

DORLELETTERS1962 L0001 (English)

Holland-America Line

R.M.S. Vancouver Jan 4/62

Dear Ulla, Your birthday is really impractical; Christmas is barely over and it's already too late to wish you a happy birthday. But I wish you all the best belatedly and that all your wishes come true, as far as that's possible. Please excuse the letter for being late, but I'm just very busy with the wedding preparations. I would really like to stay home this last weekend, but it might be mandatory. A few days ago I had a "shower." It's a custom here for a friend to give you a shower, either before the wedding or for a birthday. All the acquaintances are invited, only women and girls; men aren't allowed at a shower. Everyone brings something, and the person the "shower" is for doesn't know anything about it. Yesterday when I came in the door, the light was off in the room and then all of a sudden it went on and everyone yelled "Surprise." To be honest, I knew about it beforehand, but of course I had to act very surprised.

I received many towels, pot holders, gloves, games, and all sorts of things. Eric has already been living in the new apartment for 2 weeks, but I haven't decorated yet, haven't had the time. Imagine, the first fifteen days are already up for staying here. On New Year's it was really like a madhouse. At Christmas, the customers again brought so much chocolate and perfume and cigarettes and alcohol that we were all completely sick. I've already given away two boxes and still have 6 boxes sitting here. Dear Ulla, now I haven't even thanked you for the wonderful calendar yet. I was so delighted with it. How practical, too, that I can use the postcards later. Thank you so much, you made me very happy. Since I'm very short on time, I will write you more later. I wish you once again, all the best and wonderful things for the coming year. Your Uncle I will send you another package after the wedding, but right now I just don't have the time

it wasn't enough