

Kyle Murray

2021 Wit and Wisdom Award

Letters From Me to My Best Friend, Famous Actress Lori Loughlin

To my ~~dullest~~ dearest Lori Loughlin,

I'm so ~~envious~~ excited about your recent news! It's not every day that ~~you commit fraud~~ your child is accepted to USC. What a prestigious school—you must be ~~so~~ proud. I always remember your daughter spending hours on her ~~Instagram~~ rowing machine, studying ~~her reflection~~ for the SAT, and breaking ~~the bank~~ school records! I have to say, even if it's embarrassing to admit, that she was ~~never~~ always was my role model. I hope I do as well as her when I'm applying to college this year. Only ~~money~~ time will tell!

Speaking of the college process, I was wondering if you had ~~criminals~~ people you recommend. I'm looking for ~~the back door entry~~ ways to make my application stand out. I'm ready to ~~hardly~~ work hard and be exceptional.

Personally, I like to consider myself to be a little bit of a competitive rower. It's just that easy to declare that these days; I, too, have used an ergometer. I would greatly appreciate it if you could send me the contact information for some of your pals. Maybe the coach can ~~lie to admissions~~ find a place on the team for me. That's only if you're willing, of course. I wouldn't want to ~~blow the lid on the operation~~ step on any toes.

But back to your ~~co-conspirator~~ genius daughter. I'm sure that with her bright mind she was able to figure out the application all by herself; no need for someone else to complete it for her. Don't they grow up so fast?

I hope, if it's not too personal, I can ask how much ~~did you pay the coach~~ her tuition is. A stellar student like her, who ~~wants the experience of like game days, partying (as she put it)~~ aced her standardized tests, probably got boatloads of scholarships. I bet she even got a call from the ~~district attorney~~ president of USC, himself! What an honor.

I must say, this process is stressful. Isn't it so crazy how ~~overinflated and corrupt~~ competitive college acceptances are? I can hardly catch my breath. Heaven forbid you attend a school without good ~~LinkedIn clout~~ business degrees! It's all about the ~~reputation~~ education, after all. Only that. Nothing else.

You know, I think it was the great Horace Mann who once said *Private* Education is the great equalizer—if you can afford it. I think he also said that if you can't pay for the game you don't deserve to play the game. Truer words were never spoken.

Keep me updated on you and your daughter's plans. I'm wishing you all ~~the worst~~ the best.

Earnestly Yours,

Kyle

I received no response from Lori. I'm sure she's just busy.

To my ~~corrupt~~ cherished Lori Loughlin,

I'm so ~~excited~~ shocked about your recent news. It's not every day that you plead guilty to committing fraud, but it happens to the ~~richest~~ best of us! Still, I'm ~~thrilled~~ surprised. I'm sending my thoughts and prayers for your ~~maximum-sentencing~~ exoneration. If you need anything, I'm here.

On the bright side, you're getting a much-deserved vacation to Dublin, ~~California~~. A ~~rascal~~ hard worker like you deserves a break. Your ~~prison~~ resort looks scenic—I'm jealous. I think I read somewhere that the resort requires single-colored ~~inmate-uniforms~~ pantsuits. That's chic; orange is *so* your color.

Do send lots of pictures! I bet you'll work up ~~an awful reputation~~ a nice tan. And enjoy your time off. For a woman of your ~~socioeconomic class~~ caliber, this is *hardly* ~~a slap on the wrist~~ the break you deserve. I hope that next time your ~~judge~~ travel agent might get you a ~~harsher sentence~~ better deal. Sadly, I doubt it. ~~Justice~~ Nice vacations favor ~~the wealthy~~ those with free time! A busy boss like you doesn't have much of that, but on the bright side, I'm certain you'll laugh about this with your friends years down the line. Maybe you'll even get a best-selling book deal for ~~your ghostwriter~~ you to describe your ~~cushioned cell~~ edifying experiences.

On a different note, I noticed your daughter was not on the dean's list this semester. I ~~expected~~ ~~that~~ was shocked. Is she ~~expelled~~ taking a gap year? That was my *only* explanation. The word on the street said she was following in her mother's footsteps and starring in an ~~exposé~~ movie, *Operation Varsity Blues*. The title is escaping me! I just *know* she's destined for the big screen. I'll keep my eye out for her.

A little update about my situation: Thankfully, colleges are test-optional this year so I'll save myself the \$100,000 hassle of ~~someone else~~ taking my SAT. More ~~money for bribes~~ time to focus on my rowing highlight reel! Although, I haven't talked to the coach in a little bit. I heard that she was let go, but no specifics. She was *such* a great help for the ~~top 1%~~ deserving scholar-athletes. However, if she's out of the picture I might have to give it the ol' college try: ~~buy a building~~ hope for the best.

Let me know if you have any advice. Unrelated, but I'm looking for a good lawyer—assumed you might know a good one. I'm always eager for ~~ways to cheat the system~~ recommendations.

~~Pleading~~ Innocently Yours,

Kyle