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Title	[Typed letter signed], [1941?] July 2, [London] [to] Viola
Creator	H. D. (Hilda Doolittle), 1886-1961
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1941

July 2.

Dear Viola,

I have 3 letters in one envelope from you, this morning, sent back to me here, from Eckington.

Did you ever hear of "Little Flower", Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, or Sister Theresa? There are a number

of books on her, I will try to get the best one, sent you.

We can not send books direct because of war-regulations and they are delayed anyhow. But there is one, although

by a Catholic, very straight-forward and it gives her life.

She died in 1897, when I was 11 years old and there

has been a non-catholic cult of her, I missed all this,

until recently, was somewhat bored, though had heard of

"The story of a soul", her book, long ago. Well, the

point is, a ^{protestant} friend of mine was told by a Catholic friend that

there was a "new novena" to Little Flower. She is

supposed to be a sort of guardian angel that everyone can

reach and very odd "answers" have come to people. This

friend of mine and I do this Novena and we have both been

helped in our present agony of spirit. I thought you could

do it, for your son, for his safety. I will think of you

when I do my next Novena. What you do is to

say ~~13~~ 13 times in succession ;

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son ; and to the Holy

Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be ;

world without end, Amen.

You say this 13 times running as a sort of mantram or

"chant" for 9 days in succession, asking before or

after for the particular blessing that you want. As my

friend said at the time its like "ajic, almost" black" but

we know there are powers that can be helpful - and I do think

this is a simple act of faith. The book I will try to have

sent you is "The Secret of the Little Flower" by Henri Ghéon.

There is a little extra trimming to the Novena; if you meet someone selling roses, during the 9 days, you buy some, but you would probably be doing that, anyway!

I have read everything I can lay hands on, though naturally the straight Catholic books are all mixed up with the over-charge of their particular way of looking at things, which is not ours. Thérèse said, "I will spend my heaven doing good on earth." She died in a Carmel convent when she was 24. She also said, "after my death, I will let fall a shower of roses" and these special blessings or answers that we get, and we do get them, are known as "roses." I believe the Catholic church has collected volumes of these "Roses" but I can not get hold of them. If you happen to hear of them and they are not too fantastic, will you let me know. You are supposed to have a picture of "Little Flower" before you for the Novena, and I will try to get a card at the Bookshop but I may not be able to, and enclose with the book. Now you have been showing "roses" on us, the extent of your generosity is too prodigal. No, indeed, I wrote you yesterday that I had the cigarettes and chocolate and would not dream of giving away, we are delighted and it is really wonderful to have that super-fine quality stuff now and such a lot.

I do love your home-y good letters. Thank you for the picture, it is charming and I would like to send you in return, will try to find some old snaps. I left so much in Switzerland.

Now, do not worry about your boy, he will be all right. But I am sure your own spirit will be refreshed by the Novena, but even if it seems to be fantastic to you, I and my friend, will think of you, and yours when we do our next Novena.

I am deep too in biblical lore, along with the star research. The Aquarian age that is coming in with such agony, as was always predicted, is a woman's age and we must stick together.

My blessings on you and yours
Love from
* Hilda

You should be an acceptable "client" of Little Flower as your name, Viola, is a little flower!

(Hilda Alvington)