

Dear Ruth -

2/14/69

One reason I did not write was that I feared interception and causing you problems. M. said on Wednesday 2/12/69 that he was flying back today but yesterday (after I had written you a very brief note) he said he had cancelled the flight - so it seems safe to write this letter.

It would be impossible to tell you all the emotions and upheaval I have experienced since your departure. I had already lost much of my respect for M. and had been horrified by the harm he was inflicting. Then, when I started to receive TMO mail, I got the shock of my life - bank slips. It seemed to me that everything M. ever said or wrote was a lie and a swindle. I forwarded the slips to him - not a word followed. I had been doing considerable TMO work after office hours and despite much activity on the assassinations - acting the unpaid typist, book keeper, and shipping clerk. When I saw what I could only interpret as evidence of secret wealth, my shock and bitterness actually made me ill and disoriented. I stopped doing any more TMO work. When M. arrived he increased my rage by summoning me imperiously out of a meeting through a message to call him immediately -

at a number that turned out to be a private plane
at the airport. M had arrived — everything must
stop and orbit around him. I immediately
spoke of the bank slips — he said it was
not his money but belonged to Kaplan —
apparently he thinks I am some kind of
idiot, to believe an absurd story like that.

Even if it was true, my friendship for M.
is dead and finished. I am simply appalled
by his monstrous selfishness, cruelty, and
folly — most of all, appalled by his making
of these shameful acts the evidence of his
high moral and ethical qualities — his repugnant
self-righteousness and his manipulative,
over-bearing manner.

I do not want to be holier than the pope
in displaying indignation greater than your own
at the manner in which M. has acted these
last months. Yet the spectacle of his infantile
selfishness and the malization of his shame
with regard to his financial situation —
for even were the money Kaplan's, then M. is
a parasite, using K's largesse for his
clandestine adventure and self-indulgence.

I cannot respect him. And, if he is in
possession of those funds and stocks, etc., then

he has swindled me out of \$4000 or one-third of every cent I had, at the time.

Your last letter was saturated with unhappiness and anxiety. God knows, I don't want to add my disillusion with M. to the burdens and headache you are already enduring. How can you stand these incessant changes of decision?? Another one, now, within 24 hours of saying that his return, set for today and then cancelled, was "final."

I forgot to say earlier - that another thing I cannot forgive M. is that he gave me no advance information about those bank accounts, knowing I was to receive his mail, nor did he write or cable or phone to clarify things when I forwarded the bank slips to him. What the hell kind of "friend" is he, that he either cheated or lied all along about money or (if it is Kaplan's, as he says it is) that he allowed me to experience such shock and consternation? I will never be able to rid myself of suspicion of his hypocrisy - I cannot imagine any possibility of friendship with M. again.

Your own situation is extremely delicate. I can sever this friendship, since it is no

no longer possible to sustain my respect or
trust in M. For you — there is a marriage
of many years, children, and emotion. I can
just imagine how you felt when he went off
to meet that woman — who appears to
be totally out of control, a really predatory
bitch. I cannot imagine how you would
ever feel secure, safe, or happy in her
vicinity.

Believe me, Ruth, my heart aches for
you. I cannot advise you — how could
anyone take such a responsibility — I can
only hope that things will somehow
right themselves for you. As for M —
my heart is as ice towards him. He has
made all these problems, or most of them,
and even destroyed my friendships for him
which — up to recent months — was
truly devoted and unselfish. Please
keep in touch with me, unless you are
estranged by my changed attitude towards
M. If so, I will understand, without
anger. All my love to you, and to Varda.

Sylvia