

THE WOMEN

SYLVIA

So I said to Howard, "What do you expect me to do? Stay home and darn your socks? What do we all have money for? Why do we keep servants?"

NANCY

You don't keep them long, God knows— (*Placing the pack of cards*) Yours, Peggy.

PEGGY

Isn't it Mrs. Potter's? I opened with four spades. (*SYLVIA firmly places the pack before PEGGY. PEGGY wrong again, deals.*)

SYLVIA

Second hand, you did. And went down a thousand. (*Patronizingly*) Peggy, my pet, you can't afford it.

PEGGY

I can too, Sylvia. I'm not a pauper.

SYLVIA

If your bridge doesn't improve, you soon will be.

NANCY

Oh, shut up, Sylvia. She's only playing till Mary comes down.

SYLVIA

(*Querulously*)

Jane, what's Mrs. Haines doing up there?

JANE

(*Reproachfully*)

It's that lingerie woman *you* sent her, Mrs. Fowler.

THE WOMEN

SYLVIA

I didn't expect Mrs. Haines to buy anything. I was just trying to get rid of the creature. (*JANE exits*) Peggy, bid.

PEGGY

Oh, mine? By.

SYLVIA

(*Looking at PEGGY*)

She *won't* concentrate.

NANCY

She's in love, bless her. After the child's been married as long as you girls, she may be able to concentrate on vital matters like bridge.

SYLVIA

(*Bored*)

Another lecture on the Modern Woman?

NANCY

At the drop of a hat. By.

SYLVIA

I consider myself a perfectly good wife. I've sacrificed a lot for Howard Fowler—two spades. I devote as much time to my children as any of my friends.

NANCY

Except Mary.

SYLVIA

Oh, Mary, of course. Mary is an exception to all of us.



UPPER KING STREET
PORT CHESTER
NEW YORK

PORT CHESTER 1828

THE HOUSE
KING STREET
GREENWICH
CONNECTICUT

July 15, 1940.

Jane darling:

Darn it all - I can't get to Maine Chance Farm. I wish I could, because sitting on my spreading chestnut tree for the past two weeks has helped me gain five pounds!

The reasons I can not come are many and complete: first, Ann is laid up with a four-wisdom-teeth- operation; second, I haven't finished my book yet; and third, Harry won't let me go away without him for another six months, and so on. Give my love to the girls and sweat pretty.

We are not going to Washington to live, but Harry's office has rented a small apartment in some hotel or other down there so that the "boys" can go there when they have Washington business to do. I hope I get there one of these days soon.

It is wonderful about Willkie. I don't know how I want his edition bound, but I want Roosevelt's bound and gagged.

I miss you terribly. Don't go to Hawaii -- come and visit us for a spell instead.

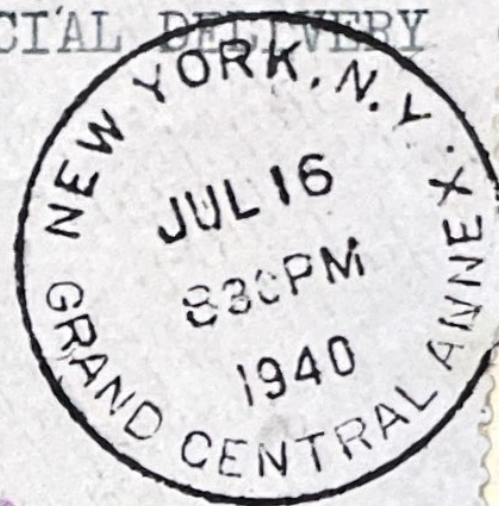
For the rest -- nary a rumour have I heard.

Best love,

Clare

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