

Birdpur, 1/7/30.

My dear Cousin [[Nesta Marion HILL](#)],

You wrote to me a touching letter about your visit to Maesfron and Brookland. It is certainly rather pleasing to see that you do miss me – and I know you do from your letters, Nesta, which I always look for. Since Lilo [[Lionel Hill PEPPE](#)] went home you have all been awfully good about writing to me and each week I have had a most delightful mail.

I think you must have realized, my dear, that you have always been something more than a favourite cousin to me. During the war on one occasion in the flat, you probably do not remember it, but you & I stayed at the flat together. I think it was the Griffith Jones wedding & Dot [[Ina Florence HILL](#)] had gone to Harpendon & you were going next day. I remember the whole evening & next morning as vividly as possible. I went into your room early next morning to wake you up as I was off to France on the early morning train. I did not kiss you and you tackled me about it after. I could give no reply. I found you very much more than a cousin then, & was afraid of showing you my feelings and so losing your affection.

In fact whenever I have met you, I have had to be very careful at Udaipur and again at the little pub in London. When you took me to see your Persian Consul, Pridaux, & his wife & introduced me or rather said to his wife, “this is the co-respondent”, I thought you must have guessed my feelings, but realised from the subsequent conversation that it was merely a joke on your part.

Many many a time have I compared people with you and felt attracted by them because of their likeness to you, but Yolande Mackinnon was utterly different and she is the only person I have really fallen for properly.

Win(?) attracted me greatly this last leave, not only as a very delightful companion but also physically – but I could never have married her under any circumstances – and I found I could not talk or discuss the most intimate subjects with her – which I think rather hurt her feelings. She is in spite of all this one of my best friends and I hope very soon she will be very happy – I could never have made her happy.

I am afraid you are quite right in saying that Lilo is out to find some delightful damsel to marry & bring out to this life here – and I am afraid he may be a bit hasty in his choice. The trouble with me is the more I see of this life the more frightened I am of asking anybody to share it and if one happened to hit off the wrong person it would be worse than a hell on earth.

It is very nice to hear of you people enjoying yourselves at home. We are in a very nasty spell of really broiling weather without a sign of the Rains yet and July come in – I have never known the rains so late any year since I came out in 1919.

I went into Gorakphur last week-end for Parades but it was infernally hot.

Nesta dear, don't let his letter worry you. I can't tell you how much I value your affection & I hope this won't raise any constraint between us. I know you are very very fond of Davis [[Davis HERON](#)] & Pam [[Ina Mary Hill HERON](#)] and I am very grateful for the affection you give me. Must stop. With my love Nesta dear

from Humphs [[John Humphrey Hill PEPPE](#)]