

May 18, 1998

Rewritten

Dear Alice,

I'm not sure whether you are keeping your maiden name. Please let me know.

I was very pleased to see you and Michael again and only wished that the cheerful racket of the graduation ceremonies had not made conversation so fragmentary and incoherent.

I want particularly to avoid any misunderstanding about my reference to you as "a non-reader." It was derogatory not a remark.

Willam Morris and Co. Ltd.
London, England, before 1917

Wallpaper sample book, Marshall pattern

Museum Purchase, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Seiden
The Brooklyn Museum (71.15.1.224)

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Much more important is my discovery that you write, that you understand the value of a journal to work through and describe for yourself your experience. You have made this discovery at a much younger age than ever I did. And although as a child I read all the time—as an escape and refuge from illness and solitude—There was a long period of time when as an adult I read very little—and wrote very little. Now I read again with emphasis on children's books, poetry (especially before 1900). I do want to know what you own as a basic library for your child. Have you a Mother Goose? Do you sing? I was a pretty silent mama, and now, though I still can't sing, I recite mother goose. Edward Lear and even Shakespeare to restless babies as I change the diaper. It soothes both parties. Love to m