

Esperance

July 31st 96

My darling Cis,

I have just returned from Norseman where I was most cruelly treated by fate, everything appeared to be against me, even my best friend was taken away from me - Poor old Lolley of whom you have heard me speak before. I was arranging for him to look after my Norseman interests during my absence in Melbourne but the poor fellow died ere I could see him.

When I returned here I was thoroughly downhearted as before I left I was miserable thinking of you and your troubles - you have had a lot to put up with dearest but to know how I sympathise with you you would have had to read my thoughts and not my letters. However as I was saying when I returned I sought consolation from the Post Office where I expected a letter from my own I got it - But I could not believe my eyes shortly afterwards I received another

then, only then did I realise how cruel I had been to my faithful sweetheart. Oh Cis how it does smart when I think of it. I do hope you will understand the disappointments I have caused you were purely unintentional. Cis I can only say that I did not like the idea of going over only to return after a short visit as I was expecting every month to be able to go for good. However I have decided to leave by the "Flinders" on Saturday next, she being the next boat so I will possibly be in Melbourne within three or four days of you receiving this. From there I will wire you.

Whatever made you think that my love for you had decreased even one iota? This is an unreasonable question when I think over it. But Cis do believe me when I say it was for the love of you that I have stayed away - never a day has passed but what I have you in my uppermost thoughts. Cis I have had a lot of trouble over here lately had I told you all you would have understood me better and I would have written only knowing of your trouble & grief I couldn't think of increasing your burden. Now

(Vertical on front page)

Now I am making a definite promise. I am coming by first steamer you will hear me out then my darling will you not. I feel so grieved to think that you are suffering so much from tooth and ear ache again dearest and in addition having a severe cold. Take care of yourself Cis & remember me kindly to all. Trusting mother is quite well again with love to all from Yours for ever Ray Please excuse the scribble Also any topics I have not referred to as I would sooner talk them over with you.

(Vertical on second page)

RE one topic I never never disbelieve you Cis but misunderstood you more of this one MIZPAH

Ray

(Inverted from second page)

What a noble creature you are Cis I really did pity you in the predicament you were in with your dear mother, what presence of mind you have - you are a treasure Ray