

Mrs. K.

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My Dearest Friend

I write you a line by the last post just to let you know I was alive  
which indeed I was and I could then say with propriety: for I had serious thoughts that  
I never should see you again - so much was I reduced by only four days since but by help  
of a good constitution I am surprisingly better to day - I enclose to answer your three  
last letters in one of which you ask for a history of my life. It is my love in barren of adventures  
and is replete with repetition that I fear it will afford you little amusement - however such  
as you I give it you - In the first place, I rise about eight in the morning for long  
hours you will say but the day after that, so full long for a person in my situation)  
I presently after sit down to my breakfast, where a page in my book, and a dish  
of tea employ me alternately for about an hour - when after seeing that family  
matters go on right, I repair repairs to my work my book or my pen for the rest of the  
forenoon - at two o'clock I usually take my solitary dinner, where I reflect upon my past  
happiness when I used to sit at the window watching for my Harry - and when I saw him  
coming my heart would leap for joy - when he was all my own - and never happy from me when  
the bare thought of six months absence would have shocked him - He dived Alex joins  
I place my little Lucy by me at table - but the more regarding her little actions are  
so much the more do I regret the absence of her father. who would take such delight  
in them - in the afternoon I commonly take my chair - and ride into the

company or go to drink tea with one of my few <sup>friends</sup> ~~acquaintances~~. They consist of Mr Jarvis  
Mr Sears Mr Smith Mr Pilsud & my Aunt Waldo - I have many acquaintance  
beside these whom I visit but not without ceremony - viz with any of the former  
I often spend the evening - but when I return home - how shall I describe my feelings  
to find myself pitifully alone - to reflect that the only friend I have in the world  
is at such an immense distance from me - to think that way sick and I cannot  
about him as you see my heart is ready to burst, you know what a trifle would  
make me unhappy, can conceive what I suffer now - when I seriously  
reflect that I have lost my father mother brother and sisters - pitifully lost them.  
I am half distracted true I cheerfully resign them for one dearer  
to me than all of them - but I am totally deprived of him - I have not seen  
him for almost six months - and he writes me without pointing out any method  
by which I may ever expect to see him again - tis hard my Harry indeed it is  
I love you with the tenderest the purest affection - I would undergo any hardship  
to be near you and you will not let me - suppose this campaign should be like  
the last carried into the winter - do you pretend not to see me in all that time -  
tell me Dear what your plan is -

I wrote you that the Hero sailed while  
I was at Newbury - he did but has <sup>been</sup> cruising about Iron Harbour & Maria  
since - to get me - she is now here, and will sail in a day or two for France

I wish I had fifty guineas to spare to send by her for necessaries - but  
I have not - the very little gold we have must be reserved for my Live in  
case he should be taken - for friends in such a case are not too common  
- I am more distressed from the hot weather than any other years -  
you grant you may not go further southward - if you should I proposition  
will come too - I believe genl Howe is a paltry fellow - but happy  
for as that he is - are you not much pleased with the news from the Northward  
we think it a great affair, and a confirmation of St Clair's retaining Casence  
I hope he will not be punished - we hear also that genl Gates is to go  
back to his command - if a matter of honour, cannot be quibbled - it is very  
strange you never mentioned that affair in any of your letters -

What has become of Mr Greene, do you all  
live together - or how do you manage - is he to remain with you maybe or  
is he to have a Contingent - if the former I think he had much better remain  
where he was - if he understood business he might without a Capital have  
made a fortune - people here without advancing a shilling frequently clear  
hundreds in a day - such chaps as Ober Oliver - are all men of fortune while  
yours - who have ever lived in affluence - are in danger of want - If that you  
had kept up the military max about you - you might then after the war have lived  
at ease all the days of your life - but now I don't know what you will do - your

Being long accustomed to command - will make you too haughty for  
mercantile matters - tho' I hope you will not consider yourself as commander  
in chief of your own house - but be convinced tho' not in the affair of Mr Coe's  
that there is not a thing as equal command - I send this by Capt. Kendall  
who says he expects to remain with you - pray how many of these ladies have  
kissed you - I am sure they must be very expensive - I am in want of some  
square dollars - which I expect from you - to buy me a piece of linen as article - I can  
do no longer without having had no recruit of that kind for almost five years  
girls in general when they marry - are well stocked with those things but your I had  
no real advantage -

Little Lucy who is without exception the sweetest

child in the world - sends you a kiss - but where <sup>did</sup> I take it from say you - from the paper  
I hope - but dare I say I sometimes fear <sup>that</sup> a long absence the force of bad  
example may lead you to forget me at some times - to know that it ever gave you pleasure  
to be in company with the finest woman in the world, would be worse than death to me -  
but it is not in my power to be just too delicate too sincere - and too kind to his Lucy  
to admit the most remote thought of that distracting kind - away with it

Don't be angry with me my love - I am not jealous of your affection - I love you  
with a love so true and sincere as ever entered the human heart - but from a supposition  
of my own merit I sometimes fear you will love me less - after being so long from me - if you  
should say my life was before I know it - but I never think of you when you are - Adieu my love  
1796