

Sunday, 8 October 1967

Dear Penn,

I had intended to write and congratulate you and thank you for sending me *Forgive My Grief*, Vol. II, but have been overtaken by events. I tried to phone you all day yesterday and this morning, because I have had some dreadful and tragic news from Shirley Martin, which I think you should know.

Shirley's daughter Vickie was in a terrible auto accident. She was killed. She died on September 12th, but I did not find out about this until yesterday. I did not know Vickie, indeed, I have never even met Shirley, but I have heard what a beautiful girl she was, and how close a relationship they shared. This is the greatest tragedy that Shirley could have suffered, and she needs her friends very much.

I know that you and LA will want to do everything in your power to help Shirley at this most heartbreaking time. I would give anything not to be giving you such horrible news.

As always,

Sylvia Meagher