

The Studio,
December 8th, 1937.

Dear Maudie -

I'll try to answer all your questions in my next. I never seem to get a moment any more .

It will be just about Xmas when you get this and I wonder where you'll be - Your letter was nice and long but you utterly failed to tell me anything about yourself or your plans! What did you want the hundred pounds for? Have you taken a studio? What prospect have you of earning some money if you have a studio etc? I would like to know a little about what is happening to you, dear.

Everything here as usual - it is very difficult to keep warm and costs like everything! I'll be glad when summer comes I am quite comfortable now that I have got accustomed to the wide open spaces - at first I was dreadfully depressed - I could hardly stand it at all! Now I am happier. The dogs are quite happy - I know you will love little Henna - I had a long letter from Mrs. La Motte this morning - admonishing me not to give Nonnie to anyone and to take good care of her - Nonnie is a pet name for Henna. How they love the dogs!

And how the dogs love them! They will go mad when they see them again - I'm so glad for they were quite miserable after they left and now they will have faith that people do return. For you know first they lost you and then they lost the La Mottes!

Don't you love my dear pretty La Motte's? They are too lovely and fragile for anything - I hope you saw them in house clothes - they look so pretty without their hats - they show off so well - and they are just as lovely as they look! I hope you didn't miss them - They wrote me they would be at the Ambassador and then today in their letter say the Beverly Wilshire - so I don't know what to think! I believe they have Mrs. Millard's address!

Desmond's play was on two weeks ago - Sunday night It was very good - a little long but excellent - I should think he would sell it. I have lately got acquainted with Mary Hinton - do you know her? She is Elizabeth Montague's cousin - and is on the stage - but is one of the moving spirits behind a very good new Sunday night club - I want to know her more so I can broach the subject of my plays. I am working on a new one - I don't know whether to call it "Without Prejudice" or "And So They Were Married." which do you like?

Etienne came home today but I haven't seen him yet - Robin has been very ill with a very bad chill for two weeks - I went over the other day and herhouse was like and icebox - she was in a dreadful state - hardly able to notice anyone. I got the servants to build up big fires and I came over here and got my electric fire and went back and heated up her rooms - and staid and chatted with her for tea and dinner - She was a different person when I left. I think she was slowly freezing to death and didn't know it! The doctor was delighted with the improvement and took all the credit. She is almost herself again today and I think will be up in a day or so - Funny, how so few people know how to make themselves comfortable!

Darling, I am so humiliated that you have not written to Robin - I can't think why you haven't - You could spend money cabling when you wanted it - the least you could have done was to write to her immediately! It was a wonderful thing for her to do - She gets nothing out of it - not even interest! Has just done it to help us - and after all you are not a close friend of her's! I am so ashamed - whenever I see Robin she asks if I have heard from you - I told her I had and that you were writing to her! Really dear, you have let me down very badly by not writing to her. If you haven't by now don't let one hour elapse before you do - But surely you have! I just can't bear the thought that you haven't!

You know, Maud - if you are not really doing something that will lead somewhere possibly, don't you think it might be as well for you to take part of the money and come home? And then it would leave me free to go to Mama - I really feel I should. I have tried to manage things here as well as I could see to do, but it is sure not to be the way you would have done it if you had been here - no two people ever do things the same way and I would rather you were here to look after things yourself - and then any mistakes that are made are yours - I have had almost unsurmountable problems and I have tried to solve them to the best of my ability but I am not a business person and it all worries me very very much. You know there has been no money coming in at all from any source except what I could make come in in different directions, and at no time was there sufficient to cover the outgoings - and it has been two and a half years since you left - and the place is still yours. As for keeping minute accounts such as you like to do - it is an utter impossibility for me to do so - I haven't got that kind of a mind - and you certainly knew it!

I am having difficulties with Josepha - she has

got into the hands of a cheap lawyer and he thinks he sees a chance to make some money. ^{is} threatening to sue me for her fancied grievance. I paid her full wages for every day she worked for me and have receipts in full - so do not think she can do very much but make it unpleasant and force me to spend money defending myself. It isn't very pleasant. I am not worrying about it however and I do not want you to do so - it will most likely be all settled by the time you get this -

This isn't very pleasant to write this for Xmas to you , but you want to know how everything is - and this is some of it. I have tried not to tell you things that would worry you when you were so far away - for I always feel that by the time you get the letter everything is alright again. and that in any case you can't help any - it has been to try and save you worry that I have not told you things uselessly and because I love you and want you to be as happy as possible in this miserable time we are going through with. But, dear - it has been pretty awful for me much of the time. Just now, except for Josepha , I am having a more peaceful time and am very thankful for it, and am trying to get down to some of my own work - I feel that life must have something more in it for me than worrying over this property and its problems - and I must try and find it somehow - After all , dear - you have lived and had great things come to you - but as yet I have had nothing - and I want to live! Don't think I am complaining - I am not - I am very happy to think I can help you to have your chance in any way that it can come to you and I am not unhappy now - but I feel that my life is going to change - I don't know why but somehow I feel more optimistic than I have for a number of years -

The agent telephoned me the other day to know if you would sell - I said you would consider it if you got a good enough offer and he said ^I would hear more from him later - also the people next door may extend their lease - ^I hope so unless we get a sale on -

I haven't much news - I am going with Miss Cochrane tomorrow to Mrs. Hugh Reid Griffith's (Founder of the American Woman's club) to a tea for Gwen Lally to hear her discuss a new ice pagent she is putting on - Robin says she is an awful person really - did you know it? I thought she looked it! But she is clever in pagent work.

We are having very cold weather - unusual for this time of the year.

Well, I must get this closed and posted or the boat will go without it - Darling - I hate to write things that aren't happy to you - I want you^o to be happy