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BEVERLY HILLS CALIFORNIA
15th August 1967

Dear Sylvia-

Many thanks for the recent communications which are always exceedingly welcome and profoundly appreciated. Since you were thoughtful enough to have sent me the Fritchey article in the Post, I thought you might like to know my reaction, in the form of a direct response to Fritchey, which I enclose. So much for that.

I don't have any news of consequence. I'm working, as usual, on my "monster" and am happy to report that I've made reasonably good progress. What I've been doing for the past two months amounts to a complete and total revamping of each page of the book. In some ways, at least, the monumental setback I experienced at the hands of Random House may well prove to have been a blessing in disguise simply because I believe I have a much stronger and better book than before. The lay-out man has been an ally in every conceivable sense and, instead of doing the cover and some 30 pages originally contracted for, he has, himself, chosen to do 50 pages. An appointment had been set up for it to be shown to a publisher this coming Thursday but, inasmuch as I am 3,000 miles away, my agent is in Scotland and I would have had no other representation except the lay-out man, the decision was made to postpone any such engagement until a week or ten days hence when my agent will have returned. Every day lost constitutes further set-backs, time-wise, of course, but considering all the precious time which has already gone down the drain, another week or two, at this point, can hardly be of momentous consequence. At that time, I will look forward to my book being presented to a number of publishers (hopefully!) rather than just one.

Simsie, Joe and I are skipping town Thursday for a long weekend in La Jolla. Joe desperately needs a rest and I'd like to help him achieve it. We'll be back Monday.

How are things going for you? Do let me know. Letha and Ray will be back about Labor Day and I'm looking forward eagerly to

their return, as you can imagine.

I was saddened by your letter to Vince. I understand your feeling the need to send it. I just regret that circumstances necessitated your doing so. I believe, however, that the situation between you, painful as it is for both of you, as well as for some of us, (~~xxxxxx~~) is not irreconcilable for the future, if there can be any comfort in that suggestion at the present, and I also believe that both of you are cognizant of that fact.

Keep well and don't work too hard (what a silly thing to say to you!). Give my warm regards to Susan and Allegra.

Love,

Maggie