

Acc2019/74 Louise Garcia – letter to grandmother, 28th November 1984

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Dear Nanny,

Thank you for your two
letters – I think I shall award you
a prize for being my best correspondent
whenever I'm feeling in a 'yuk-soggy
toast and double maths lecture' mood first
thing in the morning as I view the day
ahead, there's a nice pink envelope
waiting in my pigeon hole to make me
look on the bright side again!

I am just about to go over
to college to have dinner with the Deans –
the two Deans of Arts and the Dean of Divinity
+ and special mystery (?) guest position
themselves round the table + swop places
with every course so that they have
an opportunity to talk to all of
us – they also supply huge quantities
of sherry, port and madeira to encourage
a festive atmosphere, so it should be
quite fun.

Tomorrow Elizabeth is coming – I
am playing hockey in the afternoon,
after which I shall meet her from the

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railway station. I have just bought
lots of goodies to have for tea, + then
we are going out to dinner with
another friend, Richard, + to see 'The
Scarlet Pimpernel' at the theatre; and

then, I suppose, we will talk all
night + get no sleep at all!

I suddenly felt rather unhealthy
a week ago so I went to the
market and bought a huge carrier bag
bursting with fruit + vegetables, as I
thought that would be what you would
suggest. I've made some stewed apple, +
some poached pears, + lots of
ratatouille. Yesterday I walked round
the Botanic Gardens for half an hour
before my tutorial as I was in such
a panic about it because I thought
my essay was dreadful + that
he'd ask me lots more ghastly
questions that I couldn't answer,
but despite my forebodings he ~~was~~
said my essay was very good (extremely
high praise from him – this is Doctor
Roberts, by the way, my tutor) + that
he has been very pleased with my
progress this term, which was a
huge relief because I had a nasty
feeling that amongst all these
clever people here my work would
be rather mediocre - + , even more
amazing, Professor Southwood, who
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is extremely famous + brilliant +
awe-inspiring, wrote 'excellent' on the
practical I did for him: +
considering I'd rushed through it

during a 1-hour lecture on
dinosaurs because I'd forgotten to do
it + it had to be handed in, I
was extremely pleased! Next week
we have President's collections,
where our tutors talk about us to
the President while we stand on
the hearthrug feeling awful – mine is
only a little while after Viscount Althorp's
so perhaps I'll accidentally arrive early so
as to be able to say I've actually seen this
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elusive creature!

Isn't it amazing – I went to see a
performance of "Ruddygore" last week +
saw the name of someone I was at school
with at T.H. on the programme – I tracked
her down in the dressing room afterwards
+ she's up here doing a secretarial
course. It was so nice to see her again
as we used to be good friends but
we lost touch when she went away to
boarding school. Will be coming back on
the 8th December, so I expect I'll see you
next week – love Lulu xxx