Pete,

I’m supposed to write a letter back to you/me to help guide your decisions and make our life turn out better/happier/more fulfilling. Unfortunately, there seems to be an inherent flaw in writing back to yourself about mistakes made. If you/I was foolish enough to do these things once you’re/I’m probably foolish enough to do them again. Add to that the fact that the current me might not even be insightful enough to know what the mistakes were, or how to fix them. Add to that all the space /time ramifications that we’ve all learned from movies and comic books and knows what might happen. Maybe you go on that date with Carrie Timm and now I only have one foot. Or maybe you were nicer to your brother and sister in middle school and now the world is ruled by sentient apes. You get the idea. Here’s the thing though, we’ve done OK. We’ve done some really, really stupid things. Really stupid. But we’ve also done some really fantastic things too. I could tell you all about them, but that would be unfair. We never snuck peaks at Christmas presents, or read the last page of a novel first, and we’ve always been good at going into new situations with few expectations. That’s why I’m not going to tell you and you don’t want to know. But here are some basics.

You’re married to a woman who is better than you in every way. Except Scrabble. You have a wonderful little boy, who is hopefully, going to continue to become more wonderful. Even though you thought you never wanted kids, this was a good move. You’ll get on board. Your family, the ones that are still left are good and getting better. The Edwards clan is smaller than it was, and getting this way was tough, but you’ll figure it out, because that’s the only option. You still have a solid core of people who still return phone calls and will put you up when you’re in town. You even get along with your in-laws, despite a rough beginning through no real fault of your own. You and your father-in-law are even what you might call friends.

So yeah, you’ve done pretty well. Be nicer to people earlier on, but don’t change too much. Both the good and the bad have gotten you here, so I’m not going to try and warn you away from the bad, or try and steer you toward more good. We ended up in a great place and I hope that you get here in about 20 years.

Cheers.