

Sensen

2. 11. 36.

My dearest Aunt.

Thank you very much for your letter.

I am sure you will understand if I answer it rather seriously. There can be no question of Camilla going to stay with her Father for these holidays (or, indeed, until she is older at all.) I have considered the question for a long time, most seriously; & am absolutely sure as a human being can be that, by any indications entirely apart ^{that}, it would be the worst possible thing for her at present.

He has lately married again — a young woman of whom no-one has much good to say; & you may be sure I have made enquiries. Her step-sister will probably be there, is 'in' with a very bad set, & is also jealous of her. While as for some of her Father's friends — — —

Dearest Aunt, I feel sure that you will agree, that it would not be a suitable milieu for a girl just turned sixteen. No need to hurt his feelings. Tell him, while thanking him very much,

[Love]

which is perfectly true, that the child has many previous engagements with her Mother in Cornwall this Christmas, ^{these holidays} which cannot be postponed.

Anyhow, I want my daughter for myself. I don't see much of her, & lately we have become better friends than we have ever been. Just as this is coming on, I can't have her spending weeks with people who are now stronger to her, & from whom she will learn nothing that is kind or generous about me.

As to Mother. Again, my dear Aunt, I want my child ^{unless you wish} to myself. Just lately - I want to know you with details, Mother has been anything but kind in her treatment of me. Let that pass. Only, as well, the last time Camilla was with her, she spoke of me in a critical

o Carthen's way - to my own child. And I do not see that it is any part of my duty to allow that.

I am writing to Camilla to remind. Taking her rather more with my confidence than I have done hitherto. Telling her she must meet me; that under very difficult circumstances we are doing our very best for her; that she will have all the London she wants a little later, & as much as her Father as she pleases once she is of age. Explaining as well as I can the plain truth that for

her as a young girl to be 'afflicted' with his set or
 with her step-sister, would do her every sort of harm: would
 be the worst sort of introduction to the world. Even going so far
 as to put it in the, as Mary Jett's daughter, any number of
 interesting doors will be open to her; which for John Rodker's
 daughter is not the case.

(By the way, my lawyers seem to think it ^{may} be
 possible for me to raise the money to send her to Oxford at
 Cambridge. Which, if it can be managed, will be a great
 step in launching her on the world. With a good degree,
 she will find the professions much more easily open; & at
 either University she will get her outlook enlarged, and meet
 the interesting young people of her day.

Don't you yourself approve? How glad I am
 this doctoring career seems to be dying down. Or it did last
 holidays, at least. She would love to be a physician.
 As no scientist, she says frankly that she dislikes sick people.
 I know they can do without her in the room!)

I hope this letter is legible. (I will write to her
 tomorrow. Don't let her feel a martyr. Tell her she
 must trust me; & she can be sure she won't have dull
 holidays. Dear Aunt, let me know what you think
 But ~~all~~ my mind, for the present, is made up.
 Ever your loving Mary