

Dear Lil,

6/16/78

You are absolutely right! It does make me proud that you made 4.0. Terrific!

The work is going okay, more or less the way you hope, but there are so many of them with such iron pants!

The situation with Kim is unfortunate but you seem to have behaved not only properly - well. You do have to look out for your own interest. And there is a limit to what you can do for anyone who appears not to want to be helped.

Your analysis seems good, that she should finish up closer to home. Washington appears not ~~to~~ to have been good for her. Perhaps a change of environment will be good for her.

She has always been very good with me and to me and I appreciate it much. But I also began to wonder when she stopped coming here close and she and Lil had been for a while.

Whatever may ~~be~~ be basic part of her problem is involvement in the impossible, the political futilities you've described. It is one thing to have ~~Utopian~~ Utopian dreams but it is quite another matter to expect them to become real - and quickly.

I hope she comes out of it well - sound again as she was when I first knew her. Actually she has never been any other way with me - I've never seen her any other way. For which I'm glad because she was so good to me when I needed help. I'd like to remember her only as the fine person she was with me, not the sad person she seems to have become.

But let us hope that with help she does snap out of it.

You should sorrow for the plight of a friend but there is no responsibility that is yours. Don't let that weight on you. It shouldn't.

Spend what time you can preparing for the test, retain confidence in yourself so that something unexpected does not throw you, and you'll get a good enough score. Don't worry. Care and try but worry is self-defeating. And as by now you should be realizing, you have ample sound cause for being confident. You've survived some hard ones and just came up perfect, 4.0. (The score means less to me than how you have come through what you have come through.)

I've seen you mature. (Almost said grow up but then at your age you might misunderstand that.) Don't worry. You've got the mind and you're learning to use it. You'll do fine and you'll be a better person for the troubles you've experienced. You'll find that if we are the kind who learn we learn most by our mistakes. And from our real troubles, not the imaginary ones.

In the long run Kim may be a better person for her present problems. No consolation now, while she hurts so. But if as I think she can and will she does bootstrap it, she, too, will be a much better person for her suffering. From Boccaccio (dolor determineth imminent joyance) to Plato (things exist in opposites) this is an old truth.

I didn't know I was "in good with the man upstairs," but I have felt the occasional whisper of the angels' wings on the shoulder so I've put the fix on through what influence I have. You've got the inside drag now. You'll see.

We hope you have a good summer. Let us hear from you when you can but remember you've an objective, so first things first. And have a little fun at the same time.

Our best,

June 12, 1978

Dear Harold and Lil

Thought I'd drop you a line to see how you are feeling. I'm feeling well. Harold I have some good news for you I got a 4.0. Now I should be able to get into Law School. Next week I start preparing for the test. I'm nervous already. Harold say a prayer for me. I know you're in good with the man upstairs. How is work coming, still beating the pants off the FBI. I know you and Jim can do it.

Along with the good news I have some very sad news. It seems Kim has come to the end of her rope. I would classify it as a long over due breakdown. Her temper tantrums and her problems got to the best of her. It seems for the past six months Kim has been talking viciously about me. It culminated last week when she told Susan my other roommate that our friendship was over and told Susan to kick me out of the house. For the first time in my life I was so deeply hurt that I struck back with revenge. So instead of Kim kicking me out I had her kicked out. Of course she threw another one of her hysteria acts, but this time it was real. She said she was so upset because she had lost her best friend but I have never seen Kim get upset unless she was losing something. This time it was no different. I am sorry to say along with her many other illnesses she suffers she is also pathological liar. But Harold you know I forgave her. I realized she was a very ill girl. Unfortunately my other roommate did not and Kim will have to find another place to live. But of course Kim had to think of a plan to get back into the house, her plan attempted suicide. Of course

she got me hysterical. Telling me it was all over, and she would be dead unless Susan called her and let her back into the house. Again Kim had to get her way no matter how many people she upset in the meantime. Instead Susan and I called her parents who rushed home and took care of the matter. Harold I do not feel guilty. My heart is heavy but this time I had to say no. Kim tells me she is seeing a professional, I hope it is true but she will never get better unless she also stops lying to the psychologist. I do not think Kim will return to school in the fall. Harold I know how you always say, stay in school, but the best thing in the world for Kim to do is to take a leave of absence and return to a school in her home area. I do not think Kim should return to Washington ever again. Harold doesn't it seem sad when you look at all the kids who were in the Kennedy assassination movement. Floyd is on the run, Scot has many problems, and Kim has had a breakdown. None of them survived. Harold why did I survive, I felt I was the weakest of the bunch, yet I was the strongest. A sense of sadness looms over me that I will look back over my college years and remember the pain. If someone had told me three years ago this was going to happen to my friends, I would never have believed them. I look forward to my years in law school and hope the next year will proceed quickly. I will not enjoy it I will feel an emptiness which will never be filled. I hope some day when Kim gets better that we can be friends again, and I know if she does return and asks for my friendship to get through the hard times, I will be there. But this time I will tell her when she is wrong and will not let her manipulate me. Thank you for letting

me pour out my soul I had no one to pour it out to. It was pressing on my soul and had to be let out. Harold and Lil take care. You are the most giving and caring people I have ever met. You two are one of the reasons I did survived. It is sad that Kim and Floyd did not take your advice. They might have made it too. Thanks again take care, see you soon.

Love Lila

Address:

112 West Street

Methuen, Massachusetts

01844