

Miss Lloyd and Miss Julia Lloyd
Avondbloem[?][Address on the first fold of the letter]

15th October 1862.

My own darlings,

I do trust that this may reach you soon. We are all alive – and safe and well. The steamer ran ashore near Struys bay I think they call it – but we are all safe – and I never can feel grateful enough that all the dear precious lives were spared – (even to the ship cat and poor old Kertch the dog.) I am so grieved that of course the parcels with which others had entrusted me are lost with my things – one box of mine was floated ashore – containing Mrs Barne's parcel and ?? ??? through – not my jewel box. Mrs ?? bracelets and Mrs Snells? And dear M's parcel which I thought I put so safely in my small boxes – I fear I shall not see again. I do not feel as if I ever would take a parcel for anyone again. I do feel so very vexed that they should have been lost under my care. When I think of the vessel and what my dear Captain and everyone has lost. I do not think about these lesser things;?? it is always distressing not to be able to keep a trust – it was Struys point when we ran on the reef they say –they were so brave and good and kind to us on board the poor Steamer. I shall never forget Captain Joss and Mr Stuart and the other men were very kind to me too. It was on this night of the twelfth it happened – last night (14th) we were brought to a dutch farmer's house where we have been so kindly received. We are many many miles from Cape Town, between one and two

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hundred if not more. A means of progress are at present a little uncertain. The Kadir[?] (little steam tug) is to come to Struys bay for the passengers but she will be very small and crowded and I shall try if I can (being alone) to get on land – because I shall feel the need for protection in that steamer among the soldiers and other people – if dear Captain Joss and Mr Stuart should not go – I mean the other Kadir officers must go (of the Kadir).I cant write more my darlings. There is so much to be settled round and such infinite interruptions – I shall earnestly hope and trust to be with dear Wilhelm soon – and above all – to see you two my darlings safe again at some not very far off day.

I am so very very grateful that all our lives were spared. I felt so frightened about this last water over until I saw dear Captain Joss and all safe on shore. – They sent us women off in the first boat that left of course and I watched all the rest of the night on the shore – until about 9:00 or so in the morning when the last landed – We struck at midnight I think [last line illegible]

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as if there is any ?? to care for – I felt so very very grateful that you all could know nothing of it while it lasted – and that above all, all who loved us were spared the misery of hearing that we had died so – that was by far the worst thought of all. Oh my own darlings – I cannot bear to think how it all might have been. I shall have so very very much to tell you when we meet and I will tell my naughty J?? this – that if anything I could do could prevent it I would not let her go to England or even to Cape Town alone.

Dear Captain Joss has been very very kind. And in all his serious anxiety I of course try not inconvenience him in the least by allowing him to be troubled with my minor ones – and I try to deliver him from as much as I can – Goodbye and God keep you my own darlings _ as He always does. My love to dear Mrs Mele?? – you will tell her how grieved I am about her parcel – a box may float ashore and I fear all would be certainly ruined inside – They are down there watching for what may float up. The vessel parted all [illegible] I think it was [illegible]

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?? While a boat had gone out and safe ?? and Mr Stuart had to spring back for his life from the deck house to the other part.

My love to dear Madame I am sorry her little present for Mary Shell is lost – and my best love to the dear Sandersons by a strange chance their vases for dear Jemmi were floated up in my box – not their ?? plates – and Mrs Rinsoms ?? I fear are lost too – and all dear J?? things _ I so wish I could see you both only you would be too thrilled through with plain feeling if you heard it all as it is in my head now.

I went back to get out of my little tin cabin box Mr Bleek's cheque for fear of its falling in wrong hands (just on the chance of getting it safe ?? if I got them) and by a chance saved my order on the Cape bank which happened to be in the same envelope – beside the little run in my belt – and it is such a comfort – as there is no way I would like to accept a shilling of their [illegible]. We had a strange (to my thoughts) set of passengers in the [illegible] style. I could not make ?? behind in such ways. It is their way of living afraid put instead many very different creatures

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in the world.

Goodbye and God bless you my own darlings There have been such dear honest and good men and kind men too – in such unlooked for places. I feel I want to get to Wilhelm so much as I cannot get to you and dear Mrs Sanderson. Tell dearest ?? I want her if she can accept it to profit by my experience and not make it for herself now of traveling without a relation and protectors of her own. Being so

much older it is better for ?? to do them for her ?? woman she will ?? find it very bad if she tries it. I hope that you are both well and safe my darlings and dear ?? too.

Mr Jeffers (one of our fellow passengers ??) from when on board was very kind and helpful to me and Mrs Davey was very kind too – but I do not like her husband – he cannot accept protecting rightly as indeed without doing a very

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[illegible first line]

who mean I believe that ?? himself though the practise is at times very strange to my ?? Mrs is very nice indeed. I am glad to.

I must end – goodbye again my darlings I do hope that you may not have heard any reports of the accident before you receive this. I ?? so long to hear from you. I have to go from Port Elisabeth _ if you read this – it may have been a little comfort.

Goodbye again for I must send it my darlings I send this to Wilhelm to forward.

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16th Breda's Dorp

My own darlings – I leave this letter here according to counsel to catch the overland mail of the 18th. We had a good journey here and met with a most kind and affectionate reception from a Dutch family – you cannot think how kind and dear they all are – Mr and Mrs Hellet are very kind and nice to me I go with them as far as Caledon – then in the same wagon with a minister his wife and child to the railway. ?? of best river tomorrow if we get so far. And then it is only and hours ?? traveling to Cape Town. We may reach it on Saturday and if not I hope on Sunday – any way ?? I shall be too late to write to dear Mr and Mrs Wolly.

I must lose?? this – so Goodbye my own precious darlings – be quite easy about me and it all ?? I wish that every one was in as happy a position as I am.