

December 3, 1984

Dear Eliot,

Happy Birthday, dear friend! I hope this day finds you and Aline happy and healthy!

I am sorry for the long lapse in communication this past year. I have written you so many letters in my mind but could never get them down on paper. As you read on, I hope you will understand why.

This has been the most difficult year of my life. Last February George and I separated, and we are about to file for legal separation this month. After the long summer of tension with the Cornell job, lots of problems began to surface for us. We started seeing a counselor, together and separately, that fall. We tried to live together as long as we could; but, our all night talking/ crying sessions began to take a huge toll on us mentally, physically and professionally. We did find the counselor to be of great help, and I still see her religiously.

The saddest thing of all is that we still love each other very much but cannot solve the problems. We have remained as close as possible, considering the terrible circumstances. One of us financially

had to end it, I guess, and George made the decision recently. I know we can remain friends, and hopefully that can grow, but we have a lot of healing to do. We are both so tired of the pain. It's so difficult to let go of over ten years together.

Lumière, George's glass studio, is doing well, and his reputation has grown immensely. Despite this, he has become tired of always being tied to the retail business and really wants to return to photography. He is thinking about renting a studio space for himself and dissolving Lumière when his lease is expired in July.

I took a leave of absence from real estate last winter and spring. I just couldn't concentrate on anything but our problems. This summer I returned and have done quite well. I too want to return to photography if I can figure out how to financially handle it. I still fill "want lists" and help run a camera club I helped start here, but my photographs have been terrible. For a while I couldn't even see images, now I can't seem to capture them. I've never really adapted to my new Nikon F3; it's not part of me yet. I also have two years of uncatalogued slides sitting on

my light table that I just can't seem to touch.

We've also had our house for sale since late summer. I am ready for it to sell, so I can move on to a place of my own and not be surrounded by the past.

I have thought about you so many, many times and yearned for a day in your presence. There is a quieting place about you two. The photograph of you and Aline still sits on my desk and makes me smile. Your beautiful photographs and books are always touching reminders of your special self.

Have a wonderful birthday. I hope I will be out West this winter and can spend some time with you two. My love to you and Aline.

Janie

P.S. George's new address is
27 West Main St.
Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886