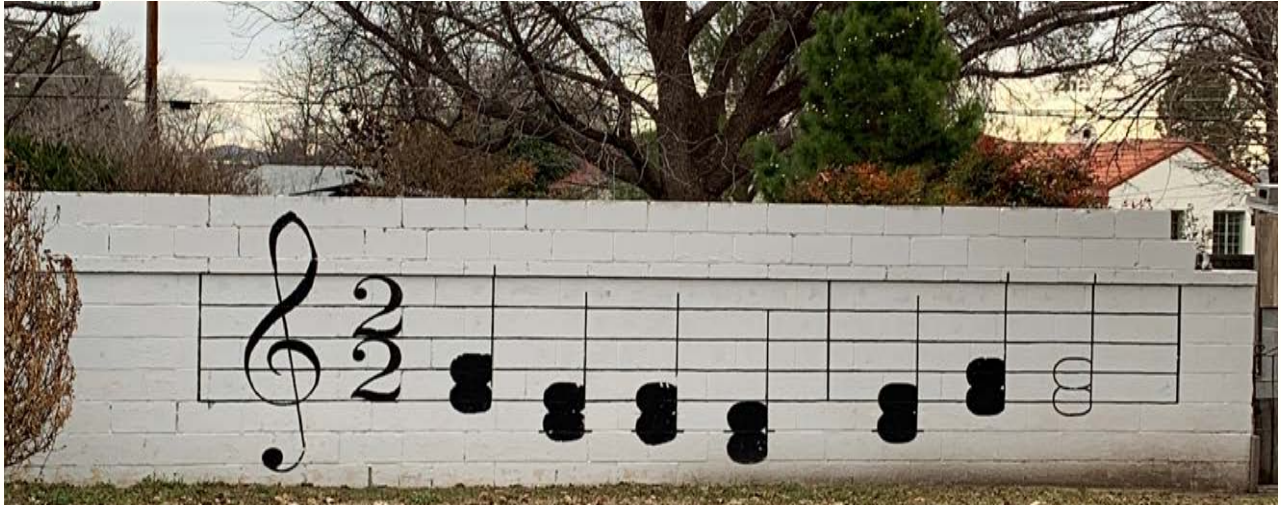
**YOU'LL BE FINE WALL MURAL**



**SETTLING CASES TWO SNEAKERS AT A TIME**



# Photos from the Artsy Capital of Texas



**MUSIC SCALE WALL MURAL**



**BUTTERFLY FENCE MURAL**



**FLOWERS ON HOUSE WALL MURAL**



**SETTLING CASES TWO SNEAKERS AT A TIME**



# Photos from the Artsy Capital of Texas



**TOPO CHICO CHRISTMAS DECOR DAY VIEW**



**TOPO CHICO CHRISTMAS DECOR NIGHT VIEW**



**AGAVE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**



**SETTLING CASES TWO SNEAKERS AT A TIME**

# Photos from the Artsy Capital of Texas



**PURE JOY MARFA**



**WRONG STORE**



**STOP SIGNS ARE FOR STICKERS**



**SETTLING CASES TWO SNEAKERS AT A TIME**



# Photos from the Artsy Capital of Texas



**A PINK PANTHER ON THE GARAGE DOOR**



**GO AWAY ON THE FRONT DOOR**



**MARFA COURTHOUSE**



**SETTLING CASES TWO SNEAKERS AT A TIME**

## ALCOHOL OF THE MONTH



The alcohol of the month is Sotol, also known as the Desert Spoon. It is often referred to as tequila's sister and it comes from an agave grown only in the Mexican region of Chihuahua. The Sotol plant takes 12-15 years to reach maturity. Since it is wild harvested it is completely organic. Sotol has a light smoky quality.

This is my favorite brand—Desert Door—distilled in Driftwood Texas.



SETTLING CASES TWO SNEAKERS AT A TIME

## WE NEED TO FIGHT GETTING GRUMPY AND NEGATIVE AS WE AGE

Recently I was visiting with a friend who owns a cool store in Marfa, Texas. She relayed what happened in her store on Christmas Eve. A lady came in and was looking at the jewelry. The lady disputed that the jewelry was silver and my friend assured her it was and she doesn't BS about this type of thing. The lady got mad and called her a stupid blonde bitch and left the store. My friend is blonde but light years away from being stupid. She told me she refused to let it bother her or ruin her day. I asked her how old the lady was and she responded, "older". So that exchange, prompted this blog.

I think if you want to give the older ones, me included, a pass, maybe it is because we are more life experienced and that translates into less tolerance or maybe it is because we have aches and pains and it makes us grumpy, but whatever the reason, we need to fight against getting older and being grumpier and more negative. We really need to fight against this. The world is still turning around and life goes on. Every day as we get older, someone gets cancer or drops dead.

This doesn't mean much if you don't take it seriously and think about it every day. The bottom line, and I hate that over used phrase, is life is short, and even if someone calls you a stupid bitch, you can't let it ruin your day. Because in the end, no one knows how many days they really have left on this earth.

And there is no better reason but to try to maximize each day and be as happy as possible in each day as you humanly can. As the adage goes: You alone are in control of your life and you alone are responsible for the experience of living it.

And with that said, I wish everyone a very positive 2020. Let's view the year of 2020 as an omen of how it is going to be a very special year. Because how many years have such an interesting number as 2020. There must be something special about that!!



SETTLING CASES TWO SNEAKERS AT A TIME