

West Wing.

March 29th, 1937.

Darling Maudie,

I just received your letter of March 19th and if wishes could waft you here you would be here this moment - Darling, I know how hard it all is, but you just must be brave and carry on like my little soldier - I have the same to do at this end, but know you have all you can carry so do not unburden all the little things to you because after all I am so sure we are just going over the top that they don't worry me as much as they did., and I know you are too unhappy to be burdeded more. But I want you to unburden to me as much as you like. Darling you must grit your teeth and be happy if it is only a walk with the little wee doggie. I am so sure - I can't tell you how sure I am that the end of next year will see our troubles far behind us. That doesn't mean that I think we must wait for a year - I think they are dawning now!

I am having the most ~~gashx~~ ghastly worries at times - You know what they can be - long white nights when I can't sleep - only twist and turn and worry about where the money is to come from to meet some particular crises - but it always is hurdled - and I must smile and pay the bills and not even Mrs. La Motte ~~xxxxxxx~~ knows what I go through with. She is a dear but my affairs are not hers and I know just how far I can enjoy telling her my woes and where I must stop - so sometimes I must nearly scream with worry and smile and spend everything I have with out knowing where there is enough for the wages at the end of the week. You must know this if you think about it. But, dearest, I don't really want you to think about it - that I have to is enough. I don't mind anything now for I am so convinced that everything is coming alright - I do not know whether Lester is to be it or not. I know he will be the immediate solution and very soon, but I know so many nice things are going to happen to me and you will have to get used to living at West Wing without me but with enough money to take care of your self and the doggies - How would you like that? Now that's a new angle isn't it? Just think it all over! No, I'm not going to tell you anything more! And don't you get excited and tell Pitter or Mama any surmises - they will probably be quite wrong. Wouldn't you laugh if I was in love? And wouldn't you laugh if he was very rich! Well, guess again! QAnd wouldn't you laugh if I'd never let my beloved Maudie down, never until the day I died! And then I wouldn't! All that for five shillings or less!

Etienne telephoned and I went over to dine with him in his wee flat the other evening and we sent you a cable

I did not see him when he arrived from America - he was only here a few days and had to prepare a concert which he had to play somewhere abroad, and also found that the old ladies whom he rents of were in financial trouble and the rates or rent balliffs were in and his furniture was about to be sold and he was in a dreadful stew - Robin came to the rescue and paid up the situation and took the floor underneath him - I think she has bought the lease, The old ladies have the basement and ground floor, Robin the next, and Etienne the two top floors as before. Robin will be quite self contained, drawing room, bedroom, kitchen, bath and maid's room - She only wants it as a pied a terre - she has taken a house, I believe, in the country - she is down in the country now. I should think that Etienne is not going to marry her somehow. I had thought he probably would, but this arrangement looks to me as if Etienne definitely has made her understand not. He seemed quite fit but is going to take a cure shortly for he has a bit of rheumatism in his hands - He is playing with more feeling than before I see a big improvement over a year or so ago and am anxious to hear his next concert. How he loves you - we talked and talked of you and then he said "let's send Maud a cable" - When we got into the telephone room he said quite as if it was Hampstead, "I'd telephone her but the time is so different she'd probably be in bed" Then I laughed and we both laughed at how much that would cost - and then sent the cable and forgot to mark it, "Night letter" - so I don't know what it cost - anyhow he must pay it on his bill - He is sweet! He shewed me his last will and testament - in which he had left all his possessions to his dearest of which you are one - He said he has only his bits and pieces of which he is very fond but he would rather they would go to friends than be sold or bundled off to store - I didn't read it over - but I've made out my will leaving all my plays to you and mama jointly with right of survivorship to either - together with anything I may die possessed of. ~~xxxxxx~~ I would want you and Mama to have anything I had and either one of you to have it all were there only one of you left. Now occupy your time a little by writing your will ~~you~~ - if you write it out in your own handwriting as you would a letter it does not require a witness or anything - and then you can be sure that the things you love will go where you want them to - The dogs are mine without question.

I have also thought of something else you should do at once - no delay - I shall be bitterly disappointed in you if you don't do this with all the time on your hands that you complain of.

Sit down today - I am sending you a copy book - and begin to write your life story - now don't please yourself by saying "I

I haven't got my papers or etc - that is only a dilatory excuse.

Sit down and write your life just as if you were rewriting about someone else - put in all the things and people you can remember but keep at it - at first it will drag and be slow - but make up your mind that your days are going to be purposeful - make up your mind to spend two hours a day at it - if you only sit on a bench in the garden with a pencil and the book in your hand and think! It will soon begin to take form and before you know it you will be amazed how much you have in hand - don't trouble too much if you can't remember everything - Put down what you can remember - keep another book in which you jot down - bits and pieces - a description of someone you have known - a funny incident - a description of ~~anywhere~~ a place or incident - anything - and then later all the bits and pieces can fall into something else when you come home and go through with what you have here - If you don't do this - I shall think you ~~xxxxxx~~ quite hopeless - Really and truly dearest darling, I will not have much patience with you if you don't make that effort - write your opinions and anything that occurs to you.

You have had a wonderful life - and more than all else you are a wonderful person yourself and you must not let a feeling of pity and lethargy overwhelm the real fine wonderful brain that is down under all this trouble - I don't mean your fame or that greatness - but through everything in your life, and every bit of you that I have known, has shown a great, marvellously lovely character - and I want that to come out too in your life story as it is just bound to naturally - Dearest, you don't think I would have loved you all these trying, worrying years if you had just been a vain shallow little creature - it is something that is in you that is great and lovely - that overcomes! That is not mastered by circumstances but masters circumstances! Now, my Maudie, must master the circumstance of today! The little girl in you must not be afraid or cry - She must be great! You have a definite work. Now do it!

I have had quite a lot of upset in the household getting the servants right, but I hope I have someone who will be alright now - Mrs. La Motte thinks she will be - she has only been here a week now so I am withholding judgement - and you used to advise me to do and which I have now learned to do. I still have little Monica whom I got when Pitter was here - She did not turn out well as a cook, so has turned into a nice little houseparlourmaid - neat and punctual in her work. I have a German girl about ~~forty~~ forty as cook - and I think she will housekeep very nicely - but as yet I have my fingers crossed - at the moment the house is

running punctually and smoothly and I hope we are settled in for a bit of fine weather.

I will see that Pitter has her beloved blue - and that the bathroom and all other things are in order - and will manage a blue breakfast set as you suggest and the blue flowers. She shall have her glass of orange juice for breakfast - good strong coffee - I don't know about Russian Rye bread but will try to find it before she comes - otherwise will have the brown - (Does she like it Melba or just thin?) The maid will put the juice of a half of grape fruit in her room at night when she turns her bed down and I'll put some fruit and a squeezer in her room and all the things you mention I will take the greatest possible joy making her happy and comfortable - nothing could give me greater pleasure, and I am looking forward so to having her come - it will compensate a little that you and Mama are not yet here - Tell her that I have my breakfast punctually on the stroke of half past seven every morning now - there isn't a moment's delay and hasn't been since I got the house organized after Josepha left and we got down to real organization. So she will have that - also meals are punctual.

At the moment I have a gentleman gardner - on the same terms as Sorrel - it seems to be working alright.

Did I tell you that Tosti married his secretary - at first I was shocked but now I see it is sensible and I think he really did the right thing for all concerned.

Poor Frida is in bed with ulcers of the stomach - I was over to see her on her birthday - and she said so wistfully - "I wish Maudie were here -" I hope you write to her - she is much depressed ever since Bear's death - does not seem to come up at all -

Dickie Barrington popped in here one day and fell for our beautiful little girl, ~~the~~ the family called the next week and then invited us over there for tea - but I have discouraged it for she is too fine and lovely for that soiled family.

When I heard that Drinkwater had died I wondered if Pitter still has her copy of "Abraham Lincoln" that he signed?

Haven't much news - I live so quietly - Had Mr. Andrews, daughter and Jimmey over to lunch on Easter - they seem quite happy - the girl is a nice sensible person and they are much happier in a wee little flat.

The ladies committee of the Jewish Organization for relief of Jewish children from ~~SP~~

Germany are wanting the garden for a garden party and have written to your secretary asking for it from you - and as it is a very important list of people connected with it and on all the committees I have accepted in your name - and it will be held the end of June - They are much pleased and will write to you to thank you - Lady Melchett and Lady Sasson and goodness knows who are on the working end of it - I'll send you one of the letters with the list - Mrs. Laski, a very rich woman whom you probably know was here the other day - she is quite sweet. You will be here then and will have a new frock and will be the dear little hostess I love with all the troubles behind - If we have enough money - you shall have a gown from Mouleyneux - Don't laugh - things are going to come!

Poor dear, you are thinking - her troubles have gone to her head! No dearest, they haven't!

I am so thrilled over Pitter's journey - I ran downstairs in my nightie and told ~~xxxxxxx~~ Mrs. La Motte and we are all so excited and pleased. She must get herself a good seat - I was in hopes the friend had included a seat for her along with the ticket? Mrs. La Motte and her daughter are not going to go down. They are going to see it in films! I think they are so foolish, but the rich are always foolish! I am going to do my usual soap box stunt! I am sorry you and Mama won't be here, but you saw the last coronation - and I believe that was more wonderful than this will be - with the fairy tale prince and princess in their gold coach! And after all one coronation is pretty much the same as the next! But this may be the only one I'll ever see. Of course it is the greatest pageant of our time - historically - I hope Mrs. La Motte and her daughter will change their minds and go down to see it properly. Of course there has been a dreadful government graft in band stands - all the same as America - Just the same I wish I was one of the grafters!

Heaps of love my dear , brave girl - hold on just a little longer for my sake - I am holding on for you at this end -

*Love
Lina*