

Tema.  
Dec 11<sup>th</sup> 1927.

Dear Mother & Father.

I hardly know how to tell you of the glorious time I have had to-day, I have done a thing that exceeds my wildest dreams - I have actually ridden a glorious arab<sup>sic</sup> stallion at a gallop for miles over the desert, on a real arab<sup>sic</sup> saddle with all the trappings. it seems too good to be true.

El Gerzawy came for me after breakfast he mounted me first on a white horse because I was a little nervous about the stallion, but when he saw how I could ride he said I simply must try the black. so I changed; the saddle was rather strange, but the horse had the most glorious motion I have ever dreamed or imagined, smooth & swift over the roughest ground. El Gerzawy was amazed when I got

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going. he said he would never have believed a woman could ride astride & keep her knees close to the saddle like a policeman. We galloped out to an oasis & then swung round towards Qau el Kabir. the entire village came out to see me. I am the only European they have ever seen on horseback, & they said "That is not a woman. That is a man." I had lunch with Gagawy in real Arab style. we had roast pigeons stuffed with savory rice which we tore apart & eat with our fingers he said I might have a knife but it would be better in Egypt to do things in the Egyptian way for a change. He has invited me to stay in Qau el Kabir on my return from Luxor. he will put an entire house at my disposal & will take me round to visit the outlying villages. & give me a good time generally. I have promised to spend one whole day there on my return journey. it is an opportunity that only comes to one in a million. He has also said he will arrange to come up to Cairo with me & take me round the native quarter & show me his fathers house & introduce me to his mother & sister

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so that I need not go with the others & have<sup>2</sup>  
 to return back to Luxor afterwards. He  
 has been very hurt because we have  
 refused so many of his invitations on  
 account of our work. he thinks we might  
 have managed for one or two to accept  
 if all were too busy to come. he was feeling  
 that we did not want to be friendly, but  
 now I have broken the ice & spent the  
 whole day with him & his horses while  
 the others explored some quarries near here.  
 He is rather a keen judge of character &  
 very much surprised me by some of his  
 deductions. he said. "You are different  
 to the others. you think independently  
 but the others follow each other." I can't  
 think how he found that out but it is  
 perfectly true. Here's another strange  
 thing. He knows M<sup>r</sup> Anderson's brother in  
 Alexandria. when he was in the criminal  
 department there he had to investigate a  
 case of forged coins & it was then that  
 he met & became friendly with the M<sup>r</sup> Anderson  
 at the National Bank of Egypt. so when  
 you see our M<sup>r</sup> A. please tell him that  
 my pet sheik knows his brother.

We have finished all the work here  
 and leave for Luxor on Thursday. I shall write  
 & have all letters forwarded.

Love from - Myrtle -

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