

March 10

My dearest George

Its thawing today as fast as possible and everything is very wet but smells nice. I'm in the winter garden though its hardly warm enough for sitting out. Things are looking a little dashed by the snow and the cucumbers are all shut, but I have seen ~~one~~ the blue buds of scilla lying in their sheath-like calyx. The grape hyacinths wont be out for some time yet and the later sort are much the best I think though Father says they spread too much. Most of the things the others bought in London came down this morning and that was amusing. The most interesting were a navy blue blouse bought by Mildred to go with a new coat and skirt she has also bought. There are to please Bob. Then there were little white knitted coats for Clare and a brown jersey coat for me and one for Marion. I really needed it badly. Its raining rather it and blattering my

letter. Still I think I can keep dry enough under this shelter.

I have just done up a parcel for you and Marjorie has taken it to the post for me. Two pounds of sausages a tin of tongue and some soup packets. Please tell me if two pounds of sausages is enough or if you would rather I sent more. I had a little book of Robert Graves' poetry sent by the publisher last night. If you have not had it and would like me to send it to you will you say.

Now I can send you parcels again I find I spend quite a long time trying to think of new things that would be nice to send. I shall be able to send green gooseberries when they come in but that won't be till May.

The others saw Marjorie Waterhouse yesterday. She, poor thing, has been put into the ward where the worst cases are and she said she was left alone with them one

for the whole afternoon. She told them she was going to ask to be moved because she is terrified of it and she dreams about it when she is asleep even. I hope she will get moved soon.

I had a lovely play with Clara this morning about the school room floor and then she sat on my lap and played with pennies & halfpennies. In many ways I shall be very glad to have her back at the Hall there are too many people here with some authority and think the result is rather a muddle for Clara. One person lets her do a thing and another doesn't I must try and pull myself together and be more systematic and a little more firm. The nursery part is excellent I think but the mother's is the more difficult. I do want her to find me sympathetic and loving always. I know that can be combined with sufficient firmness but it's not easy. We are looking forward very much to Daisy

coming down this evening.

Mr Green has sent me a cheque for the rent and has apologised for the table which he says his son must have spilled the ink on though he has been forbidden to use it there. I'm afraid from what he says that there will be rather a bill for must pipes. And he also says the post broke the lavatory basin which is very annoying. I don't believe it ought to have happened.

Dearest I do wish you could come back sometimes and we could be together in the spring. It's so sad to have spring without you. I had you first in the spring didn't I. What day those were in Italy of sunshine and flowers. We must go to Italy in the spring together the next chance there is. I wonder if our money will hold out.

My dear I want to live with you. Perhaps it will be better for all this.

Your very loving
Ruth.