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MOUNTVIEW 8205

Sunday, 12th November 1959

Dear Mrs Dorr.

You must have thought me very ungracious not to reply to your very kind letter and its mention of Tasha Tuda. I know you will understand when I tell you it followed us to France where I was taken unwell and, in the ensuing hurry home, was lost. However this will go to your publishers and I hope, will, through them, reach you.

Indeed I much look forward to meeting her but, mixed with this, is a certain trepidation. We have corresponded most happily, for almost two years now, and no fears to disappoint. However I have written - to the dolls as usual - asking to meet them in the Christmas holidays. This seems a far away date but I have to face a sojourn in hospital first.

One of the things that worries me is something I can confide to you: the fact that, though my books and letters belie this - my dolls and dolls' houses - those of the books and letters, do not exist.

They are all in the imagination. Should any of them become concrete - they would no longer be mine. Do you think Mrs Tudor and her girls will understand this? There is no Tottie... Dance - Imprimis Jane - apple - all I can offer are certain 'doll contacts'. That I cherish and certain 'doll' heirlooms that have descended to me -

Please forgive such a long delayed letter. I wrote, in December, you were to be here too -

Yours sincerely

Rumer Godden.