

Jan. 15. 73.

My dearest Nell; - yes, you are so right: I am really better, much better; and I will stay that way. Your precious letter came just 3 Days ago; and I just keep knowing that you will get well through all the cold and snow and ice, without getting a Cold or these Flu's - , about which here there is also much talk.

We have not had snow at all so far. But a Christmas which was Heaven for Thomas; Henry made over weeks every night a house for him, of old wood, and he was nearly gone for overjoy about it. - I made slides of it, and

also of new paintings, but
I must have done something
wrong in setting the Camera
for color they were developed
they were all totally white,
nothing, except for one.

It was so disappointing,
for I meant them to get
to you right after Christmas.

- I will try again, and
set the Camera differently.

Your dear Parcel made
our Christmas into the
ones we had together. It
had the magic effect
of casting away the present
(which was to me unbearable
with the thought of the
terror on the Vietnamese People)

1.) for the whole Christmas day.
That was Christmas, together
with you in Spirit. Reality
of the present then, was too
grim as that a Christian
could dare to face God.
How can we ever be
forgiven, - Judas is noble
in comparison.

I just wrapped myself into
that heavenly, warm, mexican
blanket, Emma and Henry
put their brass-symbols around
and started reading books,
and I still have not found
out which Book is in favor
most with Henry: The Browne
or "Transformation". I have
not yet read it, - but I am
in anticipation of it, especially

because you love it so. It means that I will share your thoughts. The (rumanian?) Blouse is beautiful! Where do you find such things! - I think they find you. -

If all had been well in the world; I think I still would have to have you entirely in mind to feel Christmas. It is the spirit of pure love, and that is what you alone are.

Tell me about your Book, is now someone doing something to help it go its way? At an earlier time the publisher didn't move a finger for it; is it now better?

2.) Also, I am going to order a few copies. Is there a special Store where I should order? If you don't have a special one in mind, I will order it through Doubleday or Macbaro.

On Saturday we are going to Frankfurt, to bring a Painting to Frau Becker van Bath (who has the largest Collection of 20th Century Art in Germany; - she used to go once a year to Lillienfeld in N.Y., to buy Leinhardt and Nolde - to bring back to Germany.) -

She has chosen a Painting in the Fall, which she wants to buy. - But I have hesitated, and still don't feel like giving it away It is a Painting which I know - you

would have had to have,
had you seen it. And so,
I guess, deep inside, - I
feel so terrible (where I
should be honored) for
not keeping it - for
you. Even to be in the
company of Kandinsky,
Matisse, Jawlensky, Klee,
Marc, Nolde, Beckmann, etc.
etc. is nothing; - all
that counts is ~~is~~ that you
through all the years, - have
had such faith - no matter
what anybody else said.
- How easy it is to just
buy a Painting, and easy
to see, now. But you
had much more, you had
faith, and that it what

3.) - is more necessary than to
buy a painting. This faith
from you, - I get it through
your letter, through the air
from you. It is something
incredible; I know it quite
exactly, - for mostly that
is not there - or in a very
weak, meaningless way -
compared to you !!!

Having had it always,
makes one feel empty, when
it is not there. It is as if
one has to breathe suddenly
where there really is not enough
air.

Tell me, how is
Erica Anderson?? Please
give her our love. We
should come to Villa Serena
to be cozy for a few

weeks. But I don't think
it will be this year, for
there are many unsettled
or unsolved things about
Thomas, and I kind of
wait from one month to
the next to see how the
best way for him will be.

Now I will mail this;
and just keep you in
my heart. Stay well,
and strong as you are.

Thomas drew a picture for
you, - to see if you have
that little Book; - he has
"Smug and Serena", and told me
that there was another one.
I will send it separately - it's too
big. (He settle and read it, - and
Thomas gets a blanket to cover
up!) All our love, always - Rose

Thomas and Harry.