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Kilchberg/Zürich, 1955-05-05

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Erika Mann
Kilchberg/Zürich,
am 5. Mai, 1955

Lucile, sweetie, - here I go heading a letter to you with a German dateline. But then - habit is a merzielss master, and although I hardly read anything but English my writing speaking have had to suffer. Besides, I just finished a long treatise seeking to convince the "Finanzamt" of "München-Land" that I fail to owe them even one Pfennig in taxes; consequently, my German, too, is utterly out of order; dealing with the "authorities" always means using horrid, non-existent languages.

Having Rimsky here was most delicious. He came for lunch, saw the house; thinks my view offers far the best opportunity to look for that cloud that might be you; showed us your strangely impressiv "Indian" compositions or "montages"; went to the theater to see Giehse in a poor part and to the cinema to see a rotten film (with Giehse in a batter part); had dinner with me in town; went to Luzern to see Magnug However, I am certain he has long since written home. He says that thinking of home he sees you and the house on the mountain - period. Most the best way of handling the problem! Sorry (truly sorry) to hear of all the serious unpleasantness that has been troubling you. But as far as the boys are concerned what will matter in the end is their character and the question of whether you or that sorry "dad" of theirs come out on top (within them, I mean).

We are about to leave for Germany. The 150 anniversary of Schiller's death wants celebrating and poor "Zauberer" has to make all the speeches. We are going by car - poor Erimouse driving - and I wish we were having July right now and the Schiller-circus as well as my father's 80th Birthday lay (?) safely in the past.

Painting, of course, is good, and I can see that you simply have to. Even so, it remains a stark pity that you couldn't have accompanied Rimskypie. How do you know, Europe will be there (or, rather, here), if and when you are ready to pay her a visit?

Baille, baille (this is what all french children yelled, es soon as "we" turned up to "liberate" one of their towns), Baille, baille, then, dearest Lucile, and all the very best to both of you.

Yours affectionately