

to help.

I'll be in Washington only until next week. While there, I hope to sneak into the (still closed) House chambers & see how my three plaques hold up with the rest of 'em. Also, if I can get some prints from Horydzak, who's been photographing them as they arrived, I'll send you some.

About a month ago, there was a lovely preview of Ann Parrish's new children's book, & I sent in my order immediately for a copy for each of us. But the first printing was already sold out so we have to wait. Maybe she sent you one? If so, you can give my copy to someone else. Anyhow, I do hope we get them by Xmas.

I hope that long letter you promised is on the way. Do so want to hear what you've been doing these past 6 months — the wildcat train strikes is hitting this line. We have to get off at Silver Springs & go into Washington by bus.

1950?

356 WEST 22ND STREET

NEW YORK CITY 11

Dec 14th

On the B+O to Washington

Sagrie Dear:

Your "special" airmail invitation touched me very much — and in many ways tempted me beyond measure. It would be wonderful to be with you for a while out where you live & work & have your being. And as you say, who knows what the grim future may bring?

However — I simply can't play hockey just now — let alone holiday traffic being a bad time to travel. It's not that I'm appressed with work, as so often in the past; it is really a family problem which please don't pass on to anyone. Our Junie, now 22, is

Sorry to send such a scribbly letter — but I will be impossible to write. Love & thanks — Sagrie

going through a very isolated and very unhappy adolescence, and as it takes the form of a strong antipathy to her poor mother, it seems as though the only solution for the time being is to have her come & live with me for a while. She was with me almost 3 weeks earlier in the season, & apparently enjoyed it very much.

Poor Shiril is at her wit's end to know what to do with her, and I'm going down to see if I can help in any way to straighten things out. Dune will listen to reason from everyone except her Ma!

We hope & pray she will outgrow this phase - & return to her old sweet & winning self - but it will take time, & meanwhile Shiril must have a break - this has

been going on for almost two years. - (and I never knows anything about it until recently) It is perilous leaving Jane in New York, what with her poor sense of direction and her opaqueness - which frequently causes her either to freeze to immobility in the middle of a street, or to have her weak right ankle collapse under her, so she goes down all of a heap! My heart is in my mouth most of the time - yet she does manage to get about very bravely & cheerfully. Alas, this is pretty, people are nearly very thoughtful & helpful.

(This train jiggles so, I don't know whether you can read any of this) - Anyhow, dear, I've got to stand by for the voice, & see what is the best way