Dear Janet,

What charming letters you write. Here I am in Adelaide in late Autumn, for April corresponds to October, but none the less with temperatures about 80° every day. We have had some rain which freshened the country up greatly, but the parks are kept green with sprinklers and look delightful in any case.

Nina was pretty nearly right about the skin which forms on boiled milk. I think it is coagulated casein, which before boiling is distributed all through the milk and makes it opaque. The butter-fat is suspended in small globules, which rise to the top on standing for a few hours, especially with Jersey or Guernsey milk whose globules are big and rise quickly. A cream separator only speeds this up by subjecting the milk to a large artificial gravity by spinning. I do not think it forms by boiling, but when risen it can be thickened by scalding to produce Devonshire cream, by coagulating some of the casein still mixed in the cream.

It was particularly the Banded Men that I wanted you to read, and I will borrow it back to read it again myself when I get back. The prodigal father who could not get on with his businesslike son, always short of money but knowing much better than his son how money could safeguard him when in real danger. Not minding danger for himself either. Did you not like his speech to the first court, when he made them ashamed of disregarding their oaths by neglecting the substance and attending only to the trivial niceties of the law, and then cuts the knot by bribing them all shamelessly!

The eight banded men themselves are something of a picture gallery.

What a big blossom of noughts and crosses there is by your signature. It has sepals and petals and anthers and a round stigma in the middle.

Affectionately yours,