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December 30, 1962

Coky, darling old horse, -

now it is my turn to talk about "an almost but not quite unforgivable delay in answering your kind letter". Said document reached me in a hospital where I spent 6 months after having stayed almost 2 months in another clinic; at the above address, on the other hand, I have been living ("living" - hahaha!) for but one month - so far.

Owing to some inexplicable bone trouble I have had to undergo two tiresome operations which, however, failed quite to get me back on two healthy legs. And once you are hospitalized for that length of time, all sorts of additional complaints will show their ugly heads (supposing complaints were able to do anything of the kind) which is why most of my correspondence went straight to the dogs. Sorry and more than that.

As for your communication, I was equally shaken and relieved by it. Poor sweets, what a hell of a time you must have had and what a blessing it is that it is all over and done with. One of my doctors here with whom I discussed Ted's "case" knew all about that horrid and rare disease but also knew that whoever recovers from it does so for good. Congratulations of the most cordial sort to the three of you.

Never mind about my father's letter. Mysteriously, a carbon copy has turned up here which I may yet put to use.

For the rest I am not as badly punished as my situation would seem to warrant. At least I am able to work to see friends and to lead a life made ludicrous merely by its being horizontal.

And that's that. A very happy New Year to you all!

Yours as ever affectionately,

