

how it can be worked out -
I'd gladly go to N. Y. to see you - ?
all my love
Silvia

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Dearest Laura

That news is of course what I have
been half expecting "any day" for the
past - ten? - years - ever since she
began to go slowly down hill and to
become each year more shell-like -

I regard it as one of the experiences
of my life to have known you and
Betsey as well as I have - You are
both rich rich persons into whose
deep dark loam of wisdom and
love, one hands can plunge for-
ever and never reach bottom -

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what she must have meant to the
Navaho's - not only as a nurse
but as a person. I hope some of them
think the better of us old rascally
Whites because they've known her.

And you -

When you die I won't have anyone
to write & like this so I'm saying it
all to you now - You & Betsey weren't
alike in character I'd say but you
did have a good many similarities
or complementaries they might be
called -

I know you'll miss her in the damndest
way - no one can prevent that

Life with you was infinite fun -
and I do regard "laughing com-
panions" as enriching, if for
nothing else - Then we were all three
past our 50's and so had a
great storage of the Past - the places,
the people, the happenings that
seemed, and I would be writing that was,
Endless.

Things struck Betsey as funny
that wouldn't have struck anyone else
so; Seen through her eyes, they were -
Then she was such a dear gentle
fanatic for some things and we ought
all to be that way - about some
things - I feel I have some inklings of

but as you say, her suffering is over
and that is good.

Thank you for that lovely picture of
her - I don't have a better one and
will treasure it - it's very like her
don't you feel so?

I don't see you this Spring - last year
I found 7 visits in 14 days ended
up too exhausting so ^{this year} I'm not going to
2 places: Kansas City & Boulder -
if I get to Gallup in summer I'll
try to stop by and see you -

In spite of all that has happened
to Mary Lou I find I'm still hesitant
to stop there again so will just
have to see