

Very happy happy happy returns of the day my own. Is this the date (17<sup>th</sup>). Arthur was not quite sure about it.

Ray

Friday

My own dearest truest and sweetest Cis I have felt as happy as a lark since I received your dear letters (2). Just fancy Cis four steamers and five sailing vessels in Esperance at the same time. I felt so awfully pleased dearest when I read how kindly you had agreed to my decision in postponing my little trip to Melbourne. Cis I think I would have squeezed all the life out of you had you been here when I read that. Cis I love you more every day as every little action of yours makes you more perfect in my eyes. We shall have no differences in the future my darling. If we do I fail to see where they will come in, we will get on splendidly together. Will we not my own?

Then Ruth's letter seemed to corroborate my thoughts she painted a most faithful word picture of my little Cis. After yours I dearly enjoyed her letter dearest. You know I never mention our little affair to anyone although I would dearly like someone to confide in. So you will see now I appreciate a letter from another about my sweetheart.

My own love I will not keep you in suspense when I can start for dear old "Maida". Cis my business has been increasing greatly of late – of course I think it is only a rush of work, after which there will be a calm.

It is so good of you dearest to suggest that I should stay and supervise the work, but then when

when would I see my own that I have been longing to feast my eyes on? If I were to look after the work myself the chances are that my business would so increase that it would be impossible for me to get away, whereas if I appoint a person in my place I can then be back before the works are completed and thus lose none of the business. You know dearie I have six buildings to erect now and the time to complete the lots would be near three months as it will be the best part of a month before some are commenced.

However dearest you will allow me to cancel all my previous promises and leave it to my discretion in lieu of which I will simply promise to come as soon as possible. I do hope you will understand me Cis, I know I have caused you a lot of annoyance and worry lately. You are a dear girl to me and I cannot help consoling myself by saying it is as much for you as myself that I am remaining here – the business seemed to start all of a sudden but I know after the first rush there will be a flag then I will come to you my own. I will not forget to write you dearest when to expect me. Oh how I would love to be with you now?

Now my own as I know you must be anxiously waiting a letter I will post this tonight to catch the

the "Flinders" she being the smartest vessel of the lot then I will write you a lot more tonight from the "Yaralla" which leaves tomorrow I believe.

Before I close dearest I must offer a suggestion re 'Larry'. Well I have been thinking it over and conclude that the owner does not value him very highly and would not hesitate if offered a consideration to part with him. Did you find out his address Cis? If not try and get

someone to find out and make terms with the owners and get dear old Larry back again. Of course you must understand that I will pay all expenses. I wonder if old Larry will remember me? – I doubt it.

It must have given you a shock dearie when you saw him but I can hardly understand him not knowing you it seemed so cruel of him but then he was very young when you lost him.

That was a very fine ruse of yours you dear old love setting yourself on fire in order that C.B. would embrace you really I am beginning to feel a wee bit jealous of Charley. What does my little girl say now when she hears that I am not going to take that little story in.

You dear old girl you must have had a narrow escape but you never told me if you were burnt at all. You must have been grazed a little or was your hair only frizzled up? Good night lovey dovey from yours to a Cinder

Ray.

Remember me kindly to all and tell Ruth I will answer her letter shortly, providing my little Cis does not assert authority now she is a woman!

I will try to send you “the Photos” by the Yaralla sweetheart.