

December
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The thing that puzzles me is that ~~so~~ so far as I know I've never laid eyes on Jones Harris in my life! Oh, well. Your philosophy on men (etc.) was almost identically mine. I, too, am glad those years are past. Perhaps it's because the ones I wanted always got away and the ones I didn't want were always on hand. There is nothing so ghastly ~~than~~ than to try to continue a relationship with a man that is boring, flat, stale, unprofitable. I would rather be by myself, think my own thoughts, spend time with children, animals and books. Men are too demanding, too ego-consumed. THEIR hair, THEIR careers, THEIR stomachs. To hell with it. I think this may be ~~back~~ back of our joint disinterest in figures, clothes, etc. Show us a man worth knocking ourselves out for-- and then...

My religious orientation derives from this possibly. I should have known that when it came to men, I'd settle only for God! But as you say this way is peaceful. I wouldn't exchange it for a single fine, careless rapture. As for your atheism, I don't recognize it. You are as God-orientated as I am, only you have chosen another way to express it. So what. If there is something later, you are bound to share in it--and if there isn't, then your life has been as good as mine, ~~probably~~ ^{PROBABLY} better. I'm sorry early religion was so joyless for you. Mark (Martin) went through this same experience in a dry-as-dust Baptist home. He has never been comfortable with the idea of God since. "To Him who was the joy of my youth..." This is the way it should be. Why should religion be so ugly and ~~boring~~ boring to children? (The enclosed clipping is one reason. Here is my idea of the anti-Christ.)

Mama O. ~~star~~ called last night and this morning. Nothing in particular. Last night she hung up on me because I defended the Kennedys. She called Jackie a "harlot". This morning she was more tranquil. I wonder why she bothers with me. Am I the only one left who will tolerate her viciousness? She is so damn mean. I have been insulted by her so often I have mental black and blues.

Do you think the Moyers' story is interesting? The Dallas papers say that preparation for the Ruby trial has been definitely cancelled. You asked me about Ruby: What do I think? Exactly the way you do. I know very little about medicine, less about science. From what I have read in the past, terminal cancer can NOT be induced deliberately. Cancer cells can be injected into the human body, of course. (This has been done for years in prison experiments.) These injected cells would naturally be picked up almost immediately by the lymph glands, which would then (if removed in node form) show a heavy concentrate of cancer cells. However, left alone, the ^{healthy} body would soon automatically reject these injected cells and the lymph glands after a few days would register clear. I understand that no primary lesion has been found. This is odd; if it hadn't been for the four quarts of fluid removed from between Ruby's lungs and hispluera, I would be terribly suspicious. The Dallas papers say that tests (to be concluded today) should resolve the primary lesion site. Since Ruby is a non-smoker, it will be even statistically stranger if such a site is found in the lungs. Ruby has no history of cough or shortness of breath (emphysema, etc.). Still, one has no way to accurately challenge an act of nature (Act of God, as Mrs. O. puts it). All of us are so morbidly afraid of cancer, there has been so much recent publicity on this

I never crossed my mind you were from a Jewish background. But I should have known your years -- you are so young -- are so young.

disease, that I am sure the general public will have no hesitation accepting : this "punishment" on Ruby from Outer Space, so to speak. Frankly I am puzzled. Eva Grant told the Dallas papers (on the Friday of last week when Ruby was first hospitalized) that he (Ruby) "looked like a corpse" and that he had been "desperately ill for three weeks." Yet 10 days before this, Eva ~~was~~ spent the evening with Dick Lewis and Larry Schiller and told them Ruby was O.K. Knowing Eva from first-hand experience, she is a big blabber-mouth. Had Ruby been feeling as badly then, as she later told the papers he had been feeling, I am almost positive she would have blabbed it to Larry and Dick. Knowing Eva, she would have called the newspapers and announced it.

Poor Ruby. Did you see "Seconds" with Rock Hudson? I think this must be how he must be feeling. It is all too much. Who will be next? Marina? But with Marina, it will be a "suicide". The poor girl who loved lights and music and bars so much is out in that dreadful little community of Greenville. Her husband will let her see no one unless he approves before hand. Marina has a history of suicide threats. Mama O. will be a car "accident". She has been picked up three or four times already for allegedly "speeding". This sets the stage nicely for when and if "they" want to move in. Whoever the hell "they" are. Penn called to say he was interviewing De Morschildt. I am anxious to hear about it. But Penn is a lousy writer of letters. I finally got him broken into using postcards to keep me up on where he was-- then he sent obscene ones. What a nut. But I love him. You don't often run into spirit and fight like this. God knows, I don't have it; but I have the sense to sit back and admire it. Penn was not too happy with his meeting with Vince. He says however that Vince has "great courage." So you could ~~pass~~ pass that on to Vince to keep our little group bubbling with esprit de corps. *(The latter remark, not the former!)*

One of my little dogs is sick and I am so worried about her. On top of that, I have hardly any of my Christmas shopping done. What a bore the shops are--so full of useless extravagance. I'm ashamed for my country; but like Oppenheimer when I am away from it, I miss it and love it so. There is no where in the world like it. Perhaps this is why we're trying so hard, all of us, to straighten it out. There just isn't anything anymore in America, no ~~ideals~~ ideals, no noble attitudes, the "postures instead of performances" of the Eisenhower era have returned to just plain shit and corruption in this administration. Don't people ever learn from history that you can't push a people around too much or too long? I think the country is in revolution right now.

I must close. Looking forward to the possibility of your trip. Surely you can make; jet travel being what it is, you can get here and to Dallas so quickly. Penn will have a car for us full time. You know Penn: once we get there we can have anything we want. You name it, he'll supply it. Should we have some plan of action? Is there anything specific you want to do? Aside from visiting all the places, of course. Write when you can and have as nice a Christmas as any of us can have considering Vietnam.

Love, S.