

Letters from Russia



# Letters from Russia



My new address  
U. S. S. R.,  
КРИВОЙ-РОГ  
ДЗЕРЖИНКА  
ДНЕПРОПЕТРОВСКАЯ ул.  
98 кв. дом №8 кв. 45  
МАКАРОВА Н. В.  
(or ПАНКО Н. В.  
which is easier for you  
I can not both names here.

During my childhood I was vaguely aware that my grandmother had a Russian friend, Nina. Recently, many, many decades later, I discovered an envelope full of family papers. They are all fascinating and stretch back to the end of the 19th century.

There was also a small bundle of letters from Nina, written in the 1950s. A dozen letters that paint a sad and poignant picture of a love affair and marriage. But it is not clear whether the love affair and the marriage were one and the same. And who was Joe?



МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ПОШТА  
 PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN  
 WITH GREETINGS

Dear Ann! Just a few lines to let you know that we now have arrived in Leningrad. We shall stay here a few days, but here is such a lot to see that the time will pass very quickly. I will write again. Give my love to all. Good-bye Love Nina

Mrs. A. Monk  
 104 Broomhall Rd.  
 Mr Blackley  
 Manchester  
 England.

Manchester

Dear Ann! Just a few lines to let you know that we now have arrived in Leningrad. We shall stay here a few days, but here is such a lot to see that the time will pass very quickly. I will write again. Give my love to all. Good-by. Love Nina.



Hello everybody!

First of all, please don't get angry with me, that I did not write to you sooner, but somehow I just don't have the time.

Well where shall I start now?

Firstly I shall thank you all once more for your lovely present which is admired by all who see it, to people it is a nice clock, to me it brings warm memories, memories of my good friends, who I hope miss me same as I miss them.

Dearest Girls! I suppose Ann would have told you by now, Bruno and I got married and he is still just as silly as he used to be, I mean bad tempered, I suppose there is no cure for it, or is there? Bruno is working down the

Hello everybody!

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the mine, I am not working yet.

Soon we shall have a flat of our own then I will go to work, but not to sew anymore, I shall try something different, perhaps Sam will send me some of them lovely costumes to do? You know the ones that has got a fancy pocket on it.

Dear Girls, as soon as we get the flat, I shall invite you all to come and see me, the flat are here very very nice.

Well Girls, I suppose that will be all for now, please write to me soon, at least one word each of you. My love to all of you.  
Good-by & God bless you all.

Dearest Girls! I suppose Ann would have told you by now, Bruno and I got married and he is still just as silly as he used to be, I mean bad tempered, I suppose there is no cure for it, or is there? Bruno is working down the mine, I am not working yet. Soon we shall have a flat of our own then I will go to work, but not to sew anymore, I shall try something different, perhaps Sam will send me some of them lovely costumes to do? You know the ones that has got a fancy pocket on it.

Dear Girls, I suppose that will be all for now, please write to me soon, at least one word each of you. My love to all of you.

Good-by God bless you all.



Дружок - По  
Дневной работы об.  
р-к.и.и. Дзержинского Ларьковская ул. №4. кбд.

Dearest Ann!

I am very sorry, that I have not answered your letter for such a long, but I suppose you'll understand how it is when one gets home after such a long time, meeting old friends, making new ones.

Dearest Ann, I don't think there is any need for me to describe my mother's as well as my own feelings when we did meet, as a mother yourself, you will know.

Dear Ann, I am not working yet, I am getting really good rest. I think, Bruno and I will be going to Moscow next week, to see his people.

Dearest Ann, I am sorry to hear, that your Lilly is not any better, yet I do hope everything will be alright. Please write and tell me how is

everything? How are all the girls at work? Does Ann Clark still on the diet? She should see the women here, almost everybody keep on saying to me how thin I am, which of course, by the English standard I am not, far from it.

How is Sam, is he still complaining about everything, as he used to do? Dear Ann, remember how I used to wish for the sunshine, well I have got it here, and plenty of it, it is really ~~funny~~ funny, how everybody here wishes to stay white, instead of getting sunburnt.

And so dearest, I will close for now I shall write to you very soon.

Lots of love from us both  
To you all.

Please remember me and give my love to everybody at work, including Sam of course.

Good by and  
please write soon. Nina Brun

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Please remember me and give my love to everybody at work, including Sam of course.

Good by and please write soon.

Nina Brun



Dearest Ann!

I don't know why, but have not had a letter from you for some time now, I really had only one letter since I came home, not long ago I had one from Mrs. Pace, I was very happy to see it, at the moment we just have come back from Moscow ~~and~~ we been there to visit Bruno's parents.

But now we are back here again, Bruno is working down the pit, I did also try, but here they sew absolutely differently from what I am used to, and so, either I will have to learn as it is done here, or try my hand on something else, I don't know yet. Dearest Ann! you can congratulate me with my ~~to~~ marriage to Bruno of course. But somehow I am very

sorry about the feelings between my mother and myself, I don't know but they just don't seem to be as they were before, perhaps because of the long parting, but we have become sort of strangers, and somehow we just cannot agree with each other, I suppose my mother thinks, I am still just a little girl and have to be doll about everything, it makes me so depressed and unhappy, of course I hope that with the time everything will be alright.

Dear Ann, please try and write to me a little more often. I do look forward for your letters, and please ask the girls also to write to me. And you yourself write to me about everything, the work, your family, Lilly, Joyce and the children, how

Dearest Ann!

I don't know why, but have not had a letter from you for some time now, I really had only one letter since I came home, not long ago I had one from Mrs. Pace, I was very happy to see it, at the moment we just have come back from Moscow. We been there to visit Bruno's parents. But now we are back home again, Bruno is working down the pit, I did also try, but here they sew absolutely differently from what I am used to, and so, either I will have to learn as it is done here, or try my hand on something else, I don't know yet. Dearest Ann! You can congratulate me with my marriage to Bruno of course. But somehow I am very sorry about the feelings between my mother and myself.

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Dear Ann, please try and write to me a little more often. I do look forward for your letters, and please ask the girls also to write to me. And you yourself write to me about everything, the work, your family, Lilly, Joyce and the children, how is Sam? Why does he not write to me at least in your letter a couple of words, is he still as nervous as he used to be? Does he still complain about money?



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Dear Ann, remember my saying about  
having a good long rest, well I did,  
the weather here was wonderful,  
sunshine and very little rain, and  
we travel with Bruno quite a bit,  
and seen some lovely places, I hope  
that some day you will be able to come  
and see us. I think that before  
New Year we will have a flat  
of our own, the flats here are  
very nice and convenient, of course  
I hope to find some work to suit  
me before then, because I just cannot  
sit at home doing nothing.  
And so my Dear, I shall close  
for now, I do hope to hear

Dear Ann, remember my saying about having a good long rest, well I did, the weather here was wonderful, sunshine and very little rain, and we travel with Bruno quite a bit, seen some lovely places, I hope that some day you will be able to come and see us. I think that before New Year we will have a flat of our own, the flats here are very nice and convenient, of course I hope to find some work to suit me before then, because I just cannot sit at home doing nothing.

And so my Dear, I shall close for now, I do hope to hear from you very soon.

Please give my love to all the girls, Sam, Jack, Wolfe, Phillip, and to all your family at home.

With lots of love to you from your Nina and Bruno.

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the girls, Sam, Jack, Wolfe  
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P.S. My Dear Ann, I was half way to the  
post with this letter, when I saw our  
postman and he give me a letter from  
you, so of course I just had to open the  
envelope and let you know that I have  
received at long last a letter, for which  
I do thank you very very much, I  
shall write an answer to-morrow  
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Your present is packed away waiting on the new flat, and I hope that you also think of me when you look at my present to you, which I hope you do very often, look well after it because my thoughts are very often by it.

Dear Ann, I am sorry to hear about Lily I do hope everything will be all right I am also sorry about Ann Clark troubles but I suppose that is something nobody can help her.

And I am very sorry about your mistakes I wish I could help you.

Dearest Ann by the time you get this letter I hope to be in a flat of our own, and then of course I shall invite you to come and see us next summer. And so my Dear I will close for now I shall write to you again very soon and to Sam also.

With lots of love from us

both and bless your heart that you write to us at least sometimes.

By-by for now.  
Nina and Bruno.  
Moscow.

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Dearest Ann!

I don't know does it only seem so, or I really forgot when I had a letter from you, of course not to count the little letter I got with the Xmas cards, for which I have wrote, thanking you and all the girls, for not forgetting about me. Oh Dearest, I do wish to keep on writing to you but I don't know what about. So far there is no change, I mean we are still waiting on the flat, my mother is still the same.

Dear Ann, please ask Sam why does he not answer my letter, and would you mind very much writing to Henry Suss 36 Campbell Rd. Swinton, asking him what is the matter him not answering my 3 letters.

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2.

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If you only knew, how happy I feel when I get a letter from you. I do hope that you will be able to come and see me some day, if you fly to Moscow from Manchester Ringway, then I will meet you in Moscow, if you go by ship from London to Leningrad, then you will go to Moscow with all the tourists, this way is longer, but cheaper, no matter how you come you won't get lost.

Well Dearest I shall close for now.  
Please write soon.

Give my love to all your family and all the girls, Sam and

Phillip.

Good-bye God bless  
Look well after my present.  
Lots of love  
Nina and Bruno.

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Give my love to all your family and all the girls, Sam and Phillip.

Good-bye God bless

Look well after my present. Lots of love Nina and Bruno



My Dearest Ann!

First of all I must say my Dear, that it has been a very long time since I had a letter from you, what is the reason, I mean you writing so little, I have wrote to Sam, but also I got no answer. Last night I dreamed about you and my present that I have given you, I suppose because my thoughts are very often by it.

Dearest Ann, how did you spend the New Year holidays, I hope that your summer holidays you will spend the way I ask you to, but until then I do wish you would write to me a little more oftener, I think you do know how much I miss you, the feelings between my mother and myself are just the

same as they were before. We are still living at my friends place, but I have seen the flat we are to get, it is really a very nice, only I do wish they would ~~hurry~~ hurry with it. Everything else is just the way as before. Bruno is working, rather not just now, he has hurt his finger and is now on the insurance, but he gets his full wages. I am not working yet, but hope too when we have settled down in the new flat. Bruno gets quite a good wage, but we need a lot just now too. I mean we have to buy all the furniture now, and that is why I am sorry that I did not try to bring my own with me. We have bought some things already but we still need a lot. Everything here, as you know, is cash.

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Dearest Ann, anyway before you come to visit us we shall have everything we need, because for a few years I don't have to spend money on anything else, only the furniture.



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again women's book "Home", or "Women",  
because I shall like to know the dress  
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there.

Well Dearest I shall close for now  
Give my love to all your family  
and all the girls at work not  
forgetting Sam and Phillip.

Please write soon.

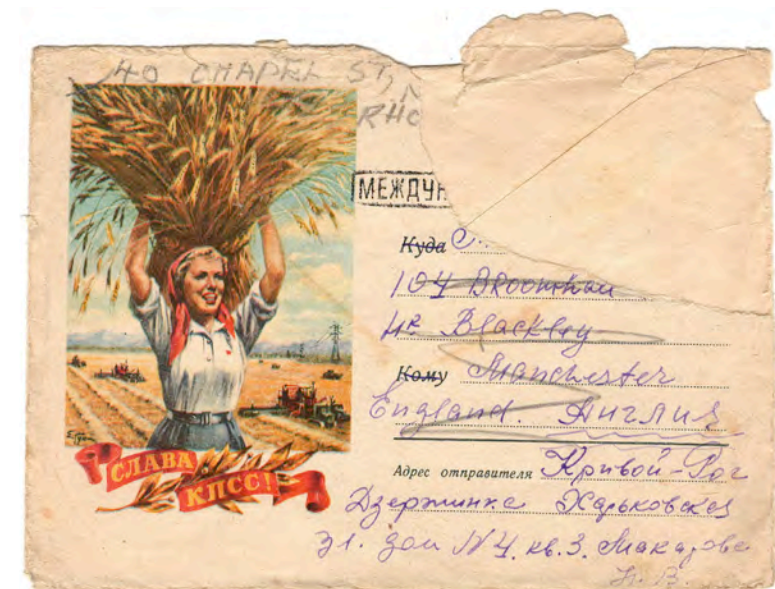
With lots of love to you Nina and  
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Please write soon.

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Dearest Ann!

First of all let me thank you from the bottom of my heart for your dear card and the letter, you know, I thought that you have forgotten all about me, I wrote to you twice, but no answer, up till now, and please give my love and my greatest thanks to all the girls for their card, it is very lovely and very nice of them to remember me. I have wrote to all of you, but you did not mention anything about it, you must have it by now. I have also wrote to Sam answering his letter it was very nice of him, to write to me.

Dearest Ann, I also miss you and all the girls, we had many good laughs, the thing you were trying to explain to me I don't know, they don't have them here the people over here are far more serious

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They don't easily accept anything new, of course I shall like to know what are the latest stile is, Ann please find out at the post office if you can send me "Women and Home" if you can please do so at least once in two months.

Dearest Ann, we shall have a flat this month at the moment we haven't got any furniture, it means we have to buy everything, I am sorry that I did not try somehow to bring my own furn. with me, I should had at least brought with me the radio, record player and records, but I suppose that by next year we shall have most of the things we need, I would like very much if you can come and see us and stay with us as long as you like, I would like to have the pleasure to pay back for all the kindness I have from you and all the people I knew.

Dearest Ann, what sort of weather you have

if you can send me 'Women and Home' if you can please do so at least once in two months.

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Dearest Ann, what sort of weather you have over there, here is the beginning of a real winter, frost and snow, and I am sorry that I did not buy myself before fur boots, the black ones I have are not much good over here.



Over there, here is the beginning of a real winter, frost and snow, and I am sorry that I did not buy myself before fur boots, the black ones I have are not much good over here.

Dear Ann. I am glad that Lily has got at least something for her accident.

Well Dear. I will close my letter for now. I shall write soon.

Please give my love to everybody  
to your family and all the girls  
at work not forgetting Sam and  
Phillip-

Please write to me soon

With lots of love from us both  
Nina and Bruno.

P.S. I never thought it could be  
possible to miss anyone the way  
I miss you. Honestly.

Love Nina.

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My Dearest Ann!

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Yes I ~~would~~ wanted to tell you about my new place. It has got two very large rooms, a large kitchen with gas cooker, and cold storage under the window two large pantrys, toilet, bathroom with heater and sprayer

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Yes I wanted to tell you about my new place. It has got two very large rooms, a large kitchen with gas cooker, and cold storage under the window two large pantrys, toilet, bathroom with heater and sprayer all white

all white flushed doors and beetroot floor, so the place is really very nice, rather it would be still nicer if I had some furniture in it, but so far we have only a bed table and six chairs, never mind in a year or two we shall have everything we need. Bruno is making me a dressing table, very nice, but still it got to be hidden, I mean covered up. He also made me a coffee-table but that I don't have to cover up. I would like some maroon, beet-root, green or pink satin but that is expensive here, so I have asked Sam when he comes to visit us to bring some with him, I will pay him with rubels, you know our money. And Ann love, I got so fat, that nothing will fit me, Bruno got a lot thinner, when really it should be

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The other way round.

My Dearest Ann! as far as the winter is concerned, it got me frightened at first but only for a few day since then we had hardly any snow it is quite warm. Ann love, I also think that it is much better for you to be with Joyce and Len, it must be very lonely for you alone in the house, and it is better for Joyce too, is she still working? how does Rikky likes the school? how is Lilly with her arm? And how is Ann C. with the smoking and slimming? I still do smoke, but I do ~~now~~ have a loving for a Senior Ser.

Dearest Ann, with my mother we are same as before, I do wish you could be her, I do hope that you will come and see me, I do miss you and all the girls, tell them I remember them everytime I look at the time

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Dearest Ann, with my mother we are the same as before, I do wish you could be her, I do hope that you will come and see me, I do miss you and all the girls, tell them I remember them everytime I look at the time and I always think of Pauline, every morning and your present stands at the centre of the table, I hope you always think of me when you look at my present my thoughts are very often by it.

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Ann love, I wrote a letter to all the girls, have they got it? if so tell them they are a lazy lot if they don't want to answer it. Shame on them. Dearest Ann, please register your letter I get them then in about 2-3 week otherwise it takes about 4-5.

Give my love to Joyce, Len, Rikky Andria, Lilly and all the girls at work tell them I miss them terrible much. Chirio, good-by  
God bless.

With lots of love  
Nina and Bruno

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My Dearest Ann!

I did not receive an answer from you on my last letter, but I just wanted to write to, if only a few lines and to tell you how much I miss you and how I am hoping to see you again, yes that would have been my greatest pleasure.

My Dear Ann! How did you go on with your new job? How are the girls? Are they just as good as ours used to be? They were a good and friendly lot, I do miss them all very much.

Remember I told you that the friends that also came home were staying with us, well they have gone away and now I am on my own I mean with Bruno. Bruno is still working at his old job and I am at my new one. It seems to be quite all right. But the girls are not

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I did not receive an answer from you on my last letter, but I just wanted to write to, if only a few lines and to tell you how much I miss you and how I am hoping to see you again, yes that would have been my greatest pleasure.

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Remember I told you that the friends that also came home were staying with us, well they have gone away and now I am on my own I mean with Bruno. Bruno is still working at his job and I am at my new one it seems

as good as at Sam's, but I don't bother myself with them.

My Dearest Ann, I promised to send something for the children, please forgive me that I still haven't done it, but to be quite honest, my finance is not up to much just now, since they people have gone away I have an empty room, and room itself is also in a mess, summer is coming and I need new shoes and dresses, I hadn't any summer frocks and one needs them here, so I really don't know where to start and what to get first. I will do it as soon as I could.

Well my Dearest, I shall close for now. Give my love to all your family.

With lots of love

to you your Nina.

P.S. I still have the stockings you send me, it is almost 5 months I never take them off. Thank you once more

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Well my Dearest, I shall close for now. Give my love to all of your family.

With lots of love to you your Nina.

P.S. I still have the stockings you send me, it is almost 5 months I never take them off. Thank you once more.





My Very Dearest Ann!  
First of all I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your dear letter, I was not being angry or anything like that with you, because I could not remember if I had answered your last letter, I was just going to write to you again, when I received your letter and the lovely pictures that you send me, how wonderful they are, and how very thoughtful of you, God bless you love. My Darling Ann, I am so glad that you had such a good run of work, so now being on the dole will give you a chance of a little rest, that is if the children will let you, they must be big now? Oh, how I long to see you and everybody I don't think I can find the words to express my

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Every time I look at the clock  
everything seem to turn over inside  
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I could be so "homesick".  
My Dearest Ann! how sorry I am  
that you could not come over here,  
I know it is a very long way of  
and it cost a lot of money, but  
if you could have come at least  
to Moscow, we shall be there  
in August, how I would have  
liked to see you, you know that  
in you I used to have a very  
Dear friend and sort of a mother,  
but now I have none.  
My Dearest Ann! it does hurt  
me a little, that Sam cannot  
find the time or energy to write

My Dearest Ann! How sorry I am that you could not come over here, I know it is a very long way of and it cost a lot of money, but if you could have come at least to Moscow, we shall be there in August, how I would have liked to see you, you know that in you I used to have a very dear friend and sort of a mother, but now I have none.

My Dearest Ann! It does hurt me a little, that Sam cannot find the time or energy to write to me at least a few lines, but of course it isn't only him, even my other friends they don't want to write anymore. I kept on writing but I don't, almost don't get any answers.

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My Dearest Ann! please if you  
can send me a few, 2-3 cartons  
of hairclips, you know the sort  
that I used to set my hair with.  
Ann love, please forgive me my writing  
it is horrible I know, but I just  
seem to have lost control of my  
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My very Dearest only friend!  
please write to me a little more  
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letters, they seem to bring me  
 sort of a peace in my heart.  
 Please remember me to all the girls  
 and tell them that never a day  
 goes by without me remembering  
 them all and I miss you all  
 very, very much, tell Ann C. that  
 I shall write to her, and Lily I am  
 so very sorry I am horrible I know  
 I will answer her to-morrow,  
 Well my Dearest I will close for  
 now. Give my love to everybody in  
 your family. With lots of love to you  
 your true friend Nina.  
 Ann perhaps it would be easier  
 for you, to write my address  
 this way.

~~КРИВОЙ~~ КРИВОЙ-РОГ  
 ДЗЕРЖИНКА  
 2<sup>й</sup> НИКОПОЛЬСКИЙ ПЕР. 98 КВ.  
 А. А. 8. КВ. 45 МАКАРОВА Н. В.

МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЕ

Куда Mrs. A. ...  
 Daisy Bank Road  
 Keaton Bradford  
 Кому Your friends England.  
 A H 2 A 8  
 Адрес отправителя London W 2  
 98 2 Дзержинский 2/45  
 Макарова

My very dearest only friend! Please write to me a little more often, I do look forward to your letters, they seem to bring me sort of a peace in my heart. Please remember me to all the girls and tell them that never a day goes by without me remembering them all and I miss you all very, very much, tell Ann C that I shall write to her, and Lily. I am so very sorry, I am horrible I know I will answer her tomorrow. Well my Dearest I will close for now. Give my love to everybody in your family. With lots of love to you your fine friend Nina.

Ann perhaps it would be easier for you, to write my address this way.



My Very dearest Ann!  
Please forgive me my long silence, I mean it is a week since I got your letter and did not answer all this time, but I am rather busy at the time, I told you before that I don't want to sew any anymore, so I am learning to be a telephonist and I don't know how it is over there but here I have to know over 900 names and they numbers, so I really have study hard, and somehow or other it does not seem to hold in my head, but I don't give up, but so far I do like it, it is really a change from sewing, so I suppose you will forgive me now that you know the reason.  
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calendar and still lovelier & nylons, and you know that they come just in right time, just before that, I mean at the time I got your first letter I was in bed with kidney trouble and flu as well, and then I had to go to hospital for an examination and I had not any stockings and I got your present thank you, thank you again very much, and the lovely calendar, everybody say how lovely it is. But you have to forgive me, that I cannot send you a Xmas card we have none any here, but I shall send something for the children.  
Yes my Darling, Bruno is not ideal and it proves once more when he open the letter you send me, and

My Dearest Ann! I thank you very much for the lovely calendar and still lovelier nylons, and you know that came just in right time, just before that, I mean at the time I got your first letter I was in bed with kidney trouble and flu as well, and then I had to go to hospital for an examination and I had not any stockings and I got your present thank you, thank you again very much, and the lovely calendar, everybody say how lovely it is. But you have to forgive me, that I cannot send you a Xmas card we have none any here, but I shall send something for the children.

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started swearing out me, he really thinks that he is perfect, yes love we all make mistakes,, but I made the biggest mistake of all" you know that song with such a line in it? perhaps you will be able to send me all the words from it.

Say Dearest Ann! how is the work now? I got the letter from Sam and I shall answer it this week

How are you getting on, how is the family, how is your health? remember me writing and telling you that I got fat, well now I am thinner that than I used to be in England, my nerves seem to be like strings lately, I smoke a lot and eat very little, I think I shall feel better when I start working, the sooner the better.

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My Dearest Ann, please do not mention about Bruno in your letters because he opens all my letters

Say Dearest Ann, please do not mention about Bruno in your letters because he opens all my letters and I have enough trouble with him as it is some day perhaps I shall tell you all about it so far it seems that I am no good enough for him. Perhaps some day you shall be coming to see me and then you will know all there is to know.

Well my Darling, I shall close for to-night it is 12<sup>15</sup>p.m. I do feel sleepy. Please give my love to all the girls and Sam and of course to all the family.

Good-night, Good-by and  
God bless you my  
Dearest friend.

With lots of love your Nina

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My Dearest Ann!

It is such a long time since I had a letter from you, only I think, my Dear, that it was me, that did not answer your last letter. Yes Dear that's right, I did not thank you for the hair grips, thank you very my love.

Ann Dearest, I had not had a letter from Joe now for some time, but then of course, I wrote to him, I had to, and ask him, not to write to me for the time been. I do write to him very often. Ann Dearest, you know sometimes I think I am not able to shake of any more, I mean that sort of life that I am having now. Even my mother said that I were the stupidest thing in the world to waste my life the way I do with Bruno.

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But, I think I have tell you how difficult it is here with the rooms it is almost impossible, so I just don't have anywhere to go. And then to get a divorce I need the money of course but where can I get it, and to sell something, I don't know what, what length suits we had, we sold them long ago, some of the things I have they are not up to much, perhaps just a costume, the new one, of course I shall never be able to make an other one myself after that, but I suppose there is nothing else I can do.

Ann Dearest, if you only knew what a horrible thing Bruno said about me I mean quite serious, you know that sort of lies that could get me into trouble, and that is why I had to ask Joe to stop writing to me for a time, because Bruno said that he will do me something dirty if I don't stop writing to Joe, and that is after himself telling me that he has nothing against Joe writing to me, because we will have to part anyway. He even encouraged me to write to Joe, and then..., well I really think it was a real dirty trick to do.

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Ann Dearest, just how stupid and blind I must have been when I decided to marry him, you remember all the little things I used to tell you, what he used to say to me, when we were only friends, I must have thought then that worse were to come. Well I don't know really what I am going to do, but something

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I have to do, before I go out of my head. Ann Dearest! please write to me a little more often, if you only knew how lonely, lost and alone I feel sometimes I feel it is unbearable.

Ann Dear! how do you go on? do you still work a little? how is the family, have you been to Manchester? Well my Dearest, that is about all for to-day, I'll write again soon. Good-bye and God bless you. Give my love to all your family. With lots of love to you  
your Nina.

Ann Dear, How do you go on? Do you still work a little? How is the family, have you been to Manchester? Well my Dearest, that is about all for to-day, I'll write again soon. Good-bye and God bless you. Give my love to all your family.

With lots of love to you. Your Nina.



My very Dearest Ann!  
I don't know why, but it is now some time since I had a letter from you I wrote to you twice but no answer, I do hope that everything is all right with you. I can't say that much for myself. You remember I told you that my stomach has dropped down about 4 inch. it has got much better but not all that good, then I had the kidney inflammation it still bothers me all the time, then lately I had the eczema through the various conditions it is all right if I don't do anything with my hand, I mean don't even wash the dishes, not to mention a big washing, the varicose veins I had even then you remember? They are very painful, and now from the 22 girls that we have at our work my manager

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has selected me to go and work at the collective farm work, for 20 days and that is with my health, or else he told me to leave the work, but I can't go to work there because I can't, and to leave the work I also can't do, because where else can I work? so what must I do? Ann love, I got so upset, that the eczema is coming back again and I had a damn good cry. Last year the doctor has told me that I must have an operation on my leg, I went to him this year and now I am going into hospital to have that operation, but here they do not operate like in England over there they cut a little under the knee that's all but here I am going to have a cut all over the leg, on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> June I shall have the operation.  
Well Dearest all together I feel

So what must I do? Ann love, I got so upset that the eczema is coming back again and I had a damn good cry. Last year the doctor has told me that I must have an operation on my leg, I went to him this year and now I am going into hospital to have that operation, but here they do not operate like in England over there they cut a little under the knee that's all but here I am going to have a cut all over the leg, on Monday the 19th June I shall have the operation.

Well Dearest all together I feel horrible, Bruno has gone mad all together on Sunday he got stupid drunk somewhere I don't know, it was my day of work I get everything well and clean done a big washing, had a nice dinner ready just waiting for him to come home, yes he did come, but right away started breaking up everything that come under his hand, from the table were only little pieces left, the radiogram all to bits the



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Well my Dearest that is all for today.

Give my love to your family and all the girls.

With lots of love to you. Nina.



My very Dearest Ann!  
I just don't know what is the matter but everybody seem to have forgotten about my existens, not one single letter from anyone. Ann Dearest, if you only knew how hard it is for me to go on just waiting and hoping, it is true said that "the Hope is mother of all people", I think if I had nothing to hope for I just would die, even if I do realise that I have very little to hope for. I have wrote to Joe 5 letters but I did not have any answers. I am afraid that someday I shall do something terrible, I feel that I have nothing more to live and hope for. My homelessness is just unbearable. Oh, God, what would I give to stop the pain in my heart. I would be glad to lose the ~~more~~ memory.

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Ann Dearest, if you only knew how much tears have I shed when no one sees me, Ann, Ann love, I don't know how to go on, how to stop myself from being homesick. I love my country and my people, but that does not stop me from loving you and your people who haven't done anything for me but good. It is more than I can say for ~~my~~ the girls I am working with. Some of them are very bad, I mean something like last year. I received an anonymous letter it was a real black-mailer, in that letter I were called very bad names and told to leave the work before I shall be forced to do so, I took the letter to the police (~~police~~) but that was the last I have seen the letter or heard anything about it, when I asked

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My Dearest Ann, if I could see you  
for a little while if it were only for  
a few days I am sure I would feel  
just like newborn person, it would be  
just like good home for me, only a  
week just one single week would do  
the world of good to me. But...  
that is where my imaginations end.  
Ann love, there is no words that can  
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My Dearest Ann, if I could see you for a little while if it were only for a few day's I am sure I would feel just like newborn person, it would be just like good home for me, only a week just one single week would do the world of good to me. But...that is where my imaginations end. Ann love, there is no words that can express all that is going on in my heart but if you could see it you would be shocked.

My very Dearest Ann! I am sorry that I have to write to you all this but haven't anyone that I can talk so openly to as to you.

Well my dearest that will be all for to-day please write to me soon, and please write to Joe and ask him, why did he stopped writing to me.

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Please remember me to your  
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With lots of love to you  
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A handful of letters and lots of questions that will never be answered. What happened to Nina? What happened to Bruno? How did the story end?

And a glimpse into Russia of the 1950s, conditions, life style and attitudes to life. The letters are very sad, despite a hopeful and child like beginning. And what was Nina doing in Manchester, England at a time of strained relations between two nations? And how long was she there? Certainly long enough to learn the language well...or did she speak English before she came?

So many questions.













