

ing every day we were in Paris, as soon as we crossed the Italian border we had sunshine and warm weather. Though we had no sleep during the night trip through France, we had no trouble staying awake to look at the Italian countryside on the way down. Pat didn't care for Paris at all, but is enchanted with Italy. Moreover, Paris was far too expensive. Though we didn't eat at any of the few expensive places I thought we might be able to squeeze into our budget by living cheaply, we still spent much more than I had planned; and this in spite of the fact that we were almost completely in the hands of a lavish aunt for the last three days.

We arrived at the Academy, ate, and went straight to bed. The next day I got the trunk at the station, and in the evening after dinner took Pat for a walk to see the Campidoglio, the Roman Forum, the Piazza S. Ignazio, the Pantheon. We met [Laurance] Roberts and his wife as soon as we arrived; they were cordial and friendly, as usual. I saw [the archeologist] Frank Brown for just a moment before he left for England and America, and there are two people back again (as I am) who were here when I was here. They were not particularly close friends of mine, and on the whole the group here now is a lot more solemn and less lively than the one I knew before. Of course, these people don't know one another well yet, but it doesn't look too promising. The one exception is the Wilburs, who are living in an apartment away from the Academy but nearby, with their three kids.

Our plans at present are to stay at the Academy for about a month, during which time I plan to do some work and Pat will be taking Italian lessons. After that, we will look around for a cheap place to live. We are both happy and well, and once we get back into a normal routine of eating and sleeping, will be feeling on top of the world.

... with love from us both,  
Tony

[Late October/Early November 1954]  
American Academy, Rome, Italy

[To his parents]  
Dear Folks,

I'm sorry that it should have been so long since you heard from me, and I hope you haven't worried too much; but it has not been out of negligence or laziness that I have delayed. I simply felt very uncertain about a lot of things, and thought it best not to write until I had made up my mind what to do.

Let me put this as briefly as possible. In spite of all precautions to the con-

trary, Pat is pregnant, and I am planning to send her back to New York by plane next week to have something done about it. She will not come to you. She will stay with a friend of hers until she can get a job and find an apartment of her own. I plan to return myself by ship (as I shall have to, what with the trunk and all) as soon as I can. I have not been able to get any work done, and in the frame of mind I'm in, staying here with Pat gone and with other people around me who are and have been working successfully, would only add to my sense of defeat and frustration. The tenure of my Guggenheim is already half gone, and I have nothing to show for it; and the contemplation of this alone is enough to make me feel terrible.

I have told Pat that our return does not mean any alteration in our relationship, though I think that if I had not said this, she would have refused to go home or to have anything done about her pregnancy. I am chiefly concerned that this should be taken care of first.

You can help me in the following ways. First, I shall need some more money transferred to my checking account. I have only just gotten my first bill from the Academy, and will have to pay that and whatever else accrues till the time I leave; plus Pat's passage and mine. Please transfer \$300. Next, when you write, please keep your letters as neutral as possible, because I am telling Pat that I shall write you only that we are coming back to the States, and though I hope I can get her to leave next week, I can never be sure. Third, I suspect that my return may have a devastating effect on Roger, and I hope this can somehow be taken into account. In fact, I will plan not to leave here until I hear what you think ought to be done about this. It is Pat's plan to go back and find an apartment for us, but I am at last certain this is not the solution. However, I can't say this to her while she's pregnant.

I'm sorry to have to write this sort of letter.

Love,  
Tony

[November 1954] American Academy, Rome, Italy

[To his parents]

Dear Folks,

I'm afraid the last letter I sent you was pretty hysterical, but I've calmed down a bit now, and can think a little better. It's not that the situation has changed very much; in fact, for a few days it was worse. Just after I wrote to you, Pat changed her mind, and declared she refused to have an abortion. Her

reason, (aside from the instinctive and maternal one) was that she was sure I was asking this of her as a preliminary to leaving her. We have both calmed down a good deal since then and she has now consented. Tomorrow she has an appointment with a doctor, and we will have a test made. The plans, as we have talked it over, are that if she is pregnant, she is to fly home to stay with her mother and have the abortion done in N.Y. by the doctor who operated on her last spring. If she must tell her mother about it, she will say that the doctor says it is too soon after her operation to have a baby. However, after thinking it over, I have decided on a different and better plan. I am not sure it would be a good thing to let Pat go home, pregnant and alone, to her mother. She might change her mind about the abortion again, or her mother might change it for her. So I have decided that if the test is positive, I shall tell her that we are going to have it done in Switzerland, because it's cheaper there, and I can be with her. After it is done, she can fly back in order to get a job and a place to live; and I suppose I will tell her that I'll follow by boat, though I'm not sure I will—and I'm not even sure I'll tell her that.

The chief thing is this—that I, and you, must be absolutely circumspect. If Pat supposes for an instant that I plan to separate from her, she will refuse to go through with the abortion. Moreover, as I think I wrote you in my last letter, I have told Pat that I have not written to you about any of our difficulties. So that I must ask you again to be very careful. It occurred to me that you might even take it into your heads to fly over, but I don't think this would help matters at all, and it would be sure to do a great deal of harm. Pat still resents me for having confided in you about our previous difficulties. And you must be careful in your letters to give no clue as to what I've written you. For example, if I can manage it, I shall not even tell her I am sending this, so do not acknowledge its receipt. Not even in letters addressed only to me; since if she sees they come from you, she feels entitled to open them. And I can't ask her not to, now, without arousing her suspicion. In case you may have sent something off right after getting my last letter, without taking account of these precautions, I am trying to get to the mailbox every day before she does. But I can't be sure I always will.

If the test tomorrow is negative, I shall ask the doctor to give her something to start menstruation again. If it's positive, we shall leave for Switzerland as soon as possible.

The thing I want to ask you to do is to make sure that Pat is now on my Blue Cross policy. When we go I shall give the number on my own policy, and shall assume that it now covers her. I have no idea how much this will cost, but I do believe that it's cheaper in Switzerland, and moreover, it's legal there.

Hope to be able to write you more cheerful news, though right now things look pretty gloomy.

Oh, I almost forgot. The Partisan Review was very nice.

Love,  
Tony

[December 2, 1954] American Academy, Rome, Italy

[To his parents]

Dear Folks,

Just a note to set your minds at rest; I should have written this a few days ago, but things have been too hectic, and I've been too exhausted.

Pat has had a miscarriage. It was a God sent solution to our problems, because even though she had consented to an abortion, it would have been dangerous so soon after her last operation, and in fact the doctors might have decided against it on just those grounds. She had her menstrual period about a week ago, and this was followed by an inflammation and infection of her tubes, etc., and she has been ordered to stay in bed for five days, and to have shots every 12 hrs. All this is going forward; she is quite well, and of course we are both immensely pleased and relieved that things have worked out this way. The Doctor has told her to see a gynecologist after her five days of shots and rest, and what will be said then—aside from laying off sex for some time to come—I can't guess.

For a few days after I wrote to you that Pat had consented to go to Switzerland, she became a little more apprehensive of the medical skill of Europe (not without reason, since we saw several doctors and each said something different) and she thought the wisest plan might be to fly home and have Dr. Kessler take care of her. I still think that the best solution for us now is that as soon as she's well enough, she ought to go back and get a job in the States, and I ought to stay on here and try to get some work done. Her plan is for me to follow her back, and for her to support me so that I can go on writing and won't be under the pressure of the Guggenheim finances and time limit. I don't know how I can get her to consent to my plan, since this medical crisis, like the last one, has brought us sort of together again. Nevertheless, it is a crisis, and I have still gotten no work done. And I feel somehow that if I could get myself away from the emotional complexities that her presence entails, I might be able to get down to work. When she's well, I will try to explain this to her so as not to hurt her feelings, and see if she will consent to go back for the remaining time.