

German Town, August 22, 1951

Lieber Jochen,

Das Wetter, die Musik, und deine Briefe haben diesen Tag sehr schön gemacht. Ich bin sehr dankbar mich so viel besser zu fühlen als in der letzten Woche.

But is the "superficial ulceration" that Dr. Gabriel found serious or not? Even if it is not now, I am afraid it will get worse unless you change your way of living and working a great deal. Perhaps I will be able to take care of you a little, to feed you one meal a day, but until we are able to work together I cannot really take care of you enough to prevent the "superficial ulceration" from getting worse. Du mußt ein bisschen vernünftiger sein als Du hast gewesen.

My allergy tests are over. I do not know whether they will really prove useful since there are so many ordinary foods to which I show a reaction that I can hardly avoid them. The worst ones are eggs, almost all breadstuffs, white potatoes, and peanuts. However, I will try to eliminate them for a while to see if my nose will improve. Alex amused himself today by planning



a non-allergic life for me. The winter must be spent in an igloo (to avoid house dust). My meals will consist of barley, shrimp, asparagus, and bananas. And the summer must be spent in the desert, out-doors, of course. Willst Du wirklich mein Leben teilen?

Alex and I spent the afternoon painting the porch and listening to music. He is very silent. I think he is thinking of Cecile and the letters he does not receive. Now he has gone off to play tennis.

I have finished my American History test. Tonight I will celebrate by reading more Spenser.

Deine

Margaret