

August 31,
1948

Dear Cousin Lucy:-

Until I sent you the back rent I have owed you since Edna's visit, I should never have mentioned Lincoln. I deeply regret having done so. As Mary was here and we were discussing it, I did request it as it has been badly needed ever since I have been here. At the same time I offered to paint the kitchen myself.

The rest of your letter appalls me. Some of it I do not understand. I simply will not answer it. There are, however, a few simple facts to state.

In no sense did I "excuse" you to your recent tenants, nor did I tell you that I did. They came over very much upset by your last letter and showed me all of them. I was forced to admit that your June letter did not make anything definite as when they should leave. When I suggested that they could have found out by answering it and asking you, they calmed down. Mary tells me that all relations have been very pleasant.

When I fixed up the darkroom, my understanding was that I would make my needed improvements at my own expense. Here, of course, stay with the building: plastered walls, electricity, water piped in but not out, except by hose to a hole in the ground. For the use of the room, I have made many repairs on this house and looked after many things, though I have not done all there was to do. If it is your wish I will list these for they come to quite a sum. I had not thought it necessary to do this before and thought you knew me well enough to know that I would give value received. Whatever balance there there is, you will be paid in cash for. I have not considered the use of the room "rent free".

The indecisions on my part as to my definite plans for the future have been due primarily to the prolonged delays on books, consequently on royalties, as well as a great decline in work and sales since the first of the year. I assure you that no one makes or has any part in making my decisions for me.

I did not request to have the couch covered. The very dirty cover left by tenants previous to my entry

was covered by your blanket and again by a cover of my own. I know nothing of it until Mary appeared with samples. Betsy has never complained of a bed. She had her own sent down when she came, and unfortunately the wrong mattress was sent. When the Allomans put a single bed over in the porch room, Betsy wanted to try it. It had a mattress with badly broken inner springs, on which she slept for several weeks. Mary wanted to have it fixed but when we found the cost, I would not let her. Betsy has since been using her own again.

You evidently cannot realize what such a letter as your has done, Cousin Lucy. It is a terrible pity. It is certain that you must have misunderstood many things which have been played to you, and I choose to consider them misunderstandings as much as I possibly can.

I will notify you the minute I know what my future plans will be. I am certain that I shall be moving out Nov. first. I do not know how I could do it sooner with the work I now have on hand.

I enclose the balance of the back rent due you, \$110. as well as the September rent. I also return your repair check for it will not be necessary.

Very regretfully