

Esperance

May 6th/96

My Dearest Cis,

I received your dear, dear letter today also one from Minnie. Cis, I was looking forward to this particular letter of yours more than any and now that I have read it I feel disappointed, annoyed and yet pleased.

I feel disappointed because you say nothing about having a chat with Arthur - I do sincerely hope that he did not leave you without some little reference to me dearest. When he first told me of his intention of visiting Melbourne I felt delighted as knowing that he knew more of me than any of you as well as having opportunities of discovering the various traits of my character during our partnership, I naturally thought that his opinion would have materially assisted or otherwise especially as he was returning before me.

However, I suppose that you have forgotten to mention it happening as it did at such an exciting period of your life, else Arthur was too much taken up with business affairs to spare the time with my own. I sincerely trust it was the former as I cannot entertain the idea of the latter.

And now dearest my annoyance was caused by your disappointment on that

important day before referred to.

I feel awfully sorry Cis to think that you did receive neither a letter nor a wire on that day. Of course you will remember that I was misinformed (unintentionally) as to the day thinking it was on the 17th until I received yours informing me that it was on the 22nd. Now dearie I will explain it away.

It seems so unfortunate when I think of it. That particular trip of the "Lubras" was one of the very few that I have missed and I missed it purposely thinking that the "Flinders" would have reached Adelaide first which she would have done had she sailed as advertised but unfortunately the clerk of the weather was against it. Owing to the heavy weather & terrific sea running the "Flinders" did not face the music till two days-after when the storm had abated. I felt awfully annoyed at the time for missing the "Lubra" but even then I did not know that your birthday was over. I think I mentioned this in my letter via the "Flinders" which no doubt you have received ere this.

Finally I feel – well I cannot express my feelings in words but it does make me so happy when I read your ~~love~~ messages of love knowing they are so sincere and from the bottom of your faithful

loving heart, you dear true girl.

In your letter Cis you query me re honesty. But dearest you cannot expect me to tell my own character. How could I? Even if I did attempt to do so I would not dream of asking you to accept it as truth. Oh Cis, why did you not ask Arthur, surely he has given you some information about me.

Enough of this but I can assure you my own dear sweetheart: that with heaven's help I will never never give you cause to regret having placed your confidence in me and sacrificed your loving heart. Cis, I do long to give you a chance of testing me. I would love to be able to go and put in six months in Melbourne for your sake alone.

I often wonder whether I am doing the proper thing in staying away from my treasure, but lately I have had a little consolation. Riches, of whom you have heard of (sic) before is back here again & he says he, although he has his leave of absence granted, will be unable to go to Sydney on account of the pressure of official business. You know he was to go over to get married and to my knowledge has been anxiously looking forward to the trip for the last

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The "Rob Roy" is in sight but as she will not arrive before this mail closes I do not know whether she has another letter for me.

Your Ray.