

Tuesday 20th June, 1978. The shortest day & the coldest in these parts.

My dear Nellie & Will,

Its freezing here. Though Lesotho is in the bowels of SA which is also in a cold spell, the mountainous nature of the country give it these cold spells & its Summers are beautiful. I have never experienced so cold a winter. Ive always run out of the bath with just a towel across, but you dare not here. Clothes have to be heated rather warmed, Talc powder is freezing, while the spray on deoderants are a disaster. A friend from SA who had read of women in some war zone who kept warm by the use a pantie which had laddered, snipping off the toe, and cutting out the crotch. Place the crotch over the head & draw your arms through the legs, & her presto you have a beautiful spencer. Ask Nellie to try it. Its cheap. If she is handy with a crochet needle the n neck can be made into something more lasting. Hows that for anti waste?

Your typing is super. You manage to pack into one day so much that I am ashamed of my endeavour. This cold weather makes me so unproductive. I sit shivering & warming myself & then when I cannot cope I have a hot shower & curl into bed. The mornings are catastrophic. Suks has to be in school by 7.30 so one has to get up at 6am to see that she gets a hot breakfast.

While I do agree that the world population is causing concern, I think the cause lies in the fact that by far too many are so poor that their only joy in life is sex. All the overpopulated places are places of great extreme in that so few have so much while the great majority starve. Also mans endeavours seem to be caught up in making bigger & better weapons of war, & not attending to producing food, & finding ways to grow food. Look what the Israelites have done in the desert. Too many of us are employed caring for the idle rich. How an intelligent country can put up with a parasitic monarch in this day & age is beyond me. 2 million unemployed in the UK while the queen "earns" millions for visiting a hospital. Have I hurt you? The Bristish are so partial to their queen, watch her anxiously giving birth to her princes, revel in maggies romances, annies baby. I am sorry if I hurt you. But if you can see it the way we do you will laugh too. When Bokassa apes his imperial masters everyone laughs at him. He is starting a fashion that the English have been fooled by for oh so long. Dont you think so?

Did Nellies friend visit? Did you not have a daughter? grandchild? I seem to recall this so vividly.

How frustrating for you to have lived in two places. I love my things about me. I had a tool box which was sold with my flat in Durban. I look for a plug or a particular screwdriver & that is no mre. At least you can be consoled with the notion that they are at Norfolk. I want a good map of the UK. I am not sure whether you enjoyed a warm coast. Are you near Old Felixstowe. I have a lovely friend in Suffolk, who when I was suicidal having got here reminded me that he at eighty wished he was my 50 so that he could do all the things he wished. You will never know how quickly that cured me.

Sukhthi is 12 & is becoming a lady. She wants records & has pop idols that she sits & listens to ad nausium. Nothing I do seems to meet her approval. I am not with it? whatever that means. She reads avariously WHICH is a blessing & her school work takes precedence. Only if her homework is through then is she allowed her cacaphony. Mind you there are times when she is a 5yr old. How they grow.

The boys have written. Sahdhan at 17 says he has had girls for life. But my poor Sha is miserable and lonely. All the usual places that excite visitors bores him. He likes football, but misses my company. He took great pains to teach me the game, but I always let him down, calling the full backs the centre forward. Me too I am so lonely for him. Its hell Will. I dont know when it will end, but it will never be too soon for me.

You see what a hopeless mess I am. I shall send you a copy of my "son's " letter from Robben Is. He has been away from home for 15yrs. It puts me to shame.

Keep well,

With much love,

Phyllis.

Love you Phyllis.