

THE TWELVE THANK YOU NOTES OF CHRISTMAS EMILY TO EDWARD

Letter #1 – To be read by Chris

14th December

My dearest darling Edward,

What a wonderful surprise has just greeted me! That sweet partridge, in that lovely little pear-tree; what an enchanting, romantic, poetic present! Bless you, and thank you.

With dearest love and affection

Emily.

Letter #2 – To be read by Maiken

15th December

Beloved Edward,

The two turtle-doves arrived this morning, and are cooing away in the pear-tree as I write. I'm so touched and grateful.

With undying love, as always,

Emily.

Letter #3 – To be read by Berny

16th December

My darling Edward,

You do think of the most original presents! Who ever thought of sending anybody three French hens? Do they really come all the way from France? It's a pity we don't have any chicken coops, but I expect we'll find some. Anyway, thank you so much; they're lovely.

Your devoted Emily.

Letter #4 – To be read by Julie

17th December

Dearest Edward,

What a surprise! Four calling birds arrived this morning. They are very sweet, even if they do call rather loudly - they make telephoning almost impossible - but I expect they'll calm down when they get used to their new home. Anyway, I'm very grateful,

of course I am.
Love from Emily.

Letter #5 – To be read by Beverley

18th December

Dearest Edward,

The postman has just delivered five most beautiful gold rings, one for each finger, and all fitting perfectly! A really lovely present! Lovelier, in a way, than birds, which do take rather a lot of looking after. The four that arrived yesterday are still making a terrible row, and I'm afraid none of us got much sleep last night. Mother says she wants to use the rings to "wring" their necks. Mother has such a sense of humor. This time she's only joking, I think, but I do know what she means. Still, I love the rings.

Bless you,
Emily.

Letter #6 – To be read by Petra

19th December

Dear Edward,

Whatever I expected to find when I opened the front door this morning, it certainly wasn't six huge geese laying eggs all over the porch. Frankly, I rather hoped that you had stopped sending me birds. We have no room for them, and they've already ruined the lawn. I know you meant well, but let's call a halt, shall we?

Love,
Emily.

Letter #7 – to be read by Chris

20th December

Edward,

I thought I said NO MORE BIRDS. This morning I woke up to find no less than seven swans, all trying to get into our tiny goldfish pond. I'd rather not think what's happened to the goldfish. The whole house seems to be full of birds, to say nothing of what they leave behind them, so please, please, stop!

Your Emily.

Letter #8 – To be read by Maiken

21st December

Frankly, I prefer the birds. What am I going to do with eight milkmaids? And their cows! Is this some kind of a joke? If so, I'm afraid I don't find it very amusing.

Emily.

Letter #9 – To be read by Berny

22nd December

Look here, Edward,

This has gone far enough. You've sent me nine ladies dancing. All I can say is, judging from the way they dance, they're certainly not ladies. The neighbours just aren't accustomed to seeing a regiment of shameless women, cavorting round the garden, and it's Mother and I who get the blame. If you value our friendship, which I do (less and less), kindly stop this ridiculous behavior at once!

Emily.

Letter #10 – To be read by Julie

23rd December

As I write this letter, ten rather old men are prancing up and down all over what used to be the garden, before the geese and the swans and the cows got at it. And several of them, I have just noticed, are taking liberties with the milkmaids and dancing ladies. Meanwhile the neighbors are trying to have us evicted. I shall never speak to you again.

Emily.

Letter #11 – To be read by Beverley

24th December

This is the last straw! You know I detest bagpipes! The place has now become something between a menagerie and a madhouse, and a man from the council has just declared it unfit for habitation. At least Mother has been spared this last outrage; they took her away yesterday afternoon in an ambulance to a home for the bewildered. I hope you're satisfied.

Letter#12 – To be read by Petra

25th December

Our client, Miss Emily McCallister, instructs us to inform you that the entire percussion section of the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra arrived at her premises at 7:30 this morning. She finds she has no alternative but to seek an injunction to prevent you from sending her further gifts – of any kind.

Yours faithfully,

Dewey, Cheatham & Howe
Solicitors.