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William, upon receiving

from Belly Shally

May 23rd

[1944]

Dearest William & Philinda,

Here, at last are the pictures of our pride & Joy. I won't say any more because the pictures speak for themselves. Even if they were colored & could move they would be a poor substitute for the real baby. It's all these moods & positions plus many more all rolled into one that make her so adorable. She always keeps us guessing as to what her next action might be

I was quite upset today, William, upon receiving a letter from Betty. I probably

shouldn't say anything to you about it, but I must get it off my chest. I am quite hardened to anything Sarah has done or might do to me, but when she hurts one as fine & uncomplaining as Betty I feel something should be done about it; even if that something is only letting you know what the real picture is.

I quote from Betty's letter – "Bill was the same lad only so thin.

Sarah wouldn't allow me to have him for dinner. He was only allowed to be entertained by the 'important people'. She had us up the first night & got us out of the way. Well, it will be many a long day before I ever go there again. - - - - - He even went to Aunt

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Leila's that can't be right; Mr. Mitchell's mother, for dinner one evening, but he couldn't come to his Aunt Betty's."

If eel quite certain that you knew nothing of Betty's invitation.

It seems quite clear to me that Sarah was a little afraid to have you go there as she probably suspects that Betty knows the truth of many of our "run-ins" and might want to tell you – also Sarah used to go out there & rave about how mistreated she was in our home, which news also would spoil the picture she is trying to create for you.

I guess she figures as long as relationships remain happy with you, who hold a position of respect in Newark, her stories of my ruthlessness & her

other hardships in our family will hold more water.

I honestly feel embarrassed to write about the whole mess as
I've always rather prided myself on being a wholesome normal person
who could get along with anyone. But no matter what I do she
misconstrues my motives. All this is not a product of my imagination as
she hopes you will believe by the appearances of a beautiful surface in
their home life. She knows there is nothing we can do because we love
Daddy too much to cause any more unhappiness.

I have such a wonderful home with Norman & Barbara & am so far away from Newark now that I am able to overlook the issue most of the time, but I just couldn't help letting you know about Betty. She is so very fond of you that having you out for an evening would have been a great joy to her. I don't believe Sarah could

have chosen a keener yet less apparent way to hurt her.

There, my fire has died down & has been smothered by such a flow of words. I have so often longed to confide in you, but hated to bother you with such unpleasantness. Norman said tho' that if you are the wonderful brother that I claim, which you are & much more, that you should & would want to know the situation. There is nothing you can do except be a good listener & believe me that helps alot.

Poor Philinda, I shouldn't have exposed you to such a gruesome letter. I hope it won't cause a relapse. By now you should be feeling quite fit. Wish I were in Washington so we could have

a gayla shopping spree together even if we didn't get farther than the front windows. Later cocktails with our most adored, a fine dinner & then no end of good talk and highballs. Sometime this will be a reality.

Let me know of your comings & goings, what that draft board has decided, when you must leave again etc.

With best love & hopes for your complete understanding

Your Janie

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1st Month Birthday

2nd Month Birthday





Five weeks









3rd Month Birthday Where did she get that nose? and isn't she getting to be quite the young Lady.



This is my favorite