

TRANSLATION FROM RUSSIAN

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A four-page handwritten letter to MARINA OSWALD from RUTH PAINE.

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2515 W. 5th Street  
Irving, Texas  
December 27, 1963

Marina, dear,

I really do not know what to say. I do not know whether it is better to be silent or to speak. It is hard for you as it is and I do not wish to trouble you. But I wish to explain that I felt myself lonely when I finished reading your letter to me. I was very glad to see the letter but, after I read it, I did not know any more about you. You wrote to me as if I were an old grandma and not a friend. You closed (your ?) face to me. (Translator's Note: the meaning of this sentence is not clear; perhaps the writer, whose Russian is not always adequate, wanted to say "you shut me out"?) Is it true that I offended you? If so, please forgive me. I did not wish and I do not wish to offend you. But I am stupid and rude - especially in Russian.

Or, perhaps, you simply do not want my friendship? Of course, this is up to you; I cannot do anything. But I wish you to understand me and to know what I think, and not to cast me aside without knowing my thoughts.

Another matter worries me. I sent you letters from nice people who wrote to me saying that I was good, because I gave you a place to live and was your friend. In the letters also was money for you. I wanted you to see where this money was from and how nice the people were. But do not think that I

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consider that I did something unusual for you, or that you had to be grateful to me (how do they say it?). Absolutely not. Such thoughts hamper friendship; likewise, this is not true. How many times did I tell you (when you were here), that I was not giving any more than I was getting. You have never understood how useful it was for me to speak Russian every day. (And interesting too; you do not know either, how lonesome I am at home now.) Also, I was at home alone and it was very pleasant to talk and chat with you in the evening and, generally, it was nice to have company. You know, that I did not get more money from Michael when you lived with me, but we had no money difficulties; i.e., it is clear to me and, I hope, it is clear to you, that if you had to be grateful (to me), I would have to be no less grateful to you. (Translator's Note: a sentence "that is why I want to send you a letter and tell you again that I was very glad to live with you," was crossed out.) I hope that you understand me. I would like to talk with you. I merely want to know, Marina, how you are and what you think and feel. But, of course, it is your affair, with whom you talk and, what you talk about. Is it not?

Sincerely,

/s/ Ruth.

I kiss Jane, Rachel, and you.