

Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc.



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Dearest Faith:

Happy New Year, a little late! I wonder what you did for the holiday (or was it a holiday for you?), and how your Christmas was.

I enjoyed Christmas Eve, with Deb and her friend Allen, very much, though I missed you. Next year, I hope ... Thank you so much for the box of sauces and the money-for-Europe, from both of you. They were generous and thoughtful presents, and I'll enjoy them both.

That weekend was very quiet. The only other things I did were going to see D.'s Indian dance class on Christmas morning, and the Christmas service at the Center that night.

This past weekend was different. It was another four-day weekend, and I spent it at Cary Baynes's in Connecticut. Cary's daughter Ximena and X.'s two young children are here on a visit from Switzerland, so the house was full. And to add to the fun, the day after I got there the temperature dropped to ten below zero, the wind rose to sixty to seventy-five m.p.h., ~~and~~ the current went off, and the pipes froze. After working on the plumbing all of Monday, the plumber finally got one bathroom in working order, and the pantry sink.... Fortunately, there are three fireplaces downstairs, which kept us from perishing, but it was so cold that when I went to bed all I took off was my shoes and my necktie....

Are you keeping warm enough down there? I really haven't much of an idea of what it's like in Georgia, but I know that Florida can be very cold in the winter, and I suppose that Georgia can too, with inadequate heating systems in the house.

Now I have no plans - except for lots of work - until I take off, which I think will be the eighth or ninth of February. I had an unexpected telephone call from Pat and Aunt Marg last night. They had planned to sail from Boston, but because of the dock strike they were brought to New York by bus (don't ask me why New York is any better) and telephoned me from the dock as they were about to board ship. We'll just miss each other by about a week in ~~Florence~~ Italy - because I think (and hope) that work on the Berenson ms. will involve my going to Florence.

I've had it in mind to send you a little box of goodies but, as you can see, haven't got to it yet. I will, and meanwhile, I hope you have some kind of fun on your birthday - and a happy year to you.

Much love,

Zaddy