

### Edna's letter

Victoria College  
Women's Residence  
University of Toronto.  
Toronto, Ontario

December 7th., 1983

Dear mother and dad,

It has been three month since I left for college. I have been remiss in writing, and I very sorry for my thoughtlessness in not having written before. I will bring you up to date now. But, before you read, please sit down. O.K?

Well then, I am getting along pretty well now. The skull fracture and the concussion I got when I jumped out of the window of my dormitory when it caught fire shortly after my arrival are pretty well healed now. I only spent two weeks in the hospital, and now I can see almost normally and get those sickly headaches only once in a while.

Fortunately, the fire in the dormitory and my jump were witnessed by an attendant at the gas station near the dorm, and he was the one who called the fire department and the ambulance. He also visited me at the hospital, and since I had nowhere to live because of the burned out dorm, he was kind enough to invite me to share his apartment with him. It is really a basement room, but it's kind of cute. He is a very fine boy and we have fallen deeply in love and are planning to get married. We haven't set the date yet, but it will be before my pregnancy begins to show.

Yes, mother and dad, I am pregnant. I know how much you are looking forward to being grandparents, and I know you will welcome the baby and give it the same love and devotion and tender care that you gave me when I was a child. The reason for the delay in our marriage is that my boyfriend has some minor infection which prevents us from passing our premarital blood tests, and I carelessly caught it from him. This will soon clear up with the penicillin injections I am now taking daily.

I know you will welcome him into our family with open arms. He is kind, and although not well-educated, he is ambitious. Although he is of a different race and religion than ours, I know your often expressed tolerance will not permit you to be bothered by these facts.

Now that I have brought you up to date, I want to tell you that there was no dormitory fire, I did not have a concussion or a skull fracture, I was not in hospital, I am not pregnant, I am not engaged, I do not have syphilis, and there is no one in my life. However, I am getting a D in History and an F in Science, and I wanted you to see these marks in their proper perspective.

Your loving daughter,

Edna.

### QUESTIONS

1. Tell the letter in about 80 words.
2. Where is the girl from?
3. Where does she study?
4. What marks has she got in History and Science?
5. Why does she tell lies to her family?
6. Would you do the same? Why?
7. Vocabulary:

Skull:            Concussion:  
Blood test:    Dormitory