

"Welcarmas"  
Poste Restante  
Stellenbosch. Cape.  
15th November '81.

My dear Phyllis,

After all this time I answer your letter, for which many thanks. And I haven't been to J.B. after all. I just wanted to get it first and I ain't it yet, blast it.

I finally saw an Orthopaedic Surgeon re my shoulder. Oh yes, that's easy to cure, said he. First injection eased a bit for a couple of days. 2nd injection fortnight later made no difference. I went for a third after another fortnight. He decided to X-ray it. X-ray showed it stiff with arthritis etc. 'Shall I give you another injection?' said he. For you to say, said I, but what about the new wonder drug we are hearing so much about on the radio? 'Oh, yes, I've used it for two months with good results, you can try that'. Month's supply, 30 tablets R.32. I asked him if there were any side effects. 'All drugs have some side effects' said he. I started taking it. Then we had a two day heat wave so I thought a bit of sun on the shoulder would help. Only sat in it for 15 minutes each day. Result - sores on my face, rash on my chest and arms, terribly painful and itchy. Then I was told by different people 'But it was stated specifically on the radio that the sun is very dangerous to people on this drug.' As well as the rash I felt lousy, dizzy spells when I fell over etc. So I stopped taking the stuff, sent him his huge bill and that was that. Now I'm back to square one. My friends in J.B. wanted me to go there so that they could 'pamper me and look after me' (she is a nurse) But when I'm sick I prefer to be miserable in private. SO, I'm still here. The weather has changed, I've filled my swimming pool and shall start swimming. I'm trying to ignore the constant pain. I'm forcing myself to become human again - going to a life drawing class and have done a bit of painting. Am studying German once again with a German friend. I've stopped reading thousands of thrillers and am reading mainly non-fiction, and I'm visiting friends (contemporaries who are a damned sight worse off than I - one (an alcoholic) has broken her leg, another has had a stroke, another a broken hip..... all very depressing but it does make me thankful for small mercies. And the arm is looser and I can now drive - I can use it for typing etc. but I can't lift it. Enough of my problems.

I'm sorry to hear that Helen Joseph has also broken her hip. She is the same age as I. I met her only once when she stayed with F. for a few days when I was there. S.B. was also then living with F. and made a great fuss of her and she was very flattered and couldn't understand why I couldn't receive him with open arms.

And talking of them - I expect you have heard that he is being detained and is to be deported? A friend here went to Durban and visited them re Richard's work. He told me that he thought they had sold the house and that they were going to J.B. to live shortly afterwards. They must have hardly got settled before he was arrested. It must have been a terrible shock and I feel very sorry for F. According to the paper she and his two children will go with him to wherever they are going. Shahnaz Meer tells me they think of going to London. But you probably know all this. I personally never trusted him, and I still have my doubts. Some peculiar things happened when I was with them. F. knows a lot of people in Europe and he can learn a lot there. Perhaps I am just biased.

Shahnaz and her husband are living in Cape Town and came to see me. I was surprised re her husband. Fatima had told me she was married but nothing about him. He seems to be a very nice chap ~~thunk~~ and they seem to suit each other well. I wonder how Fatima and Ismael like the marriage? Is he English or S.African? I didn't like to ask questions.

I haven't heard from Joe Freysler for some time - Moona was in Germany with his parents and wrote me asking for news of him.

He is back in Mauretania and suggests I visit him. It would be interesting but, once again, I must be fit - especially if he expects me to go off into the desert with him. Moona was to have gone there for a short visit before returning here - I'll no doubt hear from her when she gets back. I'm very sorry for her, Joe is enough of a problem without having the difficult child.

Jann and Kim write me regularly and seem very happy. Jann is seventeen at the end of the month. She now goes to College and doing well. She works so hard and deserves to get on. Kim is no student, happy-go-lucky, good sense of humour and very lovable. Her personality will get her by. If my gold shares go up I'll see them again next year but at the moment the bloody things are going down down down.

And that's all I have to say, except that I hope all goes well with you and yours.

With much love,

Jane



SENDER'S NAME  
AND ADDRESS  
NAAM EN ADRES  
VAN AFZENDER  
ENCLOSURES  
ARE NOT PERMITTED  
INSUITINGS  
WORD NIE TOEGELAAT NIE

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