

fa la la la la la la LoPresto Family Christmas Newsletter

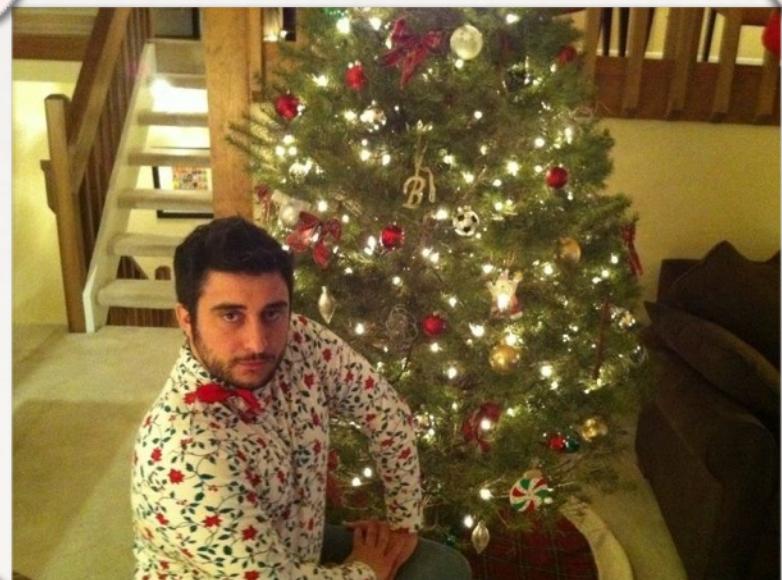
Hello Dear Friends And Family, and People With Email Addresses Similar To Those Of Our Dear Friends And Family,

It's Christmas 2011... and we're back! We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas-Grams¹ we sent last year in lieu of the normal newsletter. After being awarded "Best in Show" from the Excellence in (Christmas News) Letter-Writing Federation, or E.L.F (E.L.F. of course being a gold member of the aptly named 'Organizations With Acronyms That Are A Bit Of A Stretch', or O.A.T.S.). Having received the highest honor that can be bestowed on any mid-level, semi-professional newsletter writing organization, we were required to sit out a year, as stipulated by the by-laws, to level the playing field.

In case you wanted to send us a Christmas newsletter this year but didn't know where to start, we've decided to provide a Hausheer-proof tutorial for how to write a Christmas newsletter. This took literally dozens of minutes of research, but in the spirit of Christmas, we are willing to copy/paste share [wikiHow's\(YourHausheer\)](#) our wisdom with you. You're welcome.

Chris, Matt, Ben, Katy, Jess, Mark, etc.²

2011



Be sure to watch for Ben's 2012 Christmas Album
Ben LoPresto - A Christmas Majesty™

Step 1) Tailor your news to your recipient

You may have noticed we've dumbed down this year's letter quite a bit. We've instituted a strict, four-syllable limit, striking a tone that is 'smart but not too smart'™. Where previously we would have said

In an unbelievable feat of perceptivity, we have instituted a four-syllable max, which was particularly distressing due to the universality of our vocabulary... starting now.

instead we have said,

We've instituted a strict, four-syllable limit, striking a tone that is 'smart but not too smart'™.

Ironically, this means that the word 'monosyllabic' is straight out. Ugh³. Speaking of dumbed down...



Ben at the office



Aiden & Lola



Uncle Hotdog & Matt

Step 2) Pick out Christmas or other holiday-themed stationery



We opted to go with Christmas. Bastille day is probably too French.



Just to be clear these are examples of what NOT to use. Seriously... no one will understand what's going on. It's completely nonsensical⁴.



Step 3) Design the newsletter

For ease of use, we've opted to omit this step in favor of an [intermission](#). The newsletter will resume in 5 minutes.



Step 4) Keep the tone casual and upbeat

"Most importantly, don't fill it with tales of how many amazing achievements you and your family have had -- that just sounds like bragging! Similarly, don't be morose and fill it with tales of woe about all your hardships that you've confronted all year. This is Christmas time, when love, warmth and the overcoming of adversity are considered key elements of the season. Remember that you are just updating people, not giving a sermon!"

[-WikiHow\('sYourHausheer\)](#)



Atticus playing cards ⁵



List of Amazing Achievements:

1. We toured the country & abroad with Hugo, a rock band signed to Epic Records.⁶
2. We played with bands like The Script, Augustana, and Cage the Elephant. ⁶
3. We were featured on various primetime tv shows such as Late Night with Jimmy Kimmel, The Late Show with David Letterman, and Fox's hit show, X Factor. ⁶

In an effort to not sound too "braggy" we have omitted the following items from our list.

4. We had a hit single that breached the 'Top 10" alternative songs on iTunes. ⁶
5. We became CTO of an exciting new tech start up in NYC called [PLYFE!](#)⁶



Pinocchio asking for Ben's Autograph



Katy, Katie, Kathy, K.D.

Following in Mom's footsteps, Katy spent a good part of 2011 being sued for professional negligence⁷, thereby setting a new record for being the youngest LoPresto to ever be sued... ever.⁸ Fearing that the lawyers fees would cost more than Lola's Bionic Leg Replacement and Meatballeotomy (See Figure E), Dad made a few phone calls and the suit was mysteriously dropped.

Lola was an unexpected addition to the family, but we were all there to help Katy through the early, rough stages of motherhood. But as some of you are already aware, owning a tiny dog is very expensive. Katy has had to cut back on a lot of ~~unnecessities~~ frivolities such as:

1. Nike Shocks (couldn't put her initials on all of them)
2. Hair Straighteners (only has 7)
3. Coffee (only 3 Ventis⁹ a day)
4. Honda Civic (upgraded to Mom and Dad's Honda Accord)

But as all mothers know, no sacrifice is too great... after all "she's just a baby!"™

2011



Cathie Lo Who



Lola Lo

Ben is Great, Ben is the Best, Ben, Ben, Ben, Ben, Ben...

Ever since being developmentally stunted by a bout of Epstein Barr at a young age, Ben has been slightly behind the curve. But he spent the better part of 2011 in a full-on sprint, “catching up to man-hood.” He bought a house, a car, a wife, etc.². He grew a what some call a beard. And he did NOT get fired despite showing up at the office dressed as both a [turkey](#) and an elf¹⁴.

As previously mentioned Ben purchased a lovely house in a quaint part of northern Delaware affectionately known as “The Creek.” However, he received an unexpected blow¹⁵ when his chimney grew dissatisfied with its current situation and leapt off of his roof in order to pursue other opportunities, citing artistic differences.

The only other item of note regarding Ben this year was getting put on a strict “no dairy” diet for a couple of weeks. The doctors didn’t even want him saying “cheese” when posing for pictures. As a precaution we have decided to use non-dairy pie charts in this newsletter. In fact, just to be safe, ALL of our charts will be non-dairy from now on.¹⁰

2011



Elf on a Shelf

Matt & Jess

After unexpectedly losing a bet to Ben based on the outcome of the most recent Eagles vs. Cowboys game, Matt and Jess were forced to move from Philadelphia to Dallas. Having won his first bet in 13 years (See Figure A, Figure B, Figure C), Ben helped Matt and Jess pack their stick and bindles with a few necessities, and they summarily hitchhiked to Dallas.

Miraculously, Matt and Jess's belongings joined them In Dallas several weeks later despite the best efforts of the moving men Dad nicknamed Gomer and Goober. In the true spirit of Christmas, they have asked us to include you in the fun they had playing "Illiterate Mystery Box"™. See if you can correctly guess the contents of each moving box in Figure D. Enjoy!

Matt has found work as an oil baron, and Jess is getting paid to blog all day. Also joining them in their new downtown Dallas loft is their new pup, Duchess Cake LoPresto. She is pictured to the right as a confused elf/reindeer hybrid of some sort.

2011



Stupes, staring at absolutely nothing in the distance

Chris

Originally we had written an astonishingly, amazingly, soul-satisfying, rootin' tootin', rip roaringly (wait what were talking about?... oh yeah) hilarious section about Chris' 2011. Unfortunately it turns out we are not as funny as we originally thought, and it did not survive the final cut, so the only logical thing to do was to replace it with an excerpt from *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

Enjoy.

Chapter 30

The Sacking of Severus Snape

The moment her finger touched the Mark, Harry's scar burned savagely, the starry room vanished from sight, and he was standing upon an overcrop of rock beneath a cliff, and the sea was washing around him and there was triumph in his heart—They have the boy.

A loud bang brought Harry back to where he stood: Disoriented, he raised his wand, but the witch before him was already falling forward; she hit the ground so hard that the glass in the bookcases tinkled.

"I've never Stunned anyone except in our D.A. lessons," said Luna, sounding mildly interested. "That was noisier than I thought it would be."

And sure enough, the ceiling had begun to tremble. Scurrying, echoing footsteps were growing louder from behind the door leading to the dormitories: Luna's spell had woken Ravenclaws sleeping above.

2011



▲ Chapters

According to rumors we started, Chris is now dating Rihanna. The mutual attraction captured here on screen is undeniable.

Mom & Dad

After retiring last year Dad has been looking for ways to spend his free time. He recently joined a book club, photography club, cooking club, woodworking club, club sandwich club, club soda club, and also bought The Club for his car.



Mom, being jealous of Dad's free time, also retired this year, and decided she too could benefit from a new hobby. While not considered a "hobby" by most, we have to admit that "Bionic Joint Replacement" does sound pretty fun.

Good News! Mom got a dog this year... have you seen a dog? You probably have. Mom has been keeping busy caring for her 6th child Liam! Four of her other five children helped her in the [naming process](#). Despite being Lola's Yuncle™¹³, he is more than three times her size. He is also at least seven times smarter than she is (post Meatballeotomy, See Figure E).



In March, Ben, Matt, & Jess created and launched the silent film cooking show "A Gentleman's Pinch," which has quickly become a world-wide sensation. Hailed as an "Instant classic" in a critic's review Matt made up for this newsletter, the show has already enjoyed sensational success world-wide. Certain episodes boast upwards of 173 views on YouTube.

[Pilot Episode](#)

[Pilot Bonus Features](#)

[Episode 2 Teaser](#)

[Episode 2](#)

They have also found great success with less sophisticated mature audiences in side projects such as [The Shih-Tzu King](#).

Step 5) Close off the newsletter by wishing your family and friends a wonderful holiday season!

Happy Bastille Day. See you in July.

-The Los



Left to Right: Chris, Matt, Jess, Katy, Ben, etc.



Mark, who did NOT die, made a miraculous recovery from his lightning related incident, only to learn that he had failed to be cast in the new Muppet movie. He subsequently developed an unhealthy hatred of Jason Segel and was unable to attend the family photo session as he "fell asleep" a little early.

Footnotes

In response to constructive criticism we received that footnotes from previous years' letters were "brilliant but at times hard to follow," we have included the following chart to help clarify.

¹ What's a Christmas-Gram!? I want one!

² Stacy doesn't count as she is not a LoPresto yet.

³ One syllable... we checked.

⁴ Four syllables... did you have to count that out on your fingers? We did.

⁵ It doesn't get more casual than this.

⁶ And of course by "We," we mean "Chris."

⁷ May not have actually happened, but it really spiced up Katy's section, no?

⁸ Matt would like make a joke about only LoPresto women being sued, but we can't quite get the wording to work.

⁹ Also known as the "Stupid Large."

¹⁰ Ben has filed a suit against Matt claiming that the aforementioned joke regarding only LoPresto women being sued was his intellectual property via established precedence.¹¹

¹¹ Ironically this makes the joke less funny.¹²

¹² Matt has filed a counter-suit against Ben on the grounds of defamation of character. He has stated that the joke probably wouldn't have been funny anyway, and has suggested that Ben "shut his stupid face and go put some pants on."

¹³ Yuncle = Younger Uncle

¹⁴ On separate occasions. Don't be ridiculous.

¹⁵ As did his next door neighbor's back porch.

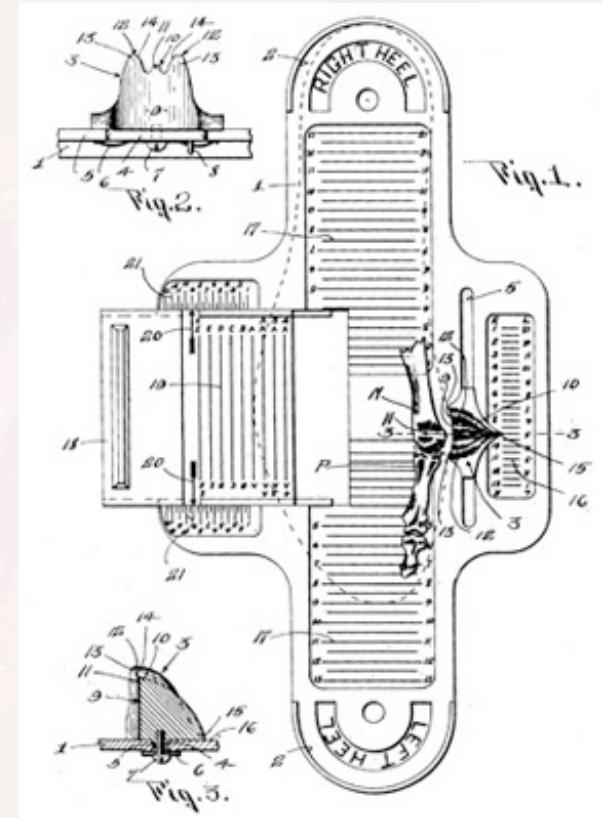


Figure A

Ben's Bragging Measured in MPR (Millions Per Relative) Owed

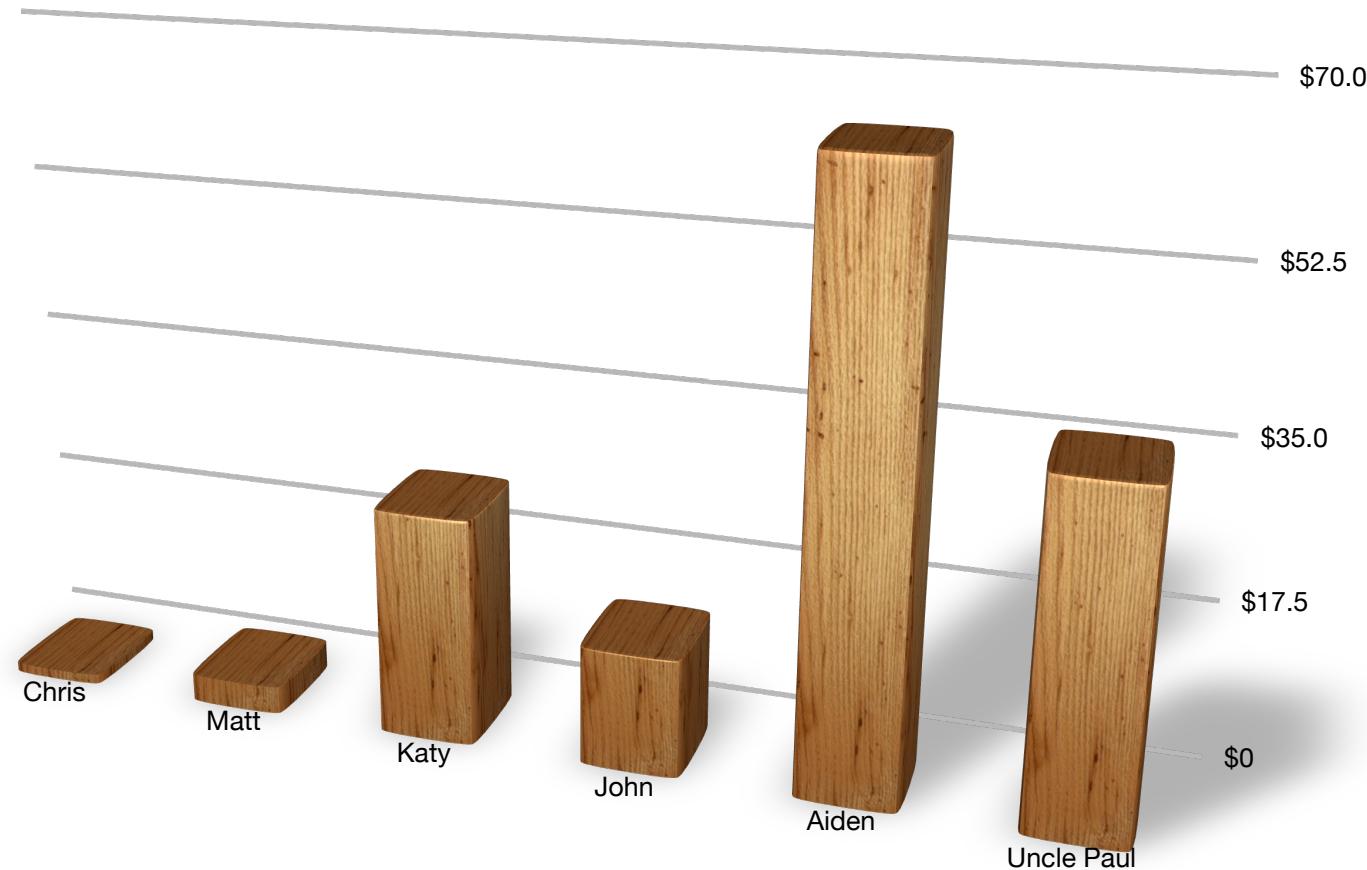


Figure B

Ben's Bragging Measured in RNL (Ramapo Naked Laps) Owed

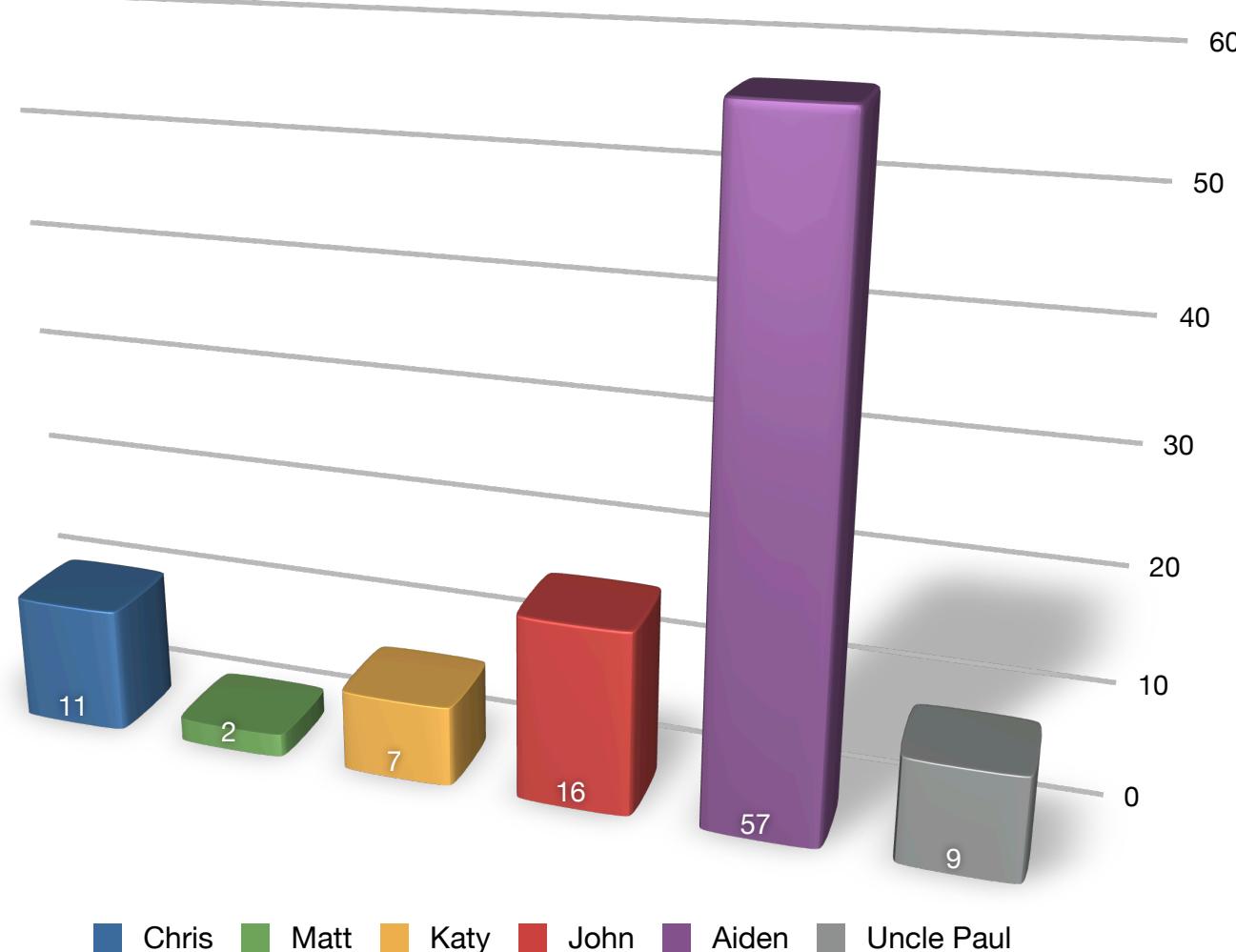


Figure C

Percentage of Times Ben Calling for “Double or Nothing” Has Paid Off

(Chart Reflects a 1% Margin of Error)

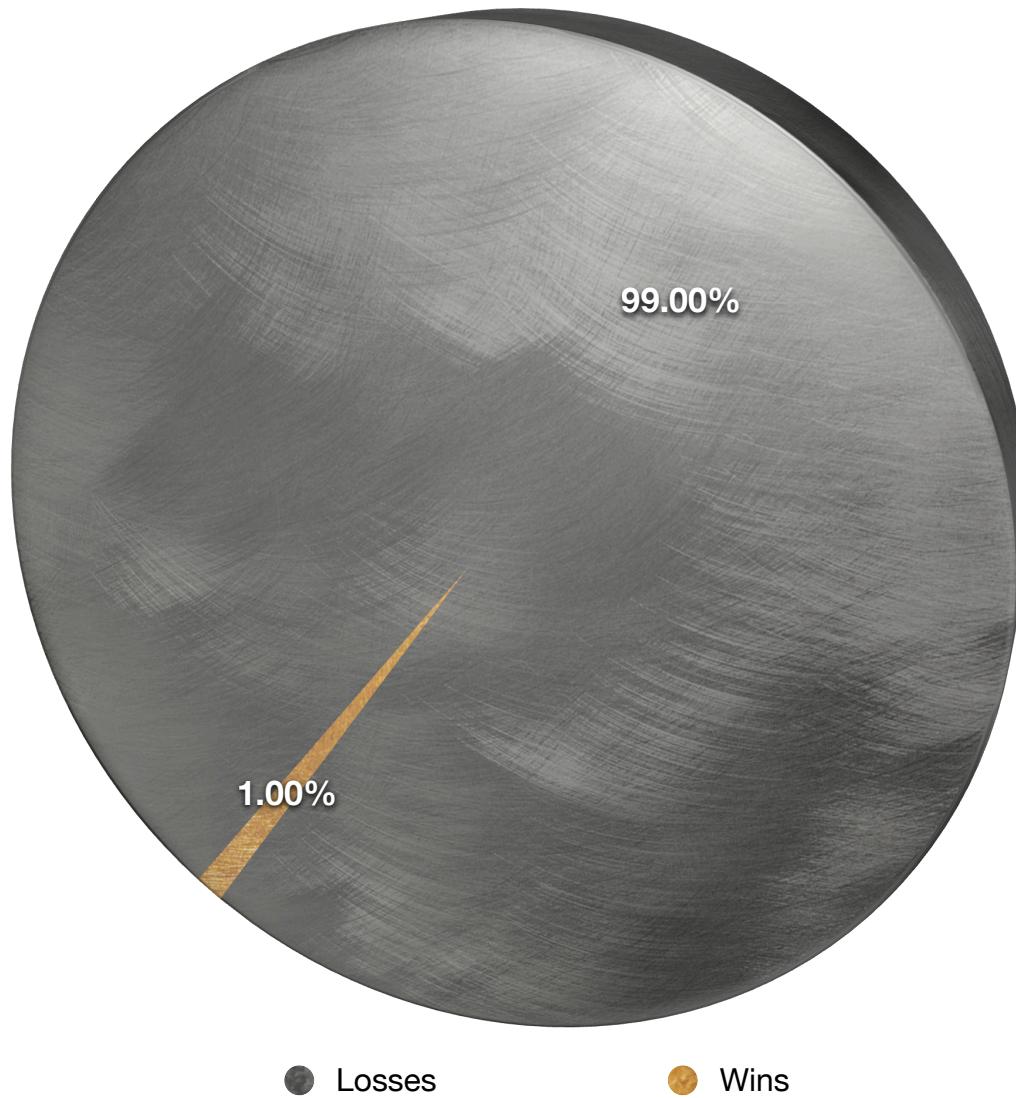


Figure D - Illiterate Mystery Box™



Figure E - X Ray Of Lola Post-Meatballeotomy



Figure F

This Year in Katy Impressions

