

STUDIO

51 EAST 59TH STREET

TELEPHONE

PLAZA 6474

NEW YORK,

September 18th 1916

My dear Miss Gilpin -

Please forgive me
for not writing sooner! I've
been expecting every day or so
since your letter came ~~the~~
to get back to New York, but
~~has~~ only managed to reach home
last night - Before I start
looking around for nice places
to live, I just thought I'd
mention that there is an empty
room in our apartment, if you
cared to come and join your
fortunes with ours. Do you think

you'd care to be with us?

I'll explain who "us" are. Several of us girls are living with a Mrs Miller, a dear, motherly sort of person of about fifty. My friend Edith Rubel knew her and lived with her last winter and is devoted to her. She is the nucleus, so to speak. Then there is Edith herself. One of the finest and most charming girls in the world. She practices fiddle every day, and that might disturb you and be a drawback. Then there is Jean Walker. Also a dear. She paints. She and I have lived together before, two separate seasons. She comes from

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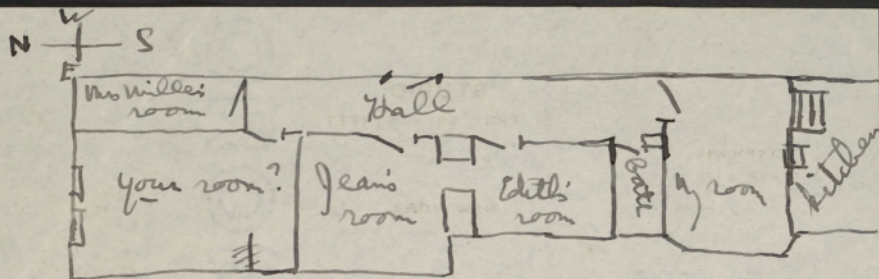
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Missouri. Lastly there is your
trunk. I have my studio, as
you see by the heading, so I
shall not be at the apartment
more than half the time, anyway.

The apartment's name is "The
Putland", its number is 256 West
57th Street. It is a dignified
elderly building, inhabited mostly
by physicians. It is just two
blocks from Central Park, and
right on the corner of Broadway.
Which means, accessible to all
points of interest. Here is a rough
plan of the apartment—:



This is very bad, and is not at all in proportion. There are hard-wood floors, high ceilings, boiling hot water, steam heat, elevator service, ^{telephone,} etc. And the location is very central without being unbearably noisy. We get our own meals.

Mrs Miller is not here just now ~~so~~ so I can't speak for her very definitely, but I think she would charge \$9 or \$10 per week for the big front room, and the meals you could either pay for as they came along, or else

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pay a lump sum per week, and have them provided without further thought on your part. The room would, of course, be furnished, unless you wanted to bring your own things.

I'm trying to tell you all the practical details first, so that I can tell you afterward how delighted I'd be if you did want to live with us. We're a very happy-go-lucky sort of family, and each one does as she pleases. We take care of our own rooms, except when a charwomen comes once a week to scrub us all up.

We are all poor and scrape along without many luxuries, but we do have nourishing food, and plenty of it, and manage to be very happy. Sometimes we go out to a nearby restaurant and get dinner in grand style. We are at work practically all day, so you wouldn't see much of us except in the evenings.

If you preferred, you could get all your meals out, but I don't think it would be good for you, do you?

If you wanted a piano in your room, I think you could have it without conflicting with Edith's violin. The doors are thick and heavy like the walls!

Living is terribly high in New York! A few years ago I was in a

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hall bed room (the story-book kind),
down-town in an out-of-the-way district.
A dreary boarding-house it was!
And I paid \$14 a week for my
room and most uninteresting meals.
And had to listen all night to
the elevated trains rumbling by
only a block away. It was not much
fun.

I have a very dear friend, Dr.
Parry. She lives in a quiet old
house on Madison Avenue and
65th St. She occasionally has
some nice professional girl staying
with her. It may be that if
you'd be happier there, she might
be able to take you. I'm very
much afraid, though, that her house

is already full for this year. If you would like to write and ask her, her address is:

Dr. Angenette Parry,
749 Madison Avenue
New York City.

Then, of course, there are the "Three Arts Club" and the "Studio Club".

I believe that in both of these you would have to share a room with some one. They are always full of young aspirants of all kinds.

I haven't heard very glowing accounts of either of them, though they seem to be popular.

The Three Arts Club is at 340 West 85th St. The Studio Club at 35 East 62nd St.

The Institute of Musical Art is, I suppose the best place to study music, theory, composition, etc. There are also fine

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individual teachers, of course, if you didn't want to take a regular course at the Institute.

Am afraid I don't know much about the possibilities in the photographic line, though I know one or two very delightful and successful artists in that line.

It would be very nice indeed if you could come and round out our family here! But even if you didn't want to be with us, it would be very pleasant to know you were in the city, and that we might occasionally get together for some good times and cozy talks.

I shall ask Mrs. Miller to hold the front room until I hear

from yr. There's someone nibbling
at it already, but we'd so much
rather have yr if yr cared to
come.

This is a very uneasy letter. I'm
continually being interrupted. Please
pardon its incoherence.

Hoping to hear from yr soon,
I am
Yours most sincerely,
Brenda Petran