

December 7th, 1938.
1605 Poplar Ave.,
Fresno, Calif. U/S.A.

Dear Maud -

Well, I am thinking of you all the time and wondering how you are making out and what is happening? I do hope something good has happened for you, but remember if it doewn't you promised not to hold on too long! Really you know I am beginning to think that place hypnotizes us both - It is so lovely out here and life is so much less complicated and less expensive - Money goes so much further. I love it here and feel I am going to get on.

At present I am up here with Vera until January -then I am going back to Los Angeles and see about getting back into the studio - I intended doing so when I stopped over in Los Angeles but I was ill - I think it was just nerves, but I couldn't even keep a spoonful of water down - I am alright now and beginning to feel more myself again. Vera's bungalow is nice and roomy and the children are so sweet - Dorothy has a sweet little house a short distance away and has a car and buzzes up here several times a day and she and her husband are here to dinner almost every other evening - and George is a very busy schoolboy - in his last year of university - the school is only about a block from the house - He has a car also and buzzes us all about when the family car is in other use. He also has a girl who spends much of her time here - so it is quite a young, lively household. The house runs very free and easy and so the children all love it. All through their conversations and actions I can see how very beloved Mama was and how happy they made her - she has a sweet room full of her own furniture etc - but oh, how I miss her.

I told you in my last about seeing the lawyer - Well, he went into the matter very carefully and decided it was of no use to sue - there is no way he can find a peg to hang it on. You see here you cannot sue a dead person for such a claim - Even if there had been insurance to protect you, if Mrs. Millard had died before you sued, the insurance company would not have to pay. Awfully wrong law I think. Then secondly, you were in charge of the car and so you were responsible not Mrs. Millard. If you had been an employee it would have been different. But driving at her request did not constitute employment. He looked up the

will and he said it was badly drawn - had been cut and patched up so much so that were anyone interested they could easily have it declared invalid. Everything goes to Roxana - and under the law and the loose way the will is drawn she can, even though she is weak minded, will it all to anyone she likes at her death. Isn't it strange that as good a business woman as Mrs. Millard was should have left it in such shape. He said the will might have had many things cut out of it since her death it was so much cut about. I was disappointed that there is no way for you to claim, but there it is - I do wish you could get some real grip on C.S. I think you could solve your difficulties that way - but would try someone fresh and not Mr. Aspland.

You will laugh - but I am speaking at the Parlour Lecture club a week from today! It is the swanky club here and Vera was president several years ago - I am just calling it "London snap shots" and am just giving a bit here and there - and about the crisis. I am not paid for this - it is just a courtesy to Vera, but if I make a go of it I can probably get other clubs that will pay from ten to fifty and a hundred dollars a lecture depending upon the size. I don't really think I am capable of doing this work but Vera wants me to do this one so thought I'd try for her sake. You could do it very well - with your knowledge and gift of speaking and if you have three or four a week it pays very well - Think about it. It pays the butcher, baker and candlestick maker anyhow. If I could do it I would for it would give me plenty of free time for my writing.

I am so concerned about how you are managing - and you must keep me posted if you wish to keep me interested you know. How are the Crown behaving? Has Mr. Jones been able to do anything and what are the prospects. Dr. Nathan wrote to the Steinway notifying them that the piano could not be moved without the consent of both Robin and myself - was there anything said about that? Has Josepha's attorney made any attempt to find me? And if so does he know where I am - I would rather he didn't - but I don't really care - I feel very indifferent about it as I don't intend to pay it. I'll go through bankruptcy before I will! I am ~~xxxx~~ glad Diana has picked up so well - And dear Mrs. Bristow - I know she is taking nice care of you - And old Cooper - have you still got him? What do you think of Betty? I hope you didn't tell the Andrews or anyone else that I came back from my first attempt to cross the ocean - for I didn't tell anyone, except Frida, Mr. Aspland, Desmond, and the Langs. Has Desmond been in? I posted him a letter from the boat but since coming here I find two pages that I think I left out of it - I wonder if he got it? Now please ~~take~~ take this page and sit down and one by one answer the things I have asked - or you

It would be as well to have this man give you an estimate on the same thing Mr Bonham did - a separate estimate from the basement rubbish & then you can compare them.

will forget them. Now don't think you are paying me out for any omissions I made in the past by not answer - in the first place that wouldn't be a nice attitude and not like you, and secondly I want to know these things because I want to know about you - and if I am to remain interested in you you must keep me interested. It's all up to you!

Up in the storage room - in the studio section - the one beyond the bathroom I used when the house was let - (Next the college wall - the room with two skylights - is a box stored with some old treasures of mine - I would like you to look it over and see what you think I might like in it - Don't keep a lot of sentimental truck - I intended to go through it before I left and forgot to do so.

Did you have the rubbish man come out and see what he would give you for the contents of the basement? His name was either Harris or Lewis - Lissen grove - I gave you his address - I gave you his card. I don't think he calls himself a rubbish man but a valuer or auctioneer I think.

Remember any bills for me are not your responsibility and you mustn't take them in any way any more than you would for Countess Armand or any other tenant. There is no difference.

I wish you would write me a detailed letter - I am sorry I can do nothing from here until I get going myself which I expect will be in January - I am then going down to stay with Miss Kenney and see what I can get to do in the studio. But I was so very ill in Los Angeles that Miss Kenney thought I would be unwise to use up my introductions while I looked and felt so badly. We were to have driven up to San Francisco yesterday for a few days but I was just too tired so they called it off and we will go up before Xmas when Auntie Grace and Francis are here - they are coming up for the holidays, and another Aunt from the East is coming out to spend the holidays with us - Mama's sister.

Well, my dear Maudie - how I wish I could peep in on you - but dear - don't stay there and be miserable - you know you can sell the furniture to Mr. Bonham as per the estimate - and perhaps you can get more than eight pounds for the little piano if you advertise in the evening standard - That is the best paper for such things I think. Have you seen the Bells?

Heaps of love - and write.

Yours -