**Greetings of the season**

Every year I sit down to write a Christmas/end of year blog post and wonder how I can possibly wrap up the year that was. Far from normal once again. Or as the common phrase seems to be these days, “the new normal”. What a year it has been, some good, some bad (my children as always, haha!) and throw in some exciting and amazing things as well, it’s finishing on an okay level.

I can say I have survived another year with my girls pushing every single button and limit they can find. It hasn’t always been easy but I hope they can look up to their Mumma and see that everything I have done has been in their best interests. They may not always agree with me (especially Izzie – the defiance is strong in that one) and they don’t always like hearing no (like ever, I’m looking at you Pheebs!) but watching them become independent young ladies gives me a sense of accomplishment, knowing that I haven’t totally stuffed everything up. I know we still have a loooooong way to go, but so far, they’re still alive and I count that as a good thing.

I’ve spent a lot of time contemplating and reflecting lately, a bad habit with my always overthinking mind. I’ve been thinking about past aspects of my life and the way things have panned out. I know for certain that I would never ever change my two beautiful ratbags, they are my world! I could adjust the attitude of my Izzie Bear just a little bit, okay probably a lot, but some might say the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree there. Sorry, not sorry kiddo! Then there are certain other parts of my life and even people I once considered friends (definitely not now!), I’d make massive changes to. We certainly can’t change or alter the past I know that, but when you’ve been through some pretty full on, deceitful, hurtful and life changing stuff, your mind tends to want things to be different. But hopefully life can only go onwards and upwards from here!

Speaking of big changes….some of you may know and some may not, that I have spent this year building a relationship with a new person in my life. He’s been dropping a few hints about being mentioned in one of my blogs too, better late than never right?! He accepts me for me (poor guy, haha!) and while he’s far from perfect (who is?!) I think he’s more than alright. Throw our combined five kids into the mix and we certainly have our hands full, but I’m very much looking forward to our next chapter and whatever that may bring along with it.

Anyway back to the festive season and the craziness it brings. If you haven’t started your Christmas shopping yet, I wish you all the luck in the world, it’s crazy out there! I finished my shopping weeks ago, thank you online purchases! As always, I likely spent too much money but hopefully the gifts are liked by the lucky recipients. If not, I’ll just return them and get my money back and buy myself some cool Lego to build. Actually maybe I’ll do that anyway. Of course, I’m kidding. Can you imagine the reaction of the girls when they get no presents? I really would be the worst mum in the world! Apparently I’m mean and never let them do or have anything anyway, I would just be living up to the title, haha! Nah I couldn’t do it. They’re only little for a small amount of time, I’ll let them enjoy the magic of Christmas for just a little bit longer.

**In the midst of this silly season, however you choose to celebrate (or not), wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous 2023. May this new year bring you all that you wish for and more. See you on the other side…..**