

April 17

Dear Aunt Sylvia,

I'm certain that this will not come as a shock. We've talked before about the same subject in the past. The time has arrived where I must take the next step. As I'm sure you have already surmised it's about my marriage.

I've finally must deal with my future. The situation <sup>over the years</sup> <sup>(if not worse)</sup> if anything has remained the same. I've dealt with it the best I knew how. I've been aware of the inevitable reality of the frustrations, tensions, bitterness that <sup>has</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>disolve</sup> over time.

Rather than go into sorted details - which at this point are repetitive I'll come to the point. The children are finished with school the first week in June. I would like to come back late with them. There are several obstacles. Number one, I must leave quickly & quietly. I do not want to confront Manny with an added emotional scene. We've been there many times before. Things become so emotional and irrational - I can't take that risk. This step I must make the first <sup>step</sup> physical break. If he knows - he will <sup>try</sup> to threaten me with the children - (he's said he'll take them away from me) or persuade me to stay. I do not want to be in that vulnerable state!

Second problem - that I will have to ②  
deal with are the children. Julie  
does not seem to be different to deal  
with. Amy, on the other hand, is ~~to~~ loyal  
on both sides. She loves her father  
very much. If she knows that we are  
going back east - Manny will know -  
I'm sure I will be able to figure up  
a solution to this - although it does  
trouble me. She has been torn & in  
the middle for so long now. [This  
is something if you can suggest something  
I could use some guidance]

Shirley, which I'm sure you realize by  
now - our financial situation has deteriorated  
to the point where we have no money.  
[By the way - side trading a little - this  
business venture might be the one thing  
that will alleviate the financial situation -  
but regardless - I must get out by  
this summer - I'm 29 year old - I'm  
scared for myself [emotionally] if I  
do not take the initiative [I've always  
known it would have to be me.] I'll  
live my life out - in fear of myself expression  
on the shadow of a demanding self  
person - and be a frustrated bitch -  
there will be nothing left!

On this score - It hurts to ask - but <sup>?</sup>  
would you be able to help me out  
temporarily - just to be able to get on a  
plane with the girls.

I don't want to look ahead too  
far, but tentatively I'm sure I should  
stay with one of my sisters for a  
little while - probably find a full  
time job and settle sometime during the  
summer on my own with the girls.

It's scary - but the change is necessary.  
I've covered up in my own mind for so  
long - hoping things would improve.  
Facing reality straight in the face is  
hard to do everyday of your life.  
But one thing I'm certain of is that  
I cannot fool myself or live indefinitely  
under these conditions.

I naturally do anticipate some  
hard times ahead. Manny will not let  
us go that easily. That is why it is  
essential that I leave here without  
his knowledge initially. I know if he  
does know he will try to stop me -  
I'm the past - he always has - its hard  
to be strong all the time especially  
when things are so emotional!

Please! This letter is confidential.  
I need my family - I hope - no - I know  
I can count on all of you. My plan  
is to leave as soon as the school year  
is ended. We will be in touch. If its  
possible - when the time comes close - for you  
to me just with the airfare - I  
will be so grateful.

I have not written to my sisters as yet. I intend to do so soon. I have no objection if you discuss this with them - but - please use your own discretion. If too many people know it might in some way get back to Manning <sup>or he might get suspicious</sup> for right now - I will have to keep under control. The children must not be disrupted right now. I pray I can deal with their emotions when the time comes.

Don't feel that you for always offering me your support! It makes it a little easier to know I have family that I can count on.

Love  
Your Niece  
Diane

P.S. - I put your return address on the envelope - just in case it should be returned to sender

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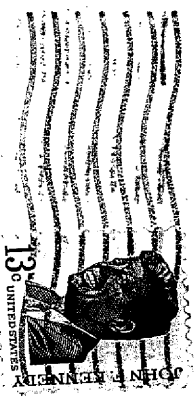
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Diane

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