

### **BROOME LETTER 11**

# Thebes Hotel. Luxor.

Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 1927.

Dear Mother & Father.

I had such a lovely Xmas day, on the breakfast table there was a greeting card from  $M^r \& M^{rs}$  Meade. & the Bey gave me a box of chocolates

I spent the morning writing. I have fixed to go to Cairo Jan  $2^{\underline{nd}}$  & applyed<sup>sic</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Jackson of Cooks to get me a berth on the N.Y.K Japan Mail boat leaving Port Said Jan 10. & reaching London in 13 days, via Naples & Gibralta<sup>sic</sup>. I hear these boats are very good. stewards etc English & the crew Japs.  $2^{\underline{nd}}$  class fare £22. I hope I can get a berth. I should like to see Naples & this is the only all sea way line that goes there.

The afternoon I spent in Luxor Temple & after dinner & went to the Winter Palace to a dance with an English man from this hotel. the Winter Palace is the Ritz of Luxor. I had a gorgeous time only missed one dance. (Tell Pat there were several tangos.) I am going to night again to a fancy dress dance. I got the Bey to take me to a drapers shop & help m<del>y</del>/<e> buy some mosquito netting with which I have made a huge ruffle & pompoms, so as to transform my black dress into a black & white Pierette<sup>sic</sup> {Pierrette}, it is the best I can do at a moments<sup>sic</sup> notice. I can tie my striped silk handkerchief over my head

A few days ago I went for a climb up the cliffs here with the aforementioned English man. he is a gay bachelor of 65. a real sport & very keen on mountaineering. he reminds me of Uncle J. it was a wonderful experience & I got some good photo's. we reached the highest ridge (1600 feet from the desert level) where we had lunch. On our way down we found a mummy's head

which we carefully buried with its face to the west. The suitable inscription on a stone over the grave. The Bay still follows me when even he can . + mopies when he cant. To day laccepted an invitation to go for a sail on the Nile with him, I had not a suitable creuse, I really the invitation was rather tempting, he questioned me on English customs - specially Hore refering To maniage. I cooly anounced this intention of divoicing his wife I coming to England to many an English gul. I was very nearly a proposal ! Ion the Nile too. I am invited to go to assuan will him !! needliss to say I have renounced all hope of going there now. I should not have a moments peace - Ishall probably pay a farewell will to the dosent & Bazandy & the horses before I come down to Bano - Juzany has written me swhal letters in his quaint English . he is the nicest Egyptian Thave mit, with a real phylosophy of his own + so anxwas To ackange ideas about things. I have been able to give him a few new points of view. he told me my pasonality was like a magnet. (was'nt il a pulty comptiment.) the other Egyptians I have med here are rather unintacisting taray. I an the only woman in the hotil decifet Mm Meade. I there were 8 men to denne Xmas day. I did have a time. they gave us soup. fish - vegetable, Turkey, sawages. candiflower - Knos publicing - hardy-cuam-sauce mina pris - 1 puil & coffee - it was a field. Dec 27. The Carnival at the Winter Palace was a gorgeous affair. I have nover been in such a cosmipolitan crowd before. there were people of every nationality East & West Some of the costumes were supart many gonuine, Howard Cartee was then judging costumet for prizes Thanks for onclosing Unite is letter Tam sorry it could not be amanged for him to come out, but I was apaid there would be no Time. my letters have to follow after me as it Takes so long for letters to get To you, & I only know my new address a few days ahrad

which we carefully  $burri/\langle ri \rangle$ ed with its face to the west. &  $\langle put \rangle$  a suitable inscription on a stone over the grave.

The Bey still follows me when ever he can. & mopes when he cant<sup>sic</sup>. Today I accepted an invitation to go for a sail on the Nile with him. I had'nt<sup>sic</sup> a suitable excuse, & really the invitation was rather tempting. he questioned me on English customs – specially<sup>sic</sup> those refering<sup>sic</sup> to marriage. & cooly<sup>sic</sup> anounced<sup>sic</sup> his intention of divorcing his wife & coming to England to marry an English girl. it was very nearly a proposal. & on the Nile too. I am invited to go to Assuan with him!! needless to say I have renounced all hope of going there now. I should not have a moments peace –

I shall probably pay a farewell visit to the desert & Gerzawy & the horses before I come down to Cairo. Gerzawy has written me several letters in his quaint English. he is the nicest Egyptian I have met, with a real phy/<i>losophy of his own & so anxious to exchange ideas about things. I have been able to give him a few new points of view. he told me my personality was like a magnet. (was'nt<sup>sic</sup> it a pretty compliment.) the other Egyptians I have met here are rather uninteresting. Fancy. I am the only woman in the hotel except M<sup>rs</sup> Meade. & there were 8 men to dinner Xmas day. I did have a time. they gave us soup. fish – vegetable, Turkey, sausages. cauliflower, Xmas pudding, brandy-cream-sauce mince pies. & fruit & coffee. it was a feed.

#### <u>Dec 27</u>.

The Carnival at the Winter Palace was a gorgeous affair. I have never been in such a cosmopolitan crowd before. there were people of every nationality East & West. some of the costumes were superb. many genuine, Howard Carter was there judging costumes for prizes.

Thanks for enclosing Uncle J's letter. I am sorry it could not be arranged for him to come out, but I was afraid there would be no time. my letters have to follow after me as it takes so long for letters to get to you. & I only know my new address a few days ahead

bril House Gains. Jans - Thebes H 11/2 The first part of this letter got miss laid so you will probably accuse the one I water at Dan-cl-teting before this waless of generary forgets to post it I arrived here yesterday after having the most worduful experience of my life - I was more Whe as craiting drama than real life. I will ty to discribe it but I are chard any discription would give a poor idea. of the real thing. I think I told you Buzawy officed me she hospalely "I was a little dubious about accepting, so lisote to the missionary at assiont + he replied that it uses quite the that the protice or posts did intertain any havelles whole user useling the villages & English ladies invariably received the uttmost countery - although of course such visits were nare. so I thought I should always regict missing such an adventure - so lacapted for 2 1/2 days on my way for duro to Gaino . It sounds a putty desperate adventure when you realize that I was the only European woman for miles. it a very law less outpost the quest of the only English speaking Egyptian in the whole village - but it gazawy is, in the full serve of the idion "an office & a gentleman" & I was as safe in his house as I am at home. As he was unable to be at Time himself to much me, he sent his servant tan armid quard. Flueas driven in an anabia to the non. we crossed the Nile & continued our journey on donkays. Ingany was waiting to receive me at his house . he should me where Twas To steep + all The accomodation , which was of a very primitain native the house was just a pquan divided like this, a plan

# **BROOME LETTER 11**

# Cecil House Cairo.

Jan 3. [1928] <del>Thebes H</del>

The first part of this letter\* got miss laid, so you will probably receive the one I wrote at Qau-el-Kebir before this, unless el Gerzawy forgets to post it, I arrived here yesterday after having the most wonderful experience of my life – it was more like an exciting drama than real life. I will try to describe it, but I am afraid any description would give a poor idea of the real thing.

I think I told you Gerzawy offered me the hospalely<sup>sic</sup> {hospitality} of the police outpost for as long as I liked to stay. I was a little dubious about accepting, so I wrote to the missionary at Assiout & he replied that it was quite true that the police outposts did entertain any <european<sup>sic</sup>> travellers where[?]<o> were visiting the villia<ag>es & English ladies invariably received the uttmost<sup>sic</sup> courtesy. although of course such visits were rare. so I thought I should always regret missing such an adventure – so I accepted for 2 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> days on my way from Luxor to Cairo.

It sounds a pretty desperate adventure when you realize that I was the only European woman for miles. in a very law less outpost. the guest of the only English speaking Egyptian in the whole village. but el Gerzawy is, in the full sense of the idiom "an officer & a gentleman" & I was as safe in his house as I am at home. As he was unable to be at Tema himself to meet me, he sent his servant & an armed guard. & I was driven in an arabia<sup>sic</sup> to the river. we crossed the Nile & continued our journey on donkeys. Gerzawy was waiting to receive me at his house. he showed me where I was to sleep & all the accomodation<sup>sic</sup>. which was of a very primitive nature. the house was just a square divided like this, a plan

is the simplist way of explaining it. The walls outside were mud Wallid hick white washed in side the root was constructed of wooden cross beams hanches laid over them splasting together to form a ceiling & loose shaw laid over the ortside to keep it cool. all that of course. no need for stoping noofs where there is no This is the purcipal hour VERANDA of the village a is used by the offen in charge who pays rent 5 the Bridget (chief man). after I had tidied myself. The savar poining water for me to wash WALLED we had turch stufed pigcons Inative bread reation with our fingers of course) after lunch came the alternoon sicela. Sugary changed his to a forma galabia & Accluss slippus uniformof course we had to wash again after cating, I as thad had such a long dusty ride, Suzawy advised me to remove my show & stockings, & he washed my feet for me histself while the sugart pound the water, For about an how & a half we rested on divans. & then we received company. all the head men of the village came to be presented to me + as a special favour were allowed to sit on chains in d gergany's presence - (usually they all stand unless he specially invites them to sit with him) of course Suzawy had to Translate all the conversation, (acpt a phrases) I showed them English monay & all the odds & ends Thad with me also shetches & photos . & then as they scened so pleased & interested, I asked them if they believed

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Walled

Garden

is the simplest way of explaining it.

[ € ] The walls outside were mud brick. Whitewashed inside. EC the roof was constructed of wooden cross beams, palm branches laid over them & plastered HALL together to form a ceiling & loose straw laid over the outside to keep it cool. all flat of course, no need for sloping roofs where there is no rain. This is the principal house VERANDA of the village, & is used by the officer in charge who pays rent to the Omdah (chief man).

WALLED COURTYARD.

After I had tidied myself. the servant pouring water for me to wash. we had lunch. stuffed pigeons & native bread. (eaten with our fingers of course) After lunch

came the afternoon siesta. Gerzawy changed his uniform for a flowing galabia & heelless slippers of course we had to wash again after eating. & as I had had such a long dusty ride, Gerzawy advised me to remove my shoes & stockings. & he washed my feet for me himself while the servant poured the water. For about an hour & a half we rested on divans. & then we received company. all the head men of the village came to be presented to me. & as a special favour were allowed to sit on chairs in el Gerzawy's presence. (usually they all stand unless he specially invites them to sit with him) of course Gerzawy had to translate all the conversation, (except a few phrases) I showed them English money & all the odds & ends I had with me – also sketches & photos. & then as they seemed so pleased & interested, I asked them if they believed

for il guzawy to slip through. They said it was impossible, no one could do that, so I did it will my lettle pochet seessors night in four of them. & they clapped then hands with delight like children I said it was magic when they saw the officen step through the long chain that I had made by cutting the card in a special way, after that of course I had to do all my paper stunts, withing horses. boxes - boats the & never have thad such an arthuisastic andienen. It was funny losse a dignified old anab going into raptines over a pape Toy. They hoped I would live for a thousand years rspind them all in Gau il Ribie & they would snot me in any way I liked. Sugarry said they really meant it. & that any time I went to Qan, even In his absence the head men would treat me as if I were a chieftainess & I could stay as long as I liked the Ondak of Can Told Suzawy that he longer likes of high birth i great importance in my own county. You can understand how I full as if I was living a part of one or Rida Haggards novels. The camp lit intain & the circle of tenbaned chabs setting on a circle round me . Suppor was bought in only guzary, a captain for Badary + the Ondaks partook of it. The others with dre to a rispectful distance as their rank did not pamil then to cel with the chief office When our insitions had departed. I was allowed to reture. very comfortable divan sort of bid. quilled covers & mosquilo net. The neet day when Ingawy had attended to his official trisiness we went for a ride.

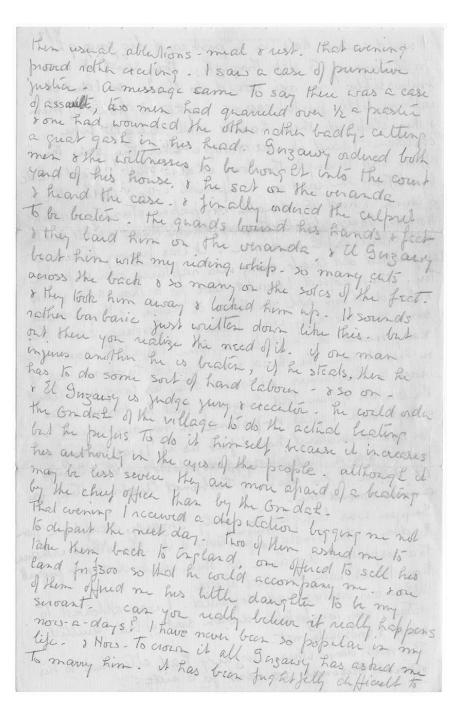
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I could cut a hole in a postcard big enough for El Gerzawy to slip through. they said it was impossible. no one could do that. so I did it with my little pocket scissors right in front of them. & they clapped their hands with delight like children & said it was magic when they saw the officer step through the long chain that I had made by cutting the card in a special way, after that of course I had to do all my paper stunts, rocking horses, boxes, boats etc. & never have I had such an enthusiastic audience. it was funny to see a dignified old Arab goe/<i>ng into raptures over a paper toy. they hoped I would live for a thousand years & spend them all in Qau el Kebir & they would serve me in any way I liked. Gerzawy said they really meant it. & that any time I went to Qau, even in his absence the head men would treat me as if I were a chieftainess & I could stay as long as I liked the Omdah of Qau told Gerzawy that he knew I was of high birth & great importance in my own country. You can understand how I felt as if I was living a part of one of Rider Haggards novels. the lamp lit interior & the circle of turbaned Arabs sitting in a circle round me.

Supper was brought in. only Gerzawy, a captain from Badary & the Omdah <& myself> partook of it. the others withdrew to a respectful distance as their rank did not permitt<sup>sic</sup> them to eat with the chief officer

When our visitors had departed. I was allowed to retire. very comfortable divan sort of bed. quilted covers & mosquito net.

The next day. when Gerzawy had attended to his official business we went for a ride.



then usual ablutions - meal & rest. that evening proved rather exciting. I saw a case of primitive justice. A message came to say there was a case of assalt/<ult>, two men had quarreled<sup>sic</sup> over ½ a piaster & one had wounded the other rather badly, cutting a great gash in his head. Gerzawy ordered both men & the wittnesses<sup>sic</sup> to be brought into the court yard of his house, & he sat on the veranda & heard the case. & finally ordered the culprit to be beaten. the guards bound his hands & feet & they laid him on the veranda. & El Gerzawy beat him with my riding whip. so many cuts across the back & so many on the soles of the feet. & they took him away & locked him up. It sounds rather barbaric just written down like this. but out there you realize the need of it. if one man injures another he is beaten, if he steals, then he has to do some sort of hard labour - & so on -& El Gerzawy is judge jury & executor. he could order the Omdah of the village to do the actual beating but he prefers to do it himself because it increases his authority in the eyes of the people. although it may be less severe they are more afraid of a beating by the chief officer than by the Omdah.

That evening I received a deputation begging me not to depart the next day. two of them asked me to take them back to England, one offered to sell his land for £300 so that he could accompany me. & one of them offered me his little daughter to be my servant. can you really believe it really happens now-a-days? I have never been so popular in my life. & Now. To crown it all Gerzawy has asked me to marry him. it has been frightfully difficult to

refuse the really is one of the finest characters 1 have we met. I like him immensely. The only Thing against him is his Nationality. he wants to come to England & stack some business - he has \$3,000 to invest of his own + has asked me what he can do with it in England. Thave promised to do all I can To help him when I get back, but I handly know hors to set about it. He says the Egyptian sourm. ent will probably send him To England in the summer the officer who was promoted east year, went, & it will be his turn neck. The thinks he may probably puge to settle in England afterwards. I am apaid the thinks I may reconsider it if he lives in England I ghe only were English I believe I would - any way. Iam sur there are a quar many English men who would have behaved less honomoby under the encum. stances than he did. he told me he regarded me as something sacred. I he healed me as such. I can tell you more about it when I get home I upset me very much when he pleaded so haved -The speaks wonderfully good English - but at Times uses analic expussions which are very beautiful com put in English words, 1 got to Gano after a joining 7 1/2 hours for Tome. (1641 Qai il Kibi al 8. Train left Toma 11-49.) 190 my baggage for the luggage room & gol a Taki

I came on here in time for dinner. Thus morning I went to the Husam & saw the Imp. The is taking me to the Pynamids a gain Juday & Sakhara Monday. Thursday Mr Warning Rt is taking me round the Mosques. This afternoon I went to books & saw M'Jackson

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refuse. he really is one of the finest characters I have ever met. I like him immensely. the only thing against him is his Nationality. he wants to come to England & start some business. he has £3,000 to invest of his own & has asked me what he can do with it in England. I have promised to do all I can to help him when I get back, but I hardly know how to set about it. He says the Egyptian goverment<sup>sic</sup> will probably send him to England in the summer. the officer who was promoted last year, went, & it will be his turn next. & he thinks he may probably prefer to settle in England afterwards. I am afraid he thinks I may reconsider it if he lives in England & if he only were English I believe I would. any way, I am sure there are a great many Englishmen who would have behaved less honourably under the circumstances than he did. he told me he regarded me as something sacred. & he treated me as such. I can tell you more about it when I get home it upset me very much when he pleaded so hard. he speaks wonderfully good English. but at times uses Arabic expressions which are very beautiful even put in English words,

I got to Cairo after a journey 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours from Tema. (I left Qau el Kebir at 8. train left Tema 11.49.) I got my baggage from the luggage room & got a taxi & came on here in time for dinner.

This morning I went to the Museum & saw the Imp. [= Reginald Engelbach] he is taking me to the Pyramids again Friday & Sakkara Monday. Thursday M<sup>r</sup> Wainwright is taking me round the Mosques.

This afternoon I went To Cooks & saw Mr Jackson

The was very nice & is amanging everything for me. my but is boshed on the s.s. Hakozaki Manu" due to leave Port Said on a about the 10th after having books I walked about a looked at shops. dodged dhagomen in hilliant galabas + pinchaud a cale of soap de map of Band. I when I had quite tost my self I just got on a Taxi, said "Guil House" & was deposited here the notice sum of I must duss for dinne nors. place, but quite comfortab in a day . / 14/-

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he was very nice & is arranging everything for me. my berth is booked on the S·S· "Hakozaki Maru" due to leave Port Said on or about the  $10^{\underline{\text{th}}}$ 

After leaving Cook's I walked about & looked at shops. dodged dragomen in brilliant galabias & purchaced<sup>sic</sup> a cake of soap & a map of Cairo. & when I had quite lost myself I just got in a taxi, said "Cecil House" & was deposited here for the noble sum of P T. 5 (1/–).

I must dress for dinner now. this is not a swell place, but quite comfortable. I pay 70 piasters a day. (14/–) PAGE 4 VERSO