

Thursday July 20
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Good morning my dear own

I have just come to this dewy fresh
sunlet garden to talk to you
I am sitting on the seat in the circle
facing a right in the sun. Most of the
circle is still in the shadow the
hairs make but this side is not. ^{morning}
There is a tree of some lonely kind ^{passing}
like a hawk in front of me and the
sun shines through its glistening wings
and turns them to pale gold.
This is a paradise to live in, but if it
were not for baby I could not do it now.
It does make a great difference to my
happiness to live in a beautiful place
it gives one so many purely happy
moments.

I really got at my thing painting yesterday
morning I drew a lot of my designs
and put on my ground wash I ought to
get on with the painting today. I should
have done so yesterday afternoon if I had
not gone to be Father's caddy. Instead of
being back soon after five they ^{had} ~~had~~

not finished the game till six. That
was lovely because Mr Ransom was
off his daisies and consequently was
always losing his ball and we had
long hunts for it. It certainly was
wonderfully pretty over there, the ground
was either pink with hay grass or bright
yellow with sheets of hawkweed. All the
distant views were peculiarly lovely,
blue & rammed. Old Cauckbeary showed
out after.

It is specially nice to come and talk to
you dear before I have talked to any
one else in the morning and then to
you go in to breakfast & perhaps
get a letter from you. But at best
this letter business is not much of
a substitute for talking to one another
is it. It is so much nicer to see
your face & have you by me
I'm afraid Clara is not going to be
very musical, it does not at present seem
to interest her very much. Still I don't
think you would expect our child to
be really more interested in music

than other things. Colours so far
interests her most, undoubtedly; I think
I ought to add men and boys. There is
no doubt at all that she is more interested
in the male than the female sex. I think
its very funny it should begin so early.
If a man she has not seen before takes
her onto his knee she hardly ever makes
a fuss but stares & stares with great
intensity and interest. The only thing that
is fatal is to give her into the arms of
the new person directly they come into the
room with out giving her time to get a
good look at them first.

Even if she is not specially musical I do
think that music ought to come largely
into her small child education. She will
have to learn to ~~do~~ read & write & do
simple arithmetic, then I think if she
also learned to sing and learned something
about music & to play if she seemed to
care for it at all. Then I should like
her to learn to speak French easily
when she is quite young. I mean under
twelve. That could be done with a French
woman or governess, but I think they

would be a great convenience very likely,
and it might be simpler to spend
summer holidays in France. I think that
would help a child on very much and
also make it keen to learn between times.
Eight o'clock has struck & I must go
in.

Friday morning 7. O'clock W.T. (Willet time)
I did not finish and send off this letter
yesterday partly because I spent much
time in sending parcels to you.
There were two parcels & they contained
a cake pines, dried apricots, (they must be
cooked) tea, soup tablets and pencils &
indeed rubber. I think that is all. Oh no
there was some ~~that~~ crystallised ginger.
I hope they will get there safely
I have some doubt about one parcel.
Mrs Wooten did it up, she says she
is very good at doing up parcels
but I don't think that was good at
all. I did not see that it was bad
till too late to rectify it. Tell
me how it arrives please ~~if~~ if not
at all. I had a letter from you

yesterday evening and it was very nice
But you spoke with some severity of
my spelling and carelessness. The carelessness
I do humbly apologise for. I know I
ought always to read my letters through &
sometimes I do. When I don't it's usually
because I am hurried, but I won't be
any more if I can help it. I am more
careful about other letters as a rule, but
I will try also to be better about them.
As for the spelling I'm afraid you must
take that as one of the woases, in the
for better or worse of the marriage
novel. I never tried to conceal the
fact from you.

I heard to bad bits of news yesterday.
The first & worst that Mr Tompson is
killed. I've not seen it in the casualty
list but Mr Rawworthy told Father.
I can't understand it I thought he &
Mr Willet were together in the same battery
and I understood that Mr Willet is
only just going out.

I'm awfully sorry about it. I must own
that almost my first feeling is much
added anxiety about you. My dear do

tell me if you can ~~know~~ how much
danger you are in. There is no use talking
much about the anxiety or dwelling more on
it than one can help. But this has given
me rather a nasty shock. Some one you
knew from Chaater house & in the same
regiment is so awfully close. I feel so
sure that it might as ~~well~~ ^{easily} have been
you. Oh my dear, my dear! I give you a kiss
now right on your lips.

The other sad thing is that Mrs Lovines
little son came thru weeks too soon &
weighs only four lbs and they fear he
won't live, they can get no food to
suit him. They had a specialist down
yesterday, so Mrs Radcliff told Mildred.
Mrs Lovine can't nurse him. I should have
thought they would try for a wet nurse.
I do hope they will pull him through.
I don't think they despair at all.

I had a letter from Bridget yesterday and
I think she will come here with Pousis
while her nurse is away. Father &
Mildred don't seem to mind at all.
I'm afraid she will find it very dull compared

to last year with you here
Dearest I know that what I said about
the right atmosphere did sound a bit
solemn & perhaps new sort of fantastical.
But of course I don't want it like that.
The solemn discussion part is only for us
now & then & all the gaiety and
natural joy of life is to be for Clara &
the others.

Darling I am very glad you find the present
life youth giving and that you look well
& happy, even if you aren't always. It really
is a great comfort to me. When I told
the others that your life was youth giving
Father said if you were going to get any
younger he did not know what would
happen and Marysue that I should be
dandling you on the other arm with
Clara. They are silly & have their eyes
shut. I know you have got a lot older
quite well. I would like you to be very
gay and happy again. But I doubt how
far the after of this awful year will
conduce to it. Any way when it is
first over & we meet again we will be

very happy & gay & joyful. And life will
for us be better than its ever been before
because we shall have our darling baby class
and at a most adorable age.

I will obtain the lit sup and send it to you
I rather believe Father keeps our old
ones but I will find out. I thought
Curtis was sending it for you because
I saw some down in a hill.

Eight o'clock I must stop & read
thoughts

Your very loving
Ruth.

I send off the Times yesterday

