

January 28

Dear Patricia:

Nothing has so disturbed me in years as your revelation in answer to my questioning that it was my own blunders that brought on - or contributed strongly to it - your mother's current nervous problem - when I was trying so hard to do nothing that would be disturbing at all - and to help her in as many ways as possible. It all goes to show, I guess, how badly one can go wrong sometimes, when acting under the best of intentions.

Your mother is one of the gentlest persons I have ever known and I have come to esteem her highly. I thought I was taking my cues from her and she was trying to give cues to me and I misinterpreted them. I've felt very badly about it ever since you told me - but ~~would~~ I needed was to be told - for that I am thankful as I am thankful to you generally for being so completely honest with me. I know that you try to protect me and my feelings up to a point, but

when it becomes evident to you - or
when I ask - that you need to go farther
& be frank - you are just that - in a
calm & considerate way - and that I
treasure in a person. So very, very, few
have the gift

Your Mom must have been terribly
terribly hurt by some of her experiences
to cause her to turn inward & try
to bottle up all her feelings. It would be
far better - insofar as I am concerned, at
least, were she to tell me simply what
she likes or dislikes, can & can't stand
in another. She told me that she really
didn't like Mike, but he was so kind & friendly
in trying to help her that she always accepted
his help or called on him. for it she told
me how much the male social worker had
disturbed her & how I was the first man
she had really admitted to her home &
this all (the last) made me feel good & I
tried to tell her how I esteemed the com-
pliment & was grateful over finding her
home a place where I could come &
not feel strained. She even led up
to my - or prepared the way for my washing
my denture at the sink by telling me how

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she used to be finicky over the thought of eating anything one of the children had left on his plate, but that she now knew this wasn't really rational & she demonstrated by eating some pieces of the last pork roast I had brought that one of the little ones — Mas or Nolie — had left on his plate. I just didn't tumble to the significance of any of this — and I may even be reporting it inaccurately as a result.

However, there's no need for me to prolong this & make you the least unhappy over it. I just want you to realize how very sorry I am that things have gone as they did — & declare my faith that they will in time right themselves — & my realization that I must just be patient & wait. So I'll be looking forward to the day when I'll again be trusted to take you Mom a jug of cider juice & to take a load of fruit & vegetables & other groceries out for the whole family. Honestly, I miss them all & if you can make a suggestion now & then that will ease Mom's feelings, please do — I'll appreciate it no end. I love your little brothers

And I think a lot of Lem + Connie.
And I do want to be helpful & feel
trusted!

Incidentally - "The Movie Sex and
the Single Girl" is playing now at the
United Artists Theater on First Street
and it will be there at least until next
Thursday. - So we'd better decide - or
you may - when we go to see it. -
I'm free - this evening, Tomorrow (Fri)
Sunday evening and Monday Beyond
that I'm not clear, except that, as far
as I'm concerned you always have a claim
to at least a dinner a week - our
Wed. evening this past semester on
whatever day you'd like to change it
to if you wish to do so.

I haven't heard yet when "my"
apt. will be open to me and I'm
eager to hear, of course how your apt.
plans are working out.
I start going back to my dentist Mon. AM.
Have some more info on weed you
may find interesting too.
Waiting to see you again or just
hear your voice. Carl.