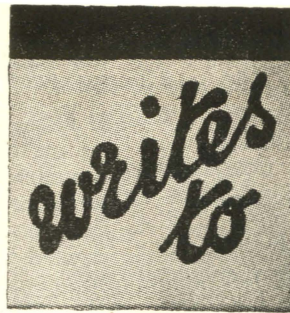


**CARMENCITA**



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**NIVARDO**

*Dear Father NIVARDO, clo Mamma.  
Mountains.*

*I am ashamed, Father, for not writing to Lily for a long time Mamma read that in the "Little Apostle" and that I was very busy. Please do not believe that again, please, Father for I am not busy at all. I was in my bed only and my head was very heavy always and Tony is making a noise and Mamma says: "Hush, Tony, Carming is sick.*

*And I did not pray on my knees I am only looking at Jesus with the Red Heart I can see Him, for the door is always open and then I whisper: All for You, Jesus, and for Lily's brother Kolas, and for uncle Pepe. That is all what I pray on the beads of my blue rosary, even at night I do not sleep and it is all dark but the red lamp at the throne of Jesus: I can see Him.*

*And Uncle Pepe, I told him: "My head is heavy but it is for you." and he said nothing.*

*And Papa came in the Plane and brought me flowers from Ba-  
guio and there was a big white Lily and I said: "Thank You, Daddy  
and please give that one to Jesus." And he put it there and he cried,  
I think, Why?, I did not know gentlemen can cry.*

*And Doctor Lacson came and put the needle in my arm and I  
did not cry; I said "For Kolas and Uncle Pepe." This is my secret  
Father, but You are a priest. Will you also pray for Kolas and Uncle  
Pepe?*

*Now Mamma says I am allowed to write this letter because of  
the needle it made me strong, she says. She calls that a shot. But it  
was a needle only. I think Tony can make a noise again.*

*Your child and of Jesus.*

*Carmencita.*