

Cecil House
Cairo.
May 13th 1930

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Cairo

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Dear Mother.

Here I am, back in Cairo, I felt quite sad to leave my nice desert home & all the pleasant desert people.

I had such a lovely send off, such a bevy of callers came to say good bye to me at the house & the Taxi was stopped 3 times on the way to the station by friends who wished to offer their salaams. I even had a deputation from the ladies of the village. & Sheik Abdu Wahid has written me a special charm from the Kor-an, to protect me on my journey & bring me safely back, one portion remains in the house, the other I am to carry about with me on the right side. This is a very unusual gift from a devout Muslim to a Christian & I value it very much. Mr Little (who is now called Little 'un) came to Cairo with me. & Miss C follows with Nannie & the luggage to-night. We came by the night train, had a first class compartment to ourselves, so we each stretched ourselves out & went fast asleep until 5 o'clock. Then we had a wash & tidy up & were all fresh & lively when we arrived at Cairo by 7 o'clock. The Little un saw me safely here & then went on to stay with some cousins who have a house near Old Cairo

I had breakfast. & gorgeous hot bath

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then went to the National Bank of Egypt & cashed a cheque for £40 my travel allowance. then to the hair dressers, had a trim & a wave. from there to Cooks. had a chat with Mr Jackson & parted with £35 for tickets etc he says all the boats this year are absolutely full in the 2nd class but have quite a few passengers in the first. every one seems to be hard up. I felt a bally millionaire - They do not know yet the time she will be leaving Port Said but will advise me later it will be either 15th or 16th & she will probably arrive at London 12 days afterwards. the date of arrival is not given in the shipping list but I expect you will be able to follow her progress in the Daily Telegraph. she is the City of Calcutta.


When Cooks were disposed of I went along to the industrial exhibition to do my shopping. I bought a very nice suit case, a size larger than my black ~~case~~ pegamoid one. it has a tray inside & is made of cow hide I gave £3.5.0 for it. I think it will stand a lot of hard wear. I could not get the case Uncle Jim wanted they had nothing that size at all I bought a hand bag. also two lengths of silk & a gorgeous pink & lemon dressing gown for myself. I need the latter badly my winter one looks rather a wreck

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since its journey to Kharga is not at all suitable to a first class passenger - dressing gowns are such public garments on board ship. This one is just a very rich piece of artificial silk made up quite square like this →  it drapes beautifully & there is lots to wrap round ones legs. These numerous purchases required a taxi to convey them to Cecil House. so I went to Hadji Bekir on my way & got some turkish delight to bring home. (I hope it will not melt.)

May 14th: Had a gorgeous ~~day~~ morning. Miss C arrived to breakfast. she had a bath & a general change of garments & then at 9:30 the Little 'un arrived & we all went off to the Mouskey to buy things. it was fun - my first purchase was some incense. they burnt the various smells & I selected the one I liked best. I bought a small lump for 10 PT. I know Father will love it. it is quite a new sort of smell we looked at the street of the goldsmiths, & the copper smiths & the spice market etc. then we went to visit a friend of Miss C's who deals in old brass & copper ware. & there we had a regular orgy. we partook of coffee, turkish delight, & cigarettes, & had the most lovely old arab & persian metal work shown to us, mostly 16 & 17th Cent. we wouldn't look at modern stuff at all.

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Miss C had several presents to buy & she had to have some for herself because she couldn't bear to part with them. I also fell. I have purchased - but no. I will not tell you. you must wait & see. it's a present for both of you. I simply couldn't resist it & it's something for domestic use that is really required. The amusing thing was that the dealer gave us each a present at the conclusion of the bargain & has promised to give us a still more splendid present if we will come to him again next year.

We drove back here feeling very triumphant, we were just finishing lunch when the Imp [= Reginald Engelbach] blew in to ask us both to dine with him tonight, we are having tea with D^r Junker & at the present moment are taking a short rest.

May 16th The boat train leaves to-day 11 AM from Cairo. Miss C is coming with me & I have asked her to come & stay it would be such a dull home coming for her to have to go to a dull club & we have been so happy together that I am sure you will give her a lovely welcome for my sake. If the spare room is occupied I will sleep in the studio & she can have my room.

We had such a day yesterday we went to look at rugs

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had such an orgy - lovely & wonderful things were spread before us. I tried to get our passage rug, but alas. they were nearly all 4 feet wide, the only narrow one was in soft pinks & I could'n't bear to think of it against our stain carpet. all the same. I have bought a rug. I don't know where for - we must decide about that together, but its one of those things that one has to have irrespective of price or anything. its a treasure & a joy - an old persian in the most exquisite soft colours & the most unique design. as for Miss C. she adores rugs. she is absolutely depraved in the matter of acquiring beautiful things. she spent £60 & has been gloating over it ever since, she is leaving hers with D^r Junker this season as she has no place for them at present. but mine is sewn up in a sack & of course will come with me.

(I only wish you could see hers)

I hope this will reach you before we arrive

Lots of love

your affectionate daughter

Myrtle.

P.S. Mr Lucas took us out to dinner last night & gave us a splendid time. I showed him my amber & he says it is really very good -

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