

December 11, 1981

Dear Dad,

Hi, I hope you're still enjoying your life on the road & had a good time in Thailand. I'm very happy & at the moment, ~~am~~ leading a quiet but full life (if that makes sense)!

I've just finished the photography course which I did ~~in~~ at the Aust. Centre for Photography for a term. It was quite good & I learnt about darkroom work & printing. So now ^{mainly} I think I'll set up a darkroom at home because I enjoy it & I feel that now I know a bit about it I can keep going on my own (& hopefully improve with practice). I've been using the zoom lens a lot & thank you again for sending it over. I don't think I'll send any photos with Mum, mainly because the best ones are on exhibition with ~~all~~ the other students' work over the holidays. One thing about developing & printing is that it is a fairly long & involved process requiring quite a bit of patience. At the beginning I was a ~~bit~~ little lazy & tried to cut a few corners. I soon learnt this isn't the way to do it & expect to achieve good results!

I am becoming ~~a~~ bored with the work I'm doing. Mr Richard Burns next-door as there is hardly anything to do at all, & when I work I like to be busy & feel I'm doing something ~~and~~ constructive.

but it is very handy since I only have to cope with the peak hour traffic in Olphert Ave to get to work! It's also good because the hours are very flexible & I've been able to have time to ~~do~~ have time to take photographs & do other things when I want to. I still haven't had much success on the film front. ~~But still~~ I always seem to just miss out on getting jobs. It gets a bit disheartening at times but I will start seriously looking again at ~~the~~ in the New Year. I have also enrolled in a film course at the Uni of NSW, & will make a short film (15-20 mins) with a group of about 10 people. We haven't decided ~~what~~ exactly what it will be about but we're meeting on Sunday again to work that out.

Sunday morning
The panic & drama is beginning to set in, Mum & Stephen having last minute squabbles about packing bags. One thing for certain, Andrew & I won't let them miss the plane!!! We're looking forward to a nice, quiet Christmas.)

I was just reading back ^③ what I'd written before & if it's not the clearest it's because I was still feeling the effects of a general anaesthetic which I had to have in the morning, so I had an abortion. Please don't be too shocked or worried as I'm fine now. Although I was sure in my mind that it wasn't the right time in my life to go through with the pregnancy I went through ~~the natural~~ ^{naturally} & seriously experiencing the thoughts of considering it for the first time. David Lucas my maternal instincts was the father. He's a very intelligent & sensitive person & was very good to me. He came in & saw me at the hospital & I was glad he was there to give me some support. We have a really good relationship & I'm really happy with him. Anyway I realise it happened through my carelessness & I don't want it to happen again until I'm ready & I've learnt my lesson - that it can happen to me.

Anyway time is getting on & the chaos is building. Have a Merry Christmas wherever you spend it & keep well. Always thinking of you,

love Rebecca xxx