

5208 Glenwood Road
Bethesda, Md.
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Dear Tebby,

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Many thanks for your letter, and (two days later) for the little sun suits-cum-handi-pants. The letter was delightfully informative, and the sun suits are practical and pretty. We had received four pairs of the plain handi-pants and have been using them daily, but this combination set is even better. The girls look cute as rabbits in them, and because of the adjustable shoulder straps they should be wearable for quite some time. Strangley enough, Miss Laura does have light reddish-brown hair!- but it isn't red enough to eliminate pink, and neither does Miss Helen's darker brown-red. They look very much alike, but aren't identical. For one thing, Miss Helen's eyes are turning into dark brown, and Miss Laura's seem to be turning into light blue or grey, as Laurence's did. At first glance everyone thinks them completely identical. I'm confused about the matter because the doctor told me they were identical, or should be, because they arrived in only one placenta, which he claims is the criterion. Obviously the girls are setting out to refute the doctor. They weighed six and a half and six and three-quarters pounds at birth (by section, as before) and we are absolutely delighted with them- terribly smug, as a matter of fact. However, it is quite impossible for me to take care of them all by myself, and after a month of trying to go it alone I rehired the capable practical nurse I had when I first came home from the hospital. Miss Roddy was especially necessary because as you imagined, we have been transferred, and are leaving from New York on the third of August. The logistics of getting to Guatemala two grown-ups, one child, and two infants were so complicated that it was quite ridiculous even to contemplate trying to prepare for the great emigration and take care of twins at the same time. We are very happy to be going to such a fine place, and I'm especially pleased because we are going to be able to take over the house and some of the servants of the previous First Secretary, so we won't have to stay in a hotel while we look for a house. Also, a friend here who is Guatemalan recommended a former nursemaid in her family, who has agreed to take on the twins- brave woman! Taking care of twins is a thirty-six hour job every twenty-four hours, I have discovered.

Your new house sounds wonderful- I should say your new estate! I presume you'll get a power mower, though- I've found one eighth of an acre bad enough, but the task of mowing an eight-acre lawn staggers me. I hope you won't be so broke you won't be able to take a holiday some time, because it would be so nice if you could go down to Guatemala and investigate things while we are there. This house we are going to get has a government furnished guest room and bath in which we hope to place a few select souls from time to time in addition to the steady stream of more or less official visiting firemen they tell me descend on Embassy Guatemala. It's amazing how few congressmen, etc., feel they have to investigate conditions in West Africa, and even Caracas, in comparison with the large numbers of investigators felt necessary in pleasant posts around the world! Well, we'll enjoy it just the same. You get sort of lonesome for a sight of "folks from home" in some places, and welcome with open arms anyone and everyone who comes

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along. That's why it's been so nice here in Washington for the past three years- so many people we thought we'd never see again have turned up at one time or another. And that's also why it would be so very extra nice if somebody like Tebby should be able to do a little investigating of conditions herself. Lots of fascinating Mayan ruins, all kinds picturesque scenery, mountains all over the place, etc. Well, it's just a thought, but it would be wonderful if you really did find yourself able to come to Guatemala in the next three years.

The girls are out in their huge twin carriage (second-hand, or possibly third hand) all dressed up in their new sunsuits admiring each other. They are very cheerful babies, much more so than Laurence was, and smile continuously when in a good, well-fed mood. I'm glad Laurence, the sober little citizen, came first, because it would have been a disappointment to miss the grateful, encouraging smiles these young ladies give us when they receive their bottles or are picked up. They are fond of company (Laurence took it or left it in solemn curiosity) but what delights them most of all is to be put where they can get a good view of each other. They chuckle and smile at each other in obvious joyful recognition, and when one sneezes or coughs or yawns, the other invariably finds it hugely amusing. They hold little conversations, rather sparse as yet, but whatever is said never fails to make a big impression on the other baby. I hope they will get along well in their playpen once we get to Guatemala. Laurence had a habit of ignoring any other baby he might encounter in a play pen. But he's a good boy, and very rewarding in his own way. A deep thinker, a great one for reading any and all books, JUST so the books are about scientific matters or deal with transportation in any form. He plans to be an engineer, and under the influence of my brother has recently changed from his original plan of being an electrical engineer to being a rocket engineer. In his case, I'd say he might well do just what he says he's going to do now, at five and a half. There's very little childish nonsense about him.

Thank you once more for the sunsuits, which the girls will wear on the trek up to New York, and for taking the time to write, also. Both are much appreciated. I hope you'll write again some time in the future, and if you do make it care of the American Embassy, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Affectionately,