



<Postmark
16 Jan 1936>

Arabah el Madfuna.
Baliana.

Dear Mother.

Ever so many Happy Returns
of your Birthday. I am afraid
my greeting will arrive a little
after the 18th. The previous mail
seemed such a long time before
the day. but you will know
I was thinking of you on your
birthday.

I am on my own again for
a few days, Amice has gone
to Luxor to make the last
lot of enlargements

Yesterday Madame Roche came
to the temple with some friend
she wanted me to show them
round & explain everything

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 & I have forgotten what little French
 I ever knew (although I find I can
 understand quite a lot) we manage
 to talk to each other in Arabic.
 Though usually she spoke in
 French & I answered in Arabic
 it was very funny but it worked
 quite well. She brought me
 a lovely bunch of sweet peas.
 When I took them home in the
 evening Nannie snorted & looked
 down her nose at them, & said
 they did not smell as sweet
 as the sweet peas out of her
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Our Soudanis had two visitors
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corps, when I was returning at sunset I saw fresh camel tracks on the sand & noticed that they were much larger than the local camels. so I said to the soldier who was with me., two of the camels of the Hegani (camel corps) have passed this way recently. He was very impressed at my being able to read the sand tracks & sure enough when we arrived at the camp there were the two big white camels sitting down outside the Soudani's house. The Ombashi came over to salaam me & drank a cup of tea here. We have not had any further news

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Charles has to have another
operation as another part of the
bone round the mastoid is
infected & the doctors say he must
return to England as soon as
possible afterwards as the climate
here is bad for him in his
present condition. I do not know
if it means that he must give
up his job here. but in any
case it is awfully sad for them
I am sure poor Betty has been
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Last Tuesday Amice started making a plan for the alterations to her house to send to Mr Axford. I had been helping most of the afternoon then about tea time she began to have misgivings & found she could not remember how the stair case went, so we had to scrap everything. was'nt^{sic} it just like Amice? I do not envy poor Mr Axford - I am sure she will want him to do the most impossible things - She has'nt^{sic} got a plan of the house & has only been over it two or three times & has no measurements so it was rather optimistic of her to think she

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I am having a lesson today. I have finished my account of Palestine & am writing the story of the little hunchback which I found in a little book belonging to Aunt Mary Ann. It is a very Eastern story & the Sheikh is very thrilled & I am sure looks forward to the next lesson to hear what

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happens in the next chapter.

(Later)

Major Anderson came to the temple to-day, he was on one of the Nile boats with a party of tourists. this is the only voyage they expect to make up the Nile this year. he had his twin brother with him & I did not know which was which they were so exactly alike. he has invited Amice & I to dine with them Sunday week when the boat is on her return journey to Cairo. we shall look forward to it very much, he is such an excellent host.

Your letter with the handkerchief came to-day. Thank Father very much for it, you should have

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if I acknowledged the 2nd lot of Humourists^{sic}
we have all enjoyed them. Nannie too,
we are both glad to have the Observer ^{again},
& it is so much better for shelves
& packing than the Sunday Times.

I think I have told you all
the news for this week, lots of love
to you both & I hope you have a
very happy birthday.

Your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

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