

1944

QUANTNESS
PEACEABLE STREET
GEORGETOWN, CONNECTICUTJune 17th

Dearest Laura, I think you are wonderful, and I'm proud to be your friend - I am going really to answer your letter soon. It came to me in Wilmington, Delaware, but now I am home again (for a week or so).

Jo died on the fifteenth of May. He has been in bed most of the last four years, suffering always and increasingly, but with such courage & gaiety & generosity that they have been — well, everything. The doctors told me three times, he couldn't live, & I didn't believe them, & he did live, but this time nobody told us, but we

I know, since Christmas. I'm so
proud of him - Durso, every hour
of our life together, but this
Spring has been a miracle. We
neither of us had the comfort, or
drug, or whatever it is, of believing
we would see each other again.
yet everything was more, though
I wouldn't have thought it possible -
more happiness in being together,
more fun even, more peace.

A few days after he died
my mother, at the hospital in
Wilmington for treatments for
the cataracts that are to be
removed (we hope) at the end
of the summer, fell, injuring
an eye & breaking her hip.
I have been with her ever since,
spending my days & evenings
reading aloud at the top of my
lungs (as she has grown quite

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deaf) & most of my nights
trying to answer the hundreds &
hundreds of letters that came
about 40, at the Hotel du Nord
among the Rotarians & Lions
who ring home on the Range in
mixed - very - voices & try to
kick in bedroom doors. Mother
seems to be getting on well, so
here I am for a week or two
to clear business - lawyers &
appraisers & so on - & may be
read a little - I then back
until at least she is out of
the hospital.

I'm sending you Joe's latest
book (the poems, only he
always made me say verse)
& my latest, the flop of all
time for poor Harper & Bros -

you don't have to read it -
and I'll write soon. I do
think you are good, dear
Laura. Strong & sensitive
& good, taking responsibility,
fighting your difficult battles.
I love you very much.

Ann