

Arabah
April 21. [1931]

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Dear Mother

I received a letter from both you & Father today. I am so glad to hear the shoes arrived safely & have given so much pleasure & amusement. you can understand now how I couldn't resist having a pair made like Old Ahmuds.

I gave Ahmud the necklaces for Mustapha's bride today. he was very pleased & said May Allah bless you both. I have given Sardin the Afreet for his children, with the special stipulation that they are only to play with it when they wash their faces.

There have been great to-does with our sparrows lately. a minx has arrived upon the scene, she is very young & fluffy & hasn't grown a proper tail yet. but she is an outrageous & shameless flirt. yesterday she hopped into our chapel. the local sparrows were in their respective houses with their wives. so she chirped & chirriped until Mr Sparrow looked out of his front door to see what all the noise was about. & she gave him the deliberate, glad eye. I am sorry to say he accepted

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The invitation & went & hopped about with her, then Mrs S looked out to see what was going on, & saw her hubby & two other gentleman sparrows paying court to the minx, so out she flounced & gave them all a piece of her mind. Then there was a general dust up. For the rest of the day the atmosphere was very strained. Mrs S kept a very sharp eye upon her fickle husband & if he went out of her sight she followed to see what he was up to.

We are having lemonade & biscuits each morning now at ten, as we only have oranges & coffee for breakfast at six & need a little break & refreshment. & we scatter crumbs for our feathered friends; now, as soon as we sit down they come & hop quite close to our chairs, they are getting wonderfully tame.

Today our thermometer registered 100 in the shade which is not too bad for this time of year. It gets cool at night & is fresh in the early morning. We shall soon be thinking of starting packing & preparing for our departure. The work we have in hand will take about two weeks to finish & I do not

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Lots of love to you both
Your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

P.S. I think by the time you receive this letter you
had better stop forwarding the Observer & address
letters to me c/o Thos Cook. Cairo.

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