

15 July 1965

Dear Maggie,

Were you a reader of science fiction? Before 11/22/63 I was a devotee and on reading your very welcome letter of 13 July I was reminded at once of a recurrent theme--"parallel development." It seems to me that our two experiences at opposite ends of the country have been identical in many respects. I cannot now remember, really, how I spent my time or with whom before 11/22/63. In the two preceding years I had lost first my sister, then my mother, then my only brother, and my closest friend; and shortly after 11/22, my sister-in-law. I was so saturated with death and deaths that I should not have expected to experience any emotion on that Friday--yet, I felt an immense surge of rage that has not yet subsided. Never for one moment could I believe LHO guilty; and every shifting version of events only reinforced my conviction that we had not had the truth. Fortunately, one of my close friends (Isabel Davis, who lives nearby and with whom I share a love for cats, science fiction, and ballet, and whom I met some years ago much as I have now met you--because of a minor passion for study of "flying saucers" (UFOs) and the paranormal in general) either shared my reaction to 11/22 or didn't get a chance to oppose my views; in any case, she has since demonstrated that she does feel much the same. So I was never wholly "alone" and the inevitable attacks of self-doubt and discouragement were few and short-lived. I had the same experience as you did with various people for whom I had high regard--and a bad temper, to boot. And boot I did--two of my close friends, right out of my apartment, on two occasions (one friend each time, which is all the more embarrassing). What confounded me was that both these chaps are exceptionally brainy and objective, and excellent students of objective data, with independent minds, the scientific spirit, and quite contemptuous (in other fields) of the risk of being labelled "crackpot" and the like. Yet, on this transcendent matter, both had a violent emotional "set" and were completely unreasonable in assessing the facts (as they then appeared).

But, to return to the present, like you I have found much comfort in the people I have met, mainly at the New School, and now in my contacts with you. One really bad set-back has been the recanting of Curtis Crawford; but that is the only defection. Lobenthal puzzled and exasperated me greatly during the course; he was excessively non-committal at first; then, in the face of multiple examples of misrepresentation and falsehood in the Report, he countered with weird arguments (i.e., offering as against 50 lies 100 "truths"). However, since the course ended, he takes a more open position against the official case. He is particularly taken with the prospect of the dramatic reading of the testimony and is devoting himself to that during his free time this summer. Just now he is away, in Massachusetts, but will be back for a while before returning there for the month of August.