

It is strange that I started writing this sitting at my desk with the window in front of me wide open (62F in mid-December...) while both seagulls and crows -- not birds that I ever associate -- circled something from above. The cats both happily sat in the entrance way -- loaf shaped, eyes closed -- enjoying the sunshine streaming through the open door. Today it is MUCH cooler -- grey and gloomy and rainy, neither weather pattern indicative of the holiday season upon us (though I am in quite a jolly mood because my son is coming home today.)

It was nice to see the cats relaxed again, as they have been quite put out by recent events, namely turmoil, strangers, constant noise and smells in the house. It has been chaos here and I apologize for not sending a newsletter last week nor for posting any new recipes. I have had painters in for the fourth time since May, fixing the job they badly botched this summer (and only slightly made better each time) and my house has looked like a war zone. I have had no access to my desktop nor to my kitchen and, of course, all things related to this blog are stored there, rather than on my laptop.

Once I got access to my house again and had managed to get all paint dust cleaned away from every single surface, the time came for pine needles to make their way into every corner of the house...My son requested a tree for the holidays and it is sitting in the living room in its natural glory, waiting for him to come home to trim it. We have planned a tree trimming party and sleepover with a brand new friend on Monday to do just that, so my holiday cooking will begin in earnest then and recipes will appear on the blog in a more regular manner than they have over the past couple of weeks. I promise.

I only have a few for you this week, mostly because of lack of stove access, but also due to a lack of desire to eat meat and the urge to completely empty the fridge in order to have room for every single thing that my no-longer-so-little-but-still-darling son might possibly want to eat while home for the holidays, as part of the ritual called "being pampered by one's mother." While this looks good on paper, it has made for some abysmally boring meals in the planning stages...

I wish all of you a happy holiday season, with much laughter and good food and hope that you will find some recipes on the blog in the weeks to come to add to your repertoire of good cheer offerings!

Just to play a bit of catch-up, here are the very few recipes made in chaos, worth sharing:

[Stuffed Delicata Squash](#)

[Crispy Beet and Lentil Salad with Labneh and Hot Ginger Chili Oil](#)

[Baked Eggplant with Halloumi and Chunky Tomato Sauce](#)