

June 5th, 1939/

Dear Maudie -

I have begun several letters to you but each time it gets past time to catch a boat and the letter doesn't get finished - and then the start is old by the time I get to it again - but I'm going to get this one in the post so it will catch tomorrow's air mail and catch Wednesday's boat -

I haven't been feeling too good for several weeks - I am going day after tomorrow to see Mrs. Wern and have some help to get myself straightened out - I seem to have more than my share of headaches - I used to have them when I was here before - but didn't have them hardly at all in England - I think it may be the sun glare here - and I'm going to wear sun glasses when I go out - The weather is lovely a few days a little overcast and you should hear the natives complain - I have been working a little in the garden here - just to keep in practise - You see back of the New addition is a largish hillside garden It has just been laid out by the landscapers - but I think it is the little touches one puts in that makes a garden - Of course no garden comes up to West Wing - I suppose the Jewish Garden party will be coming along the end of this month - We have some refugees here at the house - One a Professor Allwin (I'm sure I haven't spelled that right - but that's the way it ~~sounds~~ sounds) He was the last man to conduct the symphony orchestra in Vienna before Hitler moved in - He is to conduct for a week in the Bowl this season - he is quite a character - Then we have two German actresses - One the beautiful young wife of Tober (I think that's it) The German writer who committed suicide in New York about two weeks ago - She was just opening in a new play here two days later - It was very hard for her - And then we have fifteen members of the Folie Bergere company here - Also Trudie Scoop and her husband - (I don't know if they are still here or not) So you see we are quite a cosmopolitan place - Oh, yes, and we had a lovely little Chinese actress who was here working in a picture - think she left today - It's an odd little hotel - not at all pretentious but it attracts such interesting people - It is of course unusual - one doesn't really see it's charm until you are inside - the rooms all either have balconies or terraces, which I think is one of the chief attractions -

I have been working hard at writing - One play is with the agent now and I'm working on a serious play now - I think it is the best idea I've had yet - I do hope I can develop it well - I have

discussed it with the agent who likes the idea - and wants me to get on with it - and if these headaches will leave me in peace I will -

I have so hoped I would get some good news about one of the plays to tell you before I wrote, for I know what a hard time you may be having and I would like to have had something encouraging to write before I wrote - that is really one of my reasons for not writing before - I suppose I'm a dreamer to suppose anything could happen so quick - Today I was up on one of the hills for a walk - and there were several adorable places to rent - and I thought how much I would like to have one of those and have Maudie there to have a carefree time for a change - "Have a good tuck in for once, Dearie" - (Wasn't that Frida's story of the fortune telling mother of a trooper?) I know how dark things can get, but there always does seem a way out when one comes to it - so try not to worry too much - and who knows I may strike oil any time - It is what Maurine told a member of the family who was being inquisitive about what I am doing and what my prospects are for selling - She said - "Well, you know with Auntie - it might happen any minute." Maurine is a dear - She is having her ~~fixxi~~ baby this month - I will be glad when it is over - I like her husband too - He is working very hard - taking care of his family and putting himself through two years of university - You see his credits were not good enough for a professorship (He played too much in his care free college days) So now he must bring his credits up and then he can get a professorship - it will be a better life for them and more settled - but it's quite a pull for them just now - but he is plucky and not afraid to do anything to get on - and they are very happy, and that's the main thing.

I wonder how the ball went off - I hope you got your money in advance as I told you to do - This social season must be quite upset with all the war scares and then the King and Queen away - I saw an extra this evening but did not read it - that some lunatic had taken a shot at the Duchess of Kent - A crackpot of course!

I had a letter from Mrs. La Motte the other day - she is in a sanitarium in Switzerland - having a rest cure - you know she has some intestinal trouble - She said you would never know there was a man Hitler in the world - no one up there even mentions him - But she says in Paris it is different - But I can't believe now that there will be any trouble - I think the powers have called Hitler's bluff - But it must have been a time of tension all winter.

How has Vally gotten along - I have wondered so many times if he got alright again - and dear old Diana - I am sure she misses the puppies - but it would have been too much for you to have had them all - and the expense of their food is considerable too - And then if you sell you would have to dispose of them - Mrs. La Motte has Henna with her - she sleeps in a basket in her room - and has her own maid - a girl from the village comes three times a day and takes her for a walk out in the fields and woods -and the doctors are all mad about her and take her for walks as well - so she is well off - Dear little Sammy is still in Fresno with my friend Helen -I miss him so I can't hardly stand it sometimes - but I know they adore him and do everything for him - They brought him down for a week end not long ago - and I went up a short while ago for a week end - My cousin from San Diego telephone up yesterday to know if I would like to go to San Francisco in July with them as their guest - to see the fair - so I think I'll go - It will be fun - and I don't want to miss it - I've never seen a world's fair except San Diego and that wasn't much - and was so long ago that I can't remember it hardly -

Maudie dear - do write me exactly what you are doing and how you are getting along and what are your plans- I do wish so hard that I could do something to help you - but that's not much good is it! I am so worried about you all the time - and I feel so helpless to do anything about it - but if it's any comfort to you to know that, and know that my best wishes go to you every day - and a little prayer for your help - Are you sticking to C.S. - Really sticking, I mean - if you are going to get anything out of it you must put something into it in the way of study and making it practical all the time - I am trying hard to grasp it better than I have in the past - and I know it only comes by studying and pondering over and over again what one reads - Miss Kenney is an excellent scientist and is a help to me - I think this little hotel is a demonstration - No one else understands how it is that it is so successful - there appears no real reason why it should do so exceptionally well - Her nephew, who isn't a scientist at all, said to me one day - "Well, of course the only explanation of it is Christian Science - I don't understand it - but it must be that." And she says herself it is a demonstration - ~~xxxxx~~ Last month for the first time there were a great many vacancies - about half the house - and there is a belief all over the city that business is bad - none of the hotels are doing any business - Well, when the management told Miss Kenney, she had a practitioner ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ work on the problem - and believe it or not, the house filled up within a week - One day alone, twelve new guests came in - ~~Miss Kenney said~~

Miss Kenney said in discussing the vacancies with me - "I refuse to worry - my life does not depend upon ~~the~~ the house or any other property or money investment - I am only dependant on God." Is Mr. Doorly helping you now? Oh, Maudie it is the only way that I can see for you - and the only way I want for myself - it takes courage to hold on though - but you have courage - that is one thing I know you never lack - you may have your dark moments, but in the end your brave spirit shines out above everything else - I often wish I had your courage - I have lost mine a number of times since I came back and have tried to go on without my Mother here - It seems as if I miss her more every day - I'm afraid I'll never get accustomed to the loss -

Maudie, if you do sell and leave West Wing - do have someone level the little graves on the mound - for almost anyone else might dig up the graves - not want them there - but if it's leveled no one will think of it -

Is Mrs. Bristow still with you - if so give her my regards - and her little girls - Oh, I had a notice a long time ago about a library book that was overdue on my card - Her daughter had my card - perhaps you had better ask her for it - and get her to arrange for one for herself - As I am not there I think I would prefer that you get it and post it back to the library - I think Frida signed my card for me and I would not like ~~the~~ the library to ask her for any charges if it should get lost - If it is lost by any chance, will you write to the Library and ask them to cancel it -

Oh, a friend of mine here bought a desk from an antique dealer - it is rather attractive - I don't think so frightfully old - but in ~~the~~ one of the drawers was a card with this address on it - will you look it up in the telephone directory and see if there is any such person listed - and if so, if you have lots of cheek you might ask them if they ever owned it and tell them it is now in California and a very prized possession - ~~the~~

I was shocked the other day to be told that Leonette Van Trees died very suddenly - I don't know what the trouble was - she phoned me that she was going up to Santa Barbara to a hospital there - I thought it was probably for a reducing cure so did not ask - then I heard this. I went to the funeral - it seemed so unreal - she was always so vital - The boys have grown into such nice men - Jim is married and has a baby boy of three - and a lovely little wife -

back

~~Dear~~ I hoped

I have joined a Writer's Workshop here - we meet every week and discuss current plays, films and radio plays - Tomorrow night they are going to read the first act of my new play - I hope they don't pan it too unmercifully - The various members are assigned to the cast and each reads that character's lines - it makes the reading of a play a little easier to bear that way -

Have you done any more radio work? How is little Betty Cooper getting on? Have you seen any thing she has done? Have you any new lines out? Have you thought of contacting Ivor Novello and telling him you have got to have a job - he might write in a part for you, or rather see a character that you could do - It's worth trying anyhow -

Well, my dear - I can't tell you how my thoughts travel to you with this letter - sending you love and hopes for everything good - how I wish I could step in on you and see how you are getting on - I haven't written to anyone over there much - but the other day I dropped a note to Mr. Andrews and one to Mr. Aspland - and a while ago one to Desmond - I'm going to write to Frida next and the Langs - and the Milner's - do give them all my love - Somehow my heart has been so sore this winter that I just didn't want to contact any memories - perhaps you will understand - I hope so - It has been a difficult winter - it just seemed as if my heart broke when I got there and it all came over me what I had lost - Miss Kenney has done all any one could do for me - and as you know the immediate financial problems have been taken care of - but I have been so depressed so much of the time - I am trying so hard though to rise above it and be worthy of all the love and kindness that has been given me - and oh, I would be so happy if I could make a success and prove to everyone that I can - and to be able to help you out of the hole if you aren't already out of it by then - I am trying to know that you will be all right - for you are God's child - and you are really God expressing good through you - therefore God's expression can only express good - happiness, prosperity - health - etc -

Well, my dear - it is late - I am getting very tired and I am sure you are by the time you have waded through this long rather poorly typed letter - My love and best wishes to you -

P.S. I hope you will write soon.
Kenna

desk

Mr Bernard J. Robert

14 Westbourne Terrace Road

W.

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 write in a part for you, or rather see a character that you could do
 - it's worth trying anyhow

Well my dear - I can't tell you how my thoughts travel to
 you with this letter sending you love and hopes for everything
 you wish I could step in and do for you now you are getting
 on - I haven't written to anyone over the sea since you left
 day I dropped a note to Mr. Andrews and one to Mr. Aspland - and
 I would like to hear from you about the trials and tribulations
 the judges and the Miller's - do give them all my love
 I hope to contact my memories - perhaps you will understand I hope
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P.S.

I heard in secret that Stella had got
 his place about the woman prison reformer
 on - Is it true? or only talk?
 was a Sunday journal written in a regular run
 I hope it was a success

How did the "The Prisoner" come out?
 that has been given and that I can't say to be safe
 make a success and prove to everyone that I can - and to be safe
 do it to the people if you aren't wisely out of it by then
 I am trying to get Stella Rhoads a
 'child' - and you are really God expressing good things
 therefore God's expression can express good - happiness
 - prosperity - health - etc -

P.S. Remember that I had that offer - that
 was about \$40 - for the odds & ends in the house
 (less the servants you have had the list -
 It was Bonham's -