

Dear Mrs. Alice!

Thank you so much for the copies of your letters from which I can see your caring for Giulia and Mia. You wrote as considerately as possible and left Mia much hope. She will be able to bear it, no matter how great her worry. I thank you and your brother as well as his wife who has also fallen ill, for all your troubles and care. Also the physicians and the dear nurse. Then I want to thank all those who brought gifts, am sure Giulia enjoyed it all, especially the singing (under the window). Let me also thank the principal of the school and his patience with Giulia who is certainly quite a rascal and doesn't always pay attention in class.

I heard with glee that Giulia can sit in bed without being held. Of course I would like to know which muscles on upper and lower thighs are by now reacting to electro shocks. It would enable me to visualize what progress can be expected in the next few weeks. Have no news from the children, might get some by the time this letter has been mailed. Otherwise I would be fine. That you are truly caring for the child is obvious from every word and line in your letter. My very heartfelt regards to you and your family from your old Ogros!

Dearest child! Of course I think of you very much, in fact I do exclusively think of you poor sick child and of Mia. But the news are getting better all the time and hope is rising that you will surmount all of it.

Concerning Pims-Pams, my kitten, you have a wrong picture which can be historically explained. The cat was a very good cat for about a year, but a year ago in July it got, let's say, repeatedly sick every 4 to 6 weeks. I noticed that it was yearning for a tom cat. Outside of the apartment in the Langackergasse, the cat had known nothing else, no trees, no flowers and could only watch the sparrows from our balcony without being able to catch any. It always made such big reproachful eyes at me for not giving it enough freedom. Then last year in the fall, Therese and I discussed the matter. She sent me her own tenant, a young, blond (Aryan) woman who volunteered to take the kitten to Stammersdorf to her parents. Stammersdorf belongs to Floridsdorf, it is a small village with many vineyards and wheatfields. There is a house with garden and many other farm buildings and I gave Pims Pams away under the condition that they will be loving to the kitten. The young woman promised it. For three days, the kitten wouldn't eat and hissed at everybody who came near. Felt sickly, I imagined out of home-sickness for me. But got slowly better. Therese went to visit there a few times with her husband, mostly to see my cat, but the people there, especially the grandmother had already fallen in love with PamPam and wouldn't let it go for any price. The little rascal soon went through yards and gardens and made acquaintance with a black tom. And one day it got fat and searched around in the rooms, ate a lot, and one day, it was 3 weeks ago, it had three little kittens. It drank its milk nicely but on the second day all the babies had disappeared. Seemingly among the junk in the attic and nobody saw the little ones since then, this is how well the mother had hidden them. Therese will be here after her 2 week vacation and will give me the latest cat-report. That is all I know.

Baunau is often coming to read letters. I wrote to your mama on Sept. 23rd, and so did Baunau and we hope that she won't be too shocked. In any case, Alice wrote her very kindly and considerately, mama will recognize that there was no other possibility. Now I send you all the best regards and think of your birthday. And what do I do?

I remain your old Ogros!