

February 2, 1976

Dear Sylvia,

The good news is that Random House actually did send us the Belin correspondence. Here it is. (Belin to RH, ~~1/2~~ 1/12; ~~Belin to us, 1/12~~; ^{SENT EARLIER} Belin to O'Toole, 7/29; Belin to Bud, 4/28 (I have O'Toole's detailed reply somewhere); RH telegram to Belin (1/16, I think), and Belin to RH, 1/19.) I must say that I am not impressed by whatever thought went into the RH telegram to Belin, which more or less challenged him to take a strong position in response. I would have to check my notes, but I think that at one point - probably by phone - Belin actually said he would sue if his demands were not met. Maybe he was smart enough not to commit that threat to paper!

The bad news is that we now have a schedule - hardcover books on 2/13, "if everything goes like clockwork" and paperback on 2/20 for sure. That is outrageous but not really surprising. Russ has already offered to eat his watch if everything goes like clockwork. The real problem is that this gives Belin quite a bit more time to throw a monkey ~~wrench~~ wrench into the works again. Here's hoping he doesn't.

Regards,

Paul

PLH

(for the editors)