

D 928 J

AL/3055

THE RED COTTAGE  
126 HIGH ROAD  
WOODFORD GREEN  
ESSEX.

Dear Mr. Walsh, I told you I think that I had a contract to write a book. I am in despair about my writing. Richard wakes early and keeps me on the go till eleven or so. If I can get him to sleep from then till ~~one~~ 1 p.m. it is the very best I can hope for frequently - as today he woke whenever I tried to put him down and unless I put him to sleep in my arms he won't sleep at all. Then afternoon he won't sleep except if he has not slept the morning and if I do make him sleep I have more trouble at bed time. If I get him to sleep at 6.30 I am lucky: it is more likely to be 7.30 and I have to rise to him and rock him to accomplish it. By that time I seem tired to start my day's work. Some days I have managed to work between 11.30 and 12.30 <sup>a.m.</sup> when I have my meal and go again from 8 to 11 p.m. and once or twice from

12 p.m. to 1 a.m. but I can't sleep that up  
I break down after a day or two.

The solution is to get someone  
to take care of Richard part of the time  
regularly so I can count on it. When he  
is awake I cannot abstract myself: he is  
often needing something, cries etc, and  
keeping one ear open, and constantly  
running to him sets my nerves on edge. Then  
as you know, there are all sorts of things  
to do to even if one has someone working  
for one - washing etc. etc. in a house -

Richard's father has been ill with arthritis  
so I can't count on him to help me with the  
log: indeed when he is at home I get less  
done than when he is out!

I don't want to hand my little  
boy over to anyone - any hired person  
- I know how important it is that he  
should be rightly handled. I wonder do  
you know of anyone who could help me.  
You spoke of taking him out, but would

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you be able to do it regularly? And during  
what hours? I am prepared and I can  
manage to pay for someone to help me if  
that would assist in finding someone, for  
few people have leisure to do. I think it  
is too much to hope that you could do  
it for me even four or five afternoons  
a week - and that is little enough  
for me to attempt serious work. Actually  
I find myself so irritable and jaded  
that when I sit down to write I am  
often unable to frame a sentence for some  
time. Yet in the old days the words used  
to pour out without difficulty at any odd  
moment in bus, train or anywhere. If I  
could get some help for a few months  
I should be able to accommodate myself later.  
Do you know of any way to do it?  
I write you because you expressed  
the desire to see me speaking and doing

and I, too feel I should. If you are  
home yet come and see me and tell  
me if you can help me.

Sincerely yours

E. Alvin Parkhurst.