

Arabah el Madfunah  
Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> 1936.

Dear Mother

I received letters from both of you by one post so had lots of home news, you seem to be having real Christmas weather, we had a bit of a sand storm a few days ago it made work in the temple rather difficult & we had to choose the most sheltered spot.

We are hoping to have the Roches from Nag Hamadi to lunch with us, they may bring two guests with them so we shall be a merry party, we are having a turkey of course & Nannie will make her famous chestnut stuffing, & there will be an<sup>sic</sup> Xmas pudding to follow. To-day is the market before the feast so Sardic is buying the gay handkerchiefs etc for the Christmas tree, there will be between 50 & 60 children. quite a large party to provide for.

I have had a book from D<sup>r</sup> Gardiner, it is called

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Moonraking. It has a lot of fascinating illustrations (pencil sketches) of English country life.

Prof Oliver has also sent me two books by Dorothy Sayers, unfortunately I have had them both out of Boots Library, "The Nine Tailors" & "Strong Poison" but they are worth reading a second time & I can always lend them to friends who enjoy thrillers. I sent the old boy one of Fathers<sup>sic</sup> oak ash trays he is sure to appreciate it. He sent Amice How to live in a Flat by Heath Robinson. I will get her to bring it along for you to see it is really very funny.

There has been a casualty among our doggie pensioners, we noticed one looking rather sick, & the next day the guard said he was dead, he was not quite a year old, so it was probably distemper, the others are quite fit, especially our original friend.

I have just finished making a pink silk blouse, I have done a little embroidery on the front & it looks very smart. Nannie

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is going to heat an iron on the primus so that I can iron it.

We have a new police officer or rather an old one come back again. He came to call the other evening & to our disgust we recognised the "Camel Fly". I expect you remember my description of him four years ago. He is as bumptious as ever & we thought we were never going to get rid of him, our bath water got cold & our supper was ruined by being kept hot for us. The broadest hints did not have the slightest effect. We shall have to become haremly unapproachable. There were a party of tourists in the temple the other day so he had a lovely time buzzing round them, we, being perched up on scaffolds were safely out of reach.

There is a rumour that the young King Farouk will be visiting Abydos early in the new year. We do not know if we will be expected to be in attendance to show him round. but

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the day of his visit.

I have not had any news of Nancy or Joan  
but expect I shall hear from them at Xmas,  
each post brings us greetings from various friends  
& we hear there is a big box of good things  
awaiting us at Baliana station from Mrs Jenkin  
who is the wife of the First Secretary at the  
Residency, we are sending in a man to fetch  
it tomorrow & are full of excitement to see the  
contents.

Lots of love to you both & to Pat  
from both of us.

Your affectionate  
daughter  
Myrtle.

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