

December 21, 2030

Dear Tehanu,

Celebrating poultry, I love it! I'm writing on the Winter Solstice, which we take very seriously. Everyone in White Spire takes the day off and gives thanks to neighbors and friends. The children do a little parade in the snow and we light a bonfire to say goodbye to the old year. We don't have chestnut beer...yet, but that sounds particularly delicious! I'm so glad to hear you are all thriving. Can I steal Lucas for a season? His cooking could earn him a free spot at the Collective! I wish I could say I'll come visit soon, but we'll have to wait until our 2040 trip to Europe. I can't wait to see how y'all progress. It's just got to be so different than here. So much less violent...

Speaking of traveling, I highly recommend taking the trip up north. I went to an Earthseed town about fifty miles east of here called Brook Land (they have a heavy sense of irony) and it was really inspiring. They are totally off the grid, but use tech for controlling watering and nutrient levels in their plants. I'm always so wrapped up in my job, which by its very nature focuses on problems that sometimes I forget to look around and see what people have built! There is beauty all around us.

My job. It's all about dissent, issues, questions, and inequalities people see. My job is to make sure things don't get as dark as they got in 2021. And it works! Funny how listening really does build bridges, right? But the job comes with some side effects. Perma-pessimism? Supreme skepticism? I guess that's part of the New America! Which you want to know more about...here's the short story of what's been going on.

The reason it's so hard to get clear information is that we still haven't figured out how to reunite the Associated Press. Instead, Pacifica and Atlanta share certain news outlets, like New America Public Radio (NAPR), but Liberty has a totally separate system that primarily relies on the Includers. They are local and spread news the old fashioned way – by mouth! I respect that they don't want to participate in media conglomeration, but it ends up causing a lot of confusion. If you have access, I recommend just following NAPR if you can. It's at least accurate, even if they don't always represent the full diversity of opinions in all three countries.

I made a map and attached it so you can see the latest territorial designations that have come out of the "New America Review" process. Each of the three countries has FINALLY agreed to a phase-out of cars and trucks. Trains are still on the table, mostly for moving goods. Since Helen Quinn worked out micro-hydro-fission, we're all happy running carbon neutral trains. Relocations are almost complete for most of the Dissenters. Now anyone from Atlanta or Pacifica who is still a die-hard Trump Loyalist can find a home in Liberty. And anyone stuck in the middle of the country can get out to the coasts if they feel like that suits them better. Thank Gaia! It has been so tough trying to work through land exchanges, trying to make it all as fair as possible. It's one of the biggest relocation efforts since Vietnam in the 1970s. And we did it.

All of this does make me think back to when we met, too. That moment when it all imploded. That moment when the American experiment failed. It was so scary at the time, but now that we're through the worst of it, I'm so grateful for the change. It made us stop our vicious lives of consumption. Stop looking at screens and look into each other's eyes. You're right – each hen was an act of hope! We started raising sheep and goats too, figuring out how to live and work with the land, instead of against it. Those were wild days when we first kicked carbon. Hilarious too, cramming all those animals in the basement during the first freeze! We learned quickly ☺ I'm glad you were there for advice.

I don't have a picture of Stella, but I can tell you that she is huge and very precocious. Her hair is as wild as her soul. And she loves dancing. She wants to visit, so we'll have to make 2040 happen!

With love and hugs,

Fallon