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Title	[Typed letter signed], 1944 January 30, London [to] Viola
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W. Macpherson, English,
49 Lowndes Square, London S.W.1.
30th January 1944

Dear Viola,

I have two things to thank you for, my share of that wonderful cake and your woodcut. We have the woodcut up on the mantelpiece and we have almost eaten the cake but do not think we were recklesswe cut quite tiny pieces and rationed ourselves so as to make it last longer. And each time we all said how very kind you were to make it.

I love your woodcut, it is such fun and has such personality I shall keep it to look at when all the Christmas is a thing of the past. I hope you are going to be able to read this letter, I had my machine mended yesterday, was very pleased to get it done and should have realised there was a catch somewhere. Now every letter sticks and I'll spent to-morrow morning being indignant with them ^{at shop} instead of getting on with my office work. Is anything more infuriating than a machine that piles itself up on top of you?

I had a superb morning yesterday - it was Saturday so off I trotted with one basket, one canvas bag, one small bag and a special bread bag for the shopping. I got wedged in one queue between two old ladies " in moth " as we say, you know those awful shaggy once-were-fur coats all rubbed away in bits? Oh, one said to the other, " a friend of mine in the same village said to me, now dont you go wasting any sympathy on her, " " Oh, " said friend, " No, dear, he bit her nose and she'll be disfigured for life. " " My dear, drunk I suppose, the shame of it ! " But what all the rest of the tale was we couldn't hear. I thought I'd die from suppressed laughter.

There are some snowdrops up in the Park and the days get lighter. We have had a lot of noisy nights. They make people so bad -tempered. We were talking the other day and a soldier said to me, " that applies to civilians " then we both thought and he said " but who are civilians? " And that is so true here, everybody has been shot over at least once and mostly far more often. And life is worse often for us than for the people labelled as forces. It is a funny, upside down world.

All my thanks again and love and I do hope that you have good news from your son.

Yours very sincerely,

Byher