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From: drummond <drummond@drumna.co.uk>

Sent: 10 January 2026 15:52

To: Aad Dirkzwager (mailto:djatirot@me.com) <mailto:djatirot@me.com>

Subject:

Dear Adrian

J

Juliette has sent on to me the notice about VERA. My dear friend, I am so sorry, and my heart goes out to you.

I feel certain that with your philosophy you will try to rationalise your emotions, but in my experience, nothing quite like that will work. The loss of one's lifetime's partner cannot be rationalised. It cuts too deep. What does work, however, is the store of happy memories left within your head.

When I first turned to them for comfort, I found them a touch depressing, and they brought tears to my eyes. Somehow, I felt that was wrong, and, all at once, I realised that my memories of love should bring gentle smiles of happiness, not tears.

Now I look back in my mind, while with my eyes I look at one of the pictures of her, that hang around my room, and I smile a big smile, and think, "yes, girl. We had some great times together, didn't we".

I remember some happy times with you two, and with you alone, in your magic roof garden! Then last time we met, in the Rijksmuseum, after a splendid lunch in a place you knew.

Afterwards you sent me a lovely picture in memory of your mother. On the back was a picture you took of Evert pushing me past Rembrandt's "the Jewish bride". I have it still.

In time, and when it feels right, do see if you could make your way to England, and visit me here. I am sure that either Susie or Juliette will have a bed to spare.

Again, my heart is with you, my old and valued friend.

Drummond