

Arabah el Madfunah.
Nov 14th 1929.

39

Dear Mother

Your letter of the 7th arrived today, it must have just caught an overland mail. I am glad Father's birthday letter arrived at a suitable time. I hope you will not be in debt to the post man for many other letters of mine. I also had a letter from Eric, I had sent him a rather nice stamp which seemed to please him very much. Sorry to hear such continued bad news of M^r Childs.

Fancy Florence sending you such news so soon. I am glad she has written, I wonder if I shall have an answer to the letter I wrote her soon after I got settled here.

I am glad your frock is progressing, I am sure it is beautifully finished & overcast. I am also glad Father likes the rug, I didn't think he liked the look of it in the raw material, I shall look forward to seeing it on my return.

Your proposed outings with Pat sound very attractive you must tell me all about it when you are writing.

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Just at present I am in charge of the camp. Miss C. has gone to Sohag to pay a state call on the Mudir, the head official of this province. it is diplomatic to be on friendly terms with the Powers that be, after the call, she is going on to Cairo, there are several things that need seeing to personally. she will be away 3 or 4 days. before leaving she gave me the keys of the store room & medicine cupboard also James, the automatic revolver was handed over into my keeping, she will not trust the men with either. I have to give all directions to the men, (Nannie helps me with the Arabic) & boss round generally. Of course the first day of my directorship a letter in badly written French & arabic was delivered with our mail, we could none of us make the address out so I sent it round to the police station, they may read the arabic & find the right owner, I am hoping it wont turn up here again.

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Nothing very exciting has happened the last few days. we have been working steadily. Our patients are off our hands now. The gash in the man's leg is healing over, we have given him a supply of ointment & bandages & dismissed him. We found out by enquiry that the poor little wife did not go to the doctor at all, so we had her round again, the ulcer had broken so we got it properly cleaned out with Lysol solution & sent her off with a bottle for future cleansings & a supply of dressings, we hear that all is going well. If these people succeed in growing to maturity they are pretty healthy, (only the fit survive) all one has to do is to insist on constant cleansings, & keeping the places covered so the flies cannot infect, or lay eggs. & then nature does the rest very quickly.

Nov 15th This is Mosque day. so at 11.15 I sent Sandic off to say his prayers. he seemed delighted that I should remember to give him permission at the correct time

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I am sending some more pictures. they are not as good as usual. Capt C offered to develop them but when he got the film unrolled it would'nt^{sic} all go in the ~~the~~ developing bath at once. The next lot I have sent to Cairo. I expect to send you more in another letter.

We are having local oranges & mandarins now as well as melons & dates & grapes. I have a glass of freshly squeezed orange every morning to start my breakfast, then a huge slice of melon & a cup of coffee.

The paper you sent will do very nicely. I shall start making toys in the evenings now.

In the list of fruits I forgot to mention that we are having sweet potatoes, these are lovely. the flavour is rather like chestnuts they are long like a carrot but the skin & consistency is like an ordinary potato.

I think I have told you all the news so far.

Lots of love to you both
your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

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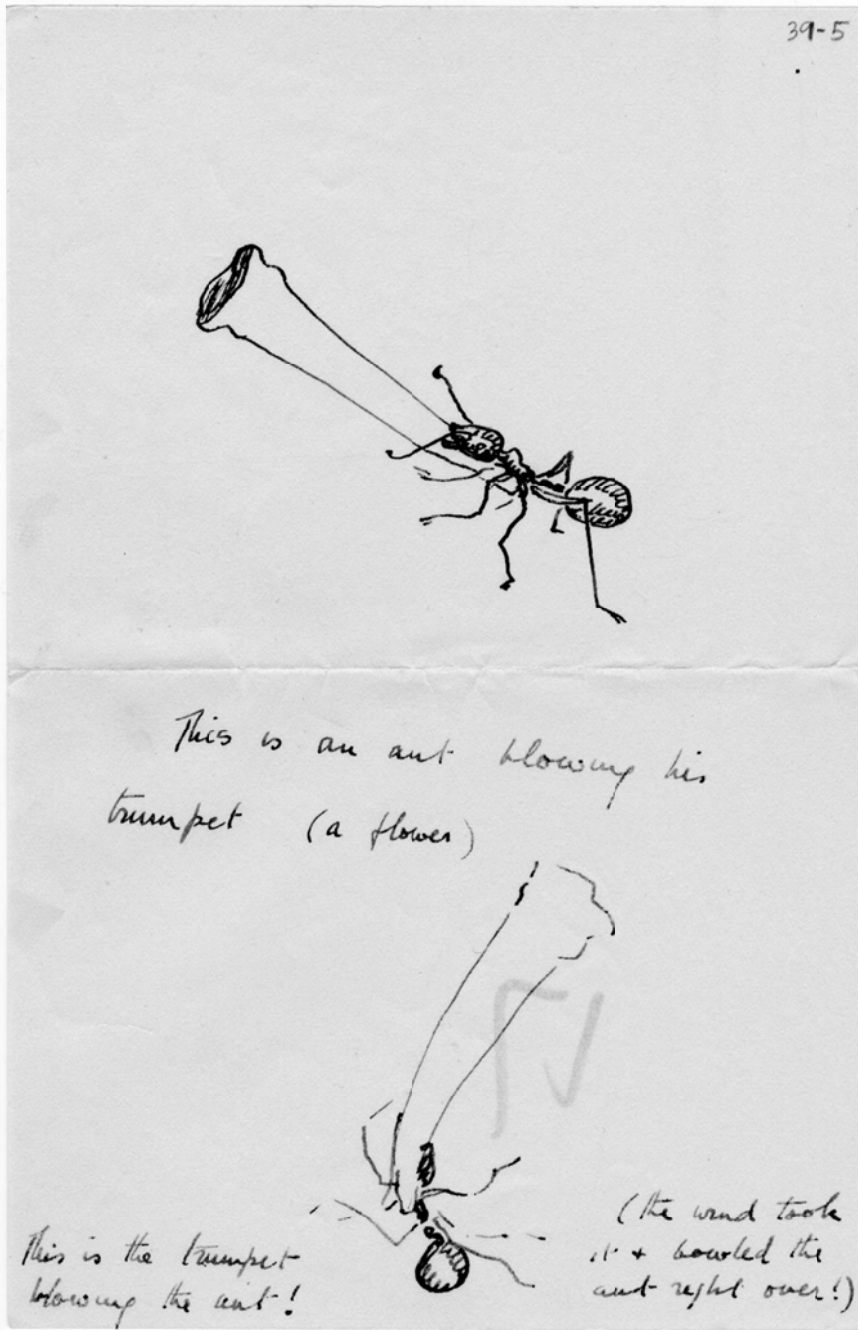
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[R]

This is an ant blowing his trumpet (a flower)

[R]

This is the trumpet blowing the ant!

(the wind took it & bowled the ant right over!)