Translated by Kristin Jacobsen and Maiken Boysen, 17 November 2017.

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| Mein Brief [[1]](#footnote-1) 18 August 1931  Kære Veninde. Dresden  Professoren synes godt om Begyndelsen. Han  har kun nogle rent lokale[[2]](#footnote-2) Indvendinger at  gøre – og vil formulere dem for mig en af  de første Dage.  Samtidig vil han give mig sin hemmelige Adresse.  Sagen[[3]](#footnote-3) er, han rejser i Slutningen af Ugen bort  i Ferien – og her kender man saa ikke hans  Adresse. Det er for at faa Fred.  Dertil kan vi altsaa sende de følgende Kapitler  Jeg kan godt forstaa paa ham, at han tror Bogen  vil vække en uhyre Opsigt i Tyskland – saa snart  nu Forholdene atter bliver rolige.  Mit eget Helbred bringer mig til Fortvivlelse.  Jeg synes slet ikke det gaar fremad – og mit  skønneste Haab er Døden. Kun ved jeg, at det faar  jeg ikke Lov til, fordi Professoren ikke vil – og han  er saa stærk.  Mit Ønske med Bogen er en lille Revision  af Herr Oberartz.[[4]](#footnote-4) Sidste Aar kendte jeg ikke al  hans Mildhed og Barmhjærtighed. Han har  reddet mig fra alle de værste Rædsler –  og jeg vil altid skamme mig dybt, om der i  min Bog stod et Ord, han kunde [sic] blive ked  af. Altid er han saa god og mild imod – og  altid parat at ~~stille[[5]](#footnote-5)~~ dæmpe mine Smærter.  Og de[[6]](#footnote-6) aner ikke hvor højt man kommer  til at elske en saadan Mand.  Jeg haaber, De faar stor Glæde af Deres Begyn-  delse paa det Kongelige – og kommer jeg engang  saa vidt, vilde det være herligt at se Dem  spille der en Aften.  De hjærteligste Hilsner til Dem  og Deres Mand. Deres hengivne  Lili Elvenes[[7]](#footnote-7)  Undskyld Brevenes [sic] Form![[8]](#footnote-8)  Jeg er altfor træt. | My Letter  18 August 1931  Dear Friend. Dresden  The professor thinks well of the beginning. He only has some objections here and there to make – and will formulate them for me in the next few days.  At the same time he will give me his secret address.  The case is, he travels at the end of the week on vacation – and here one doesn’t know his address. It is [for him] to be left in peace.  So there we can send the following chapters.  I can understand that he thinks the book will create an enormous sensation in Germany – as soon as the state of affairs becomes calm again.  My own health brings me to despair.  I do not think it will improve at all – and my most beautiful hope is death. Only I know that I am not allowed to because the professor doesn’t want it – and he is so strong.  My wish for the book is a little revision of the head doctor. Last year I did not know all his gentleness and mercy. He has  saved me from all the worst horrors – and I would be deeply ashamed if there was a word in my book that would make him sad. He is always so good and gentle – and always ready to ~~alleviate~~ alleviate my pains.  And you would not know how much one comes to love such a man.  I hope you will enjoy your start at the Royal Theatre – and if I manage to get that far, it would be a pleasure to get to see you play there one night.  The heartiest greetings to you  and your husband. Your devoted  Lili Elvenes  Excuse the letter’s form!  I am too tired. |

1. Written in red ink in top left corner. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The phrase “rent locale” is literally “purely local.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Sagen also could be translated as thing, but that would be a more modern usage. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. In German literally means “Mr. Head Doctor.” [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Danish and German word for alleviate. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Should be the formal “De.” Lili is most likely tired and recovering from surgery. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Flourish under signature. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Brevenes is the plural form of letter, but the meaning seems to indicate this particular letter. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)