



Whew! 2024 was a crazy year for us — but also wonderful!

Our year started in the Florida Keys, staying in different places. One home had fabulous sunsets every night, and two had kayak launches, which we used frequently!

We had opportunities to visit with Don's mom, brother, and sisters while there and we also lined up a bunch of library presentations for Kate's book, *Agatha Annotated*.

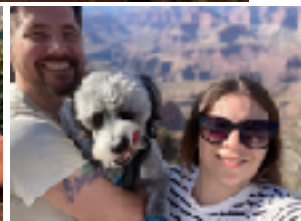
Once home, we barely unpacked before heading to Champaign, IL to witness the eclipse. We took Kate's folks and met up with Emma, Josh, and some friends. It was incredible! And no, we didn't directly look at it like in the photo!

At the same time, we heard from a relative of Kate's who decided to sell her home to us. It needed updating and Don was itching for a project, so we bought it. Since it was in the same neighborhood where we were renting, we figured we could easily work on it over the summer.

Of course, house projects always take more time and money than expected!

We worked very hard all summer, particularly in the kitchen and great room, opening it up for family gatherings. While we did hire a few contractors, we worked right alongside them on ridiculously hot days. There was still much to do when the lease on our rental ended on July 31, but we had running water and other necessities. And a good thing, too, because James and Nina came to visit in mid-August.

They drove from L.A. with their dog, Mischief, stopping to see the Grand Canyon and other sights along the way. While they were here, we celebrated with Kate's parents for their 65th (!) wedding anniversary.



James is in his second year of the master's program at CalArts and works for the school as a technical director, as well as doing some freelance jobs. Nina transferred this year to Cal State and is also working part-time.

While they were here, Don posed for a photo with all of his granddogs, including Copper, the new buddy of Emma and Josh's coonhound, Bonnie.

Emma added Maine East High School to her many other accompaniment jobs and also published a pirate-themed romance novel in June. *Rooted* was years in the writing and is getting excellent reviews. Josh continues to tinker with 3D printing and woodworking when not writing code for Fivetran.

This year was their tenth (!) wedding anniversary, and they celebrated by traveling to England and Scotland.

We were also in England for most of September. The International Agatha Christie Festival in Torquay was our first stop to give a presentation based on Kate's book and meet other Christie fans and experts. Then

we traveled across the country and into Scotland, which we had never visited before. Scotland is simply gorgeous and we would love to spend more time there!

With all the visiting and travel, the house project was put on hold. There's still baseboard to install, painting to do, and boxes to unpack from our third move in three years, but we're settling in. The address is 1108 Candida Road in Elgin, if you ever want to stop by!

This year may have been a little too full, but we're grateful everything worked out well, and we're looking forward to enjoying a slower pace in 2025. We wish you and yours a new year full of joys as well!

— Kate and Don