

Rosemary Cottage
7 Granville Terrace
Bude - Cornwall
Feb 16 - 1943 -

My most darling One -

It was such a comfort to have your letter and hear your voice. We forgot to arrange about telephoning so I tried as usual last night, twice, but got no answer. I scarcely expected one - but tried again at 9 a.m. today - Well he's heard at last.

Now before answering your letter I'll give you an news.

The kitchen is done and looks so nice. The colour they call "stone" - It must be newly cut Bath Stone. I think it is the colour all the rooms are only it looks brighter - being fresh & clean. The paint is a shade lighter. The man they sent worked well and tho' he only came at 3 p.m. yesterday he finished it. The ceiling is white.

Here are a few points that will please you -

- ① I had the 3 black out boards done with distemper like the walls -
- ② I had both sides of the door between kitchen & scullery done -
- ③ The old chest of mine and the single drawer above it I had done with the paint.

It all looks so nice & cheerful.

I had arranged for Mr Metcalfe to come & clean the (2)
Chimneys (- which have been smoking lately) at 6:30
+ Mr Tafe to come and help us clean up after him.
So yesterday & today have been rather hectic. The
nursery had to be a temporary kitchen for two
days - and after 5 p.m. today we had to get every-
thing moved ready for the sweep. We cannot use
the kitchen much till the paint is dry. Fortunately
only the edges of the shelves are done so we could
put stuff back there - The table, sink & gas stove
are usable - but I've not put up the blackout
boards for fear of scratching the paint so I've
taken out the light & put in a ~~red~~ ^{tiny red} light so
that we can find our way about. We will have
a toast breakfast in my bedroom - & boil the
kettle on the electric point. All things are up
on the landing waiting for us.

Mickey is back - The Vet - Mr Penhale says he has
probably got furball and I've to give him liquid
paraffin twice a week. Minnie fretted for him while
he was away. They are very happy together now.
The black cat was howling in the coal house door
I'm afraid Minnie must be in heat. What fun
for the children to have summer kittens. I could

have found homes for four last time.

Feb 17. I didn't get on with my letter night - and now I'm back in my room after the earthquake of sweep and spring cleaning. Mrs. Tape came and stayed all day.

I sent you a parcel as usual + Watermeadows - Nothing will take harm except the cauliflowers - ~~but~~ if delayed too long but we'll risk that.

re Daisy + a visit to her. I agree with you about long distance travelling. If we were right in coming here at all - it seems to me just feeble-minded to take the children back to the places we left ~~until~~ until or unless we could be sure there ~~were~~ ^{would be} no air attacks - apart altogether from the fact that travelling is so difficult. If you need me I will come to you gladly - that would be right - and whether I brought the children or ~~not~~ not would depend on what arrangements I could make for them. I might consider it would do them greater harm to be left than to risk airraids as I believe there are worse things than death or fear or injury from bombing - but all would have to be considered - and anyway I can't guarantee we will avoid airraids here. My point is that not for mere pleasure would I take them from here. On the other hand I believe so strongly in family life ~~in~~ and not breaking the family circle that I'm always open to the possibility of us being united - even if it involved changes. But the thing strong in my mind is that somehow or other I just must come to you if you need of me is beyond what you can find + need it. So send for me if or when you will - either temporarily or permanently - either

with or without the children - and we'll find a way ⁴
If I myself feel we need a little change - well - do
you know I'd rather it were within walking distance
of Rosemary Cottage - just somewhere where I could eat
and I had had nothing to do with and show the
children some bird's nests - etc - But how can I even
think of such things when you, poor darling, - well
what are you doing.

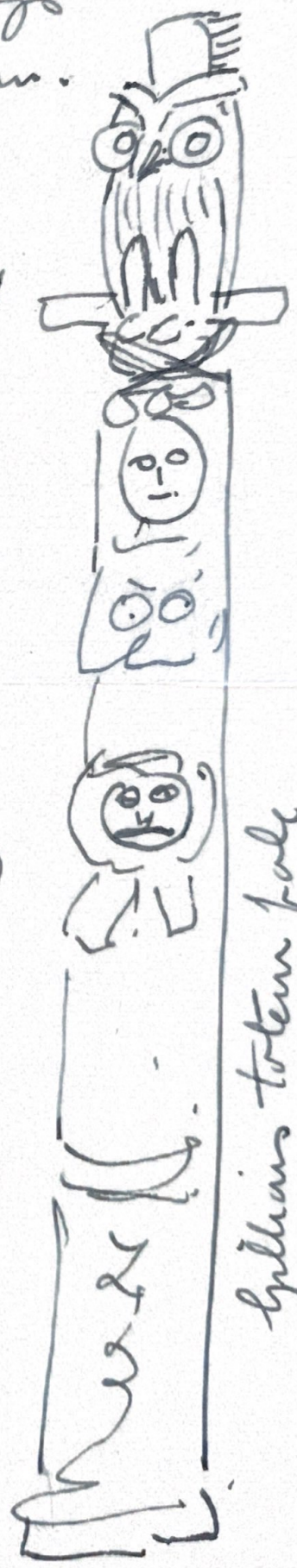
I rang up Mrs Edmunds & thanked her for sending you
the apples - She will send you some new laid eggs
in a tin full of sawdust - but please return
the tin & sawdust as it is her last one -

My library book now is Pearl Buck's "Dragon
Seed" - It is taking me right into China again -
By the time you get this I hope your 3 lecture & 2
Committees will be over - I hope they won't take it out
of you too much and that Winnie will be able to take
you in and take care of you - Wish I could.

Poor Mrs Stevens - Oh how hard I found it
being tied to bed that time with rheumatism - yet
there was so much I could do - Parthy tend & Gillian
sew, knit, read & love you all night - But how
the hours will drag for her, unless she finds some
chatty patient in a bed near her -

Hilda is a brick - I hope she will help you as
long as she possibly can.

Now I'll tell you how we are getting on with the preparations for Gillhams Indian party. Here is her totem pole. There is always a bird on the top belonging to the Clan. He's is an owl of course. We tied the clothes brush owl on the top of your long carved piece of wood we put the barometer on the top peg where the owl used to be + the owl with carved wood attached hangs on the barometer peg - + so looks like a totem pole outside her door.



Gillhams totem pole

There is nothing of Hiawatha in the Childrens Treasury. (O. I. fight + look in the Encyclopedia) but Mrs Hoqq is going to give her a copy abridged of Children. Mrs Samule is now a papoose.



Papoose -

But I'm nearly chaffing asleep over this
letter - will finish it in the morning -
I'd better close now - there is plenty to do
if Gillman's party is to be a success -
I've got the remainder of her insurance which
I will post forthwith -

All my love my precious treasure
I'll post this to Winnie and ask her
to forward it - Yours ever
Ada