

Tuesday Dec 5 [1916]

My own Darling

I am having a nice quiet morning at home instead of going to the depot as I have my period and one gets so awfully cold over there. I have been reading Oliver Lodges book so far this morning and a good deal last night. I must tell you about it as I go along and then if you want it I can buy it & send it to you. It cost 10/- but still its too new to get from any library yet. I am borrowing with it because Mr Pilcher, Mr Clutton Brock & Miss Handcock all want Father to lend it too them.

The book begins with Raymonds letters home from the front that is so that one should have a personal feeling & interest about him & interest in him. It give me an even more personal feeling because I have played with some of them at Birmingham when staying with the Dixons. I think with Raymond himself but of that I cant be sure.

They are very nice bright letters. He was in the infantry and in the Tross salient during 1915. It does make one feel that any one there

had a very poor chance of coming through but he evidently thoroughly expected to.

He was hit one night in the trenches and only lived an hour or two.

I have now just begun the infernal part of the book. About a month before Raymonds death Lodge received from America a message from some one who I gather had been dead some time & who different people were in the habit of communicating with through a medium.

The dead man Mayer & says said other things and then gave a sort of message for Lodge which was a classical allusion about a Faun ~~with~~ & a poet. Lodge is not a classic so sent it to someone whom Mayers said would interpret & they at once said it must be a certain passage from Horace & meant a heavy blow was mitigated by the Faun. Lodge did not think much of it at the time but expected it meant some financial trouble.

Thats as far as I've got. It seems to take a long time to tell you. I wonder what I shall think of it all when I have finished. I think



I should like you to read it too.

This awful war may be the beginning of very changing times and one of the changes might be that some how our spirits may be let loose. I do want a looser spirit so much.

Why should it we live all of us much much for things spiritual. Why should it a free spirit be the first thing we want instead of desiring lands & houses, motors and beautiful clothes.

A large number of people do already desire love and friendship first I think.

But then with many girls worldly things get so mixed with love. They want marriage partly because there is a feeling of disgrace in being left an old maid ~~or~~ They want the consequence of an engagement and marriage.

The clothes of the trausseau really comes into it. I dont think I am being unfair in saying this. Why Olive Smedley's first word to me when I told her I was engaged to you were 'Are it you awfully pleased. Somehow it did not the least express my feelings, but I suppose it I had been

thinking of the wedding & new ~~old~~ clothes I should have felt that I was pleased.

It was rather dreadful in those letters of 1915 to hear Raymond speaking of peace & here we are nearly in 1917 and what prospects of peace. Some times I do feel as though I were living in a night mare I could not wake from.

We are going to London tomorrow to get what Christmas presents we are going to get. That is only the servants and Agnes Lickfold, Helen & Clare.

Bob is coming home on the Saturday just before Christmas. They are lucky that he can arrange his leave like that & that they can have a definite day to look forward to.

I wonder if Clare will have any words that she can say when you come back. She might say that time you know. I think she is a very affectionate little girl I do want her to be.

I am glad dear that she was a girl & not a boy I don't think I could have found any other baby quite so sweet. I want to have boy for you very much next time but I am glad I've got



my little girl. She is growing up so fast I should be glad to know another baby was coming. But its a very minor want compared with wanting you safe back and wanting peace. What makes this war go on when every one wants peace?

It gave me great pleasure that you said you found this stage of life heroic because I know as long as you can feel like that you are really essentially all right and spiritually happy. That is so isn't it? And so long as you are all right nothing else matters much to me.

I am now going to try & design a new cup and saucer I wish you were here so that I might show it to you and know if you like it as soon as I have done it.

Your very very loving  
Ruth.



