

5208 Glenwood Road
Bethesda, Maryland
May 31, 1950

Dear Aunt Queenie,

Mother mentioned very briefly in a letter that she had heard from you, and that Emily was sick now. How very sorry I am! I've been worrying about it since then, and wishing I could hear further news. You have all my love and sympathy, and it irks me not to be able to do something positive to help you both. I've been all through that mental business myself, and I'm intimately acquainted with what a neat little private hell it creates. But I'm also happily aware that it can be cured, and if not forgotten at least relegated to its proper place- beaten, chastened, and cowed!

Because of this personal experience with the nasty stuff I presume to think I can understand people in a like situation better than those who have never been in that strange other world. And so once more I should like to ask you if you think Emily would like to come down here to Washington for a visit and a rest with us? I know she doesn't really "know" us, but sometimes it's better to be with people you don't know for a fresh start. We're in a very quiet suburb, surrounded by trees, it's cool here in the summer. William has been through the mill, he's kind, and the whole house is running over with love. I should be so happy to be able to give Emily a pleasant time, and she could come whenever she wants and leave whenever she wants. Please don't think it's a fantastic idea and dismiss it without a thought. If she herself seems to give it any favorable consideration, I should be overjoyed. If you think it might possibly help her, please don't hesitate for a moment. There are only two periods during the summer when we wouldn't be at your disposal: during the week of June 18-25, and during the three weeks following July 25. We plan to return from vacation around the middle of August. So any time from the end of June to the end of July would do splendidly, as would any time in August after the 15th- or September. Remember, it's still true that there's nothing like a complete change of scene! And remember too that we really, really mean that we would be happy to have Emily with us.

In any case, I hope you will have time to let me know how she is getting on, right now. And that you won't utterly reject my hopeful plan.

With all love to you both,