

November 8

Alex,

If you feel I am overstepping my bounds when I write to you, that is perfectly valid. But in expressing that opinion, you do not have to blow up at me and you do not have to be nasty. I realize that I was short with you in the opening of my last letter, but I am also aware that I apologized for that after the fact. Perhaps the shortness set an unfortunate tone for the rest of my letter, as things that I meant in jest were taken far more seriously, and if so, I accept the blame for that. However:

My comment about your competition was meant as a friendly suggestion, and my comment about your friendship with Emma was meant as a gentle warning. Both came from a place of good intentions, and the latter came from personal bad experiences. If I assumed that you were "like every other asshole" in my life, I wouldn't have bothered with either, nor would I continue writing to you. Forgive me for assuming that we were working our way toward becoming friends, which to me means offering the occasional piece of advice, even when unsolicited. I appreciated your advice about my biological father, even if it didn't come across that way, and I was trying to return the favor. I apologize if I misread things.

The questions at the end of my letter were meant to be lighthearted, as I believe I prefaced, and as for your question of "Really? You're asking me if I gave you a fake name?," I will only remind you that in your first letter to me, your answer to my question of "What is your name?" was the following:

"I'm not exactly comfortable giving a stranger identifying information. However, you can call me Alex."

Please remember that up until very recently, you were hiding almost every aspect of your identity from me, even reveling in your anonymity. It is not, therefore, such a ridiculous notion that I would have some cause to question the few things you did tell me, even if that question had not been meant as a teasing one.

I am assuming that since you did not stop writing, you are still interested in corresponding. However, I think it is also obvious that tempers and tensions are a bit high right now on both ends, so I think it might be in the best interests of this correspondence if we both took a week to cool down before resuming communication.

Zoe