

Tuesday, 9.6.87

Dearest Roger, Your lovely letter, started on the 30 May, finished on the 1st, and mailed on the 4th still managed to reach me on the 9th so I am answered it right away in an attempt to make up for my miserable state of mind when your phone call came through on Sunday night. I only hope this reaches you within two weeks - it seems so pointless to communicate when news gets so out of date.

Adjustment of margin line. I have a new old typewriter, courtesy of Miranda and Ron. Its a great improvement on the old one, but needs me to spend time and thought on it and clean it up.

James phoned after you did and had spoken to you since our talk. I seem to have got on the wrong side of both of you and no doubt I deserve it as I do find it very difficult to explain the aspects of our different life styles which are surfacing all the time, - let alone the sheer generation differences which complicate choices.

I dont know how to put this anything but straight, but I do find it very difficult indeed to travel to visit - where ever it is - entirely out of some other bank account, and though I would insist on paying my fare, I know I would live as you all have to do on your work schedule, I would need other money, and in a nutshell this is something I have not got, and I simply cannot accept such a position. False pride and stupid pride it likely is, but its part of me and I dont expect it to change. If I had our family money, which is mine by rights, all this would not be a factor. I at one time thought it possible that M.J. would find her position intolerable, particularly when she knew that indeed the ever-wandering and unhappy heart of Raymond was not a stable possession; and her conscience might prick her so far as his family was concerned. His peculiar Will I believe must have been made under some kind of pressure and haste, else at the very least my small bequest would have been index-linked. Not so, and though I am now delighted that for purely selfish reasons some money will now reach you three of his family, it is no solution to my wishes. Anyway, I will not enlarge on this now. You are very busy on every moment of your schedule with the great moment to look forward to when your family will be united under one roof again.

Apart from the economics of visiting at this moment, I am feeling very battered, mentally and physically. This will clear up in time, but I dont know how to hurry it and really take everything day by day. I am not ill, as I hope James has said - if you asked - , but there are a number of matters which give concern and which I cant just run away from.

I want to see Angus off to join James and Constance. It is good of Constance to have him staying as she will know his presence makes quite a difference to their two worlds. I hope and pray J & C are working through their differences successfully. And goes on doing so. The idea that a relationship stops working at any time is a pretty strong inditement of the people concerned and really only understandable in the case of very young people who just make mistakes. Its hard work every inch of the way and every ingredient of the heart and mind needed. And still it can fail, <sup>2</sup> look at your own parents. We failed.

I had a great box of family papers and masses of correspondence passed on to me from Jane via James. It is a wealth of information and sheer news of your forebears, going back to the 1830, 40, 50s and so on, all later stuff sorted and documented, I believe, by Aunt Maggie. The good soul must have been tower of strength to all her forebears and generation and even thought of the future. I am so glad I knew her in her old age. I expect you remember the Christmasses She and Theo used to spend with us. Theo survived Maggie and came to live in a Nursing Home down Mount Park (does that ring a bell or sound A.D.?) One distant day you will have time and inclination to look at these many letters, some of real historical interest such as the Tsar & Family entrance into Moscow in 1850; also your grandfather going with his regiment to defeat the Dutch and conquer S.A. We have a lot to answer for.....

We hear most of what is released about the Nicaragua mess and that Great A.H. Colonel North's part in the dirty work. He will surely merit a medal for lying. As for the old boy in the W.H., I can in a way understand (tho' not sympathise) with the emotions he stirs up. Always remember he's first and last an actor and quite a good one, and the old pro. training never deserts him; and he has also a particular kind of courage and nerve which goes with his profession. Also he does see things in black and white, and is never bothered by the shades of grey which cloud most folks vision, certainly mine! Our P.M. (about to be re-elected I fear) has forged a real personal link with him. Their styles may be different but there is a spiritual meeting.

I think a lot about 1636 and its sweet occupants. Holly and Lil are inside a ring of silver and English daisies in my mind - Mexican silver like you and Holly gave me after your honeymoon. I wear it regularly, then I think of them and the daisies which fill our fields at the moment, in spite of cold wet weather (I wear a winter sweater at the moment). I'm sorry to hear Miss Lil had a cold, but she looks such a bonnie baby I know she has dealt with it well. I hope Holly did not get it as well. Or Ruth. By-the-way how is Lily's grandmother and G.Grandmother; also her grandfather, and Aunt and Uncle?