

Dear Robert

7/31/93

With 5 minutes at this moment I begin ^{with} to ^{to} thank you for your thoughtful letter and the good advice in it, which was what I've intended and started doing my own way, for the future.

There was a misunderstanding I'll correct and I also would like to know ^{the} ~~that~~ client on a JFK book that agent could not abide. My guess would be Lifton ^{or} ~~and~~ Livingstone.

I had heard nothing from my friend and the coming copublisher for a long time. I'd assumed he'd copublish with Carroll & Graf but he had not said so. He was out of the country and the person he expected to inform me was called for jury duty ^{also} and was long out of the office. I do not know which established and probably small publisher will be the co- but I'll learn. I also do not know when the book will appear, but again I'll know. I have gone over the editing and returned the ms. And I'm well into the next book, which is to be quite different and will be an ample defense for the future. Livingstone has written letters, including to me, in which he says I was part of two conspiracies, one to kill and the other to keep him from breaking the case open and that to protect the killers!

Under Maryland law that is actionable. I've given copies to the states attorney. I've not heard since they said they'd have to consult with others, federal and probably Baltimore City authorities.

This sickness of his mind was repeated, in writing, often. Can you imagine anything like that being publishable? But that we were all accessories is in Kent Carroll's statement to Publishers Weekly. If I were a young man of 70 I'd undertake to teach those moneygrubbers what they should have learned on their mothers' knees.

Later and with your letter in front of me. And, unfortunately, to be interrupted again soon: What you report about agents has been my experience. ^{even} I had a major agent refuse to represent me when the ^{old} Saturday Evening Post sent me to him because it wanted to buy chapter rights to Whitewash and wanted to deal with me through an agent. I soon learned that in this country there was no point in trying to get one with a decent, honest book. The crap has always had a market and has always ^{made} money, with neither the agent nor the publisher having any concern about how the government would feel. Or react.

The agent you do not identify could not be more wrong than in saying there is now no market. Quite a few major publishers have announced books with a first print of 50,000 or more in hardback and some of the largest have already announced as many as three books. I know of no good one among them.

I have had nothing to say about Livingstone since months ago when I took his letters to the local prosecutor. He has been too busy on his book to take time to make any more problems. It remains to be seen whether what he says is accepted or ridiculed by the papers. And with what his book says about me, Carroll & Graf could not think of publishing me. They would ridicule themselves. They would be asking to be ridiculed.

I appreciate time and thought you have given to this and the wise counsel that it happens had also been my own. Hope you can be alert to the coming trash and as you have, let me know. Many thanks,

David

7/29/93

Dear Harold,

I received your letter of 6/28 (which had been returned to you because you had inadvertently transposed two digits in my address). I'll get right to the point, here. My agent said he does not really have any literary agent contacts. So I spoke to another agent at my agency. He is from New York and did have a couple of contacts in the literary circles back there. He did not know of you or your work, but I gave him a brief background especially the fact that you are the pioneer in this area. But as soon as I said the book is on the subject of the JFK assassination, he said he wouldn't get involved. I don't know this guy that well, so whether he was bullshitting me or not, but he said he had gotten involved with a writer of a JFK book and acted as an intermediary for the guy and the entire episode left a bad taste in his mouth in regard to dealing with assassination conspiracy books (I left out the word "assassination" between JFK and book, so it was a JFK assassination book not a JFK book). His other advice (which is typical of an agent) was it's not commercial now, any book that was going to come out should have come out when the Oliver Stone movie was released. So, I got a small taste of the kind of crap you've had to put up with for thirty years now. I'm sorry that I couldn't be more helpful, but I told you this was a long shot because it's not my area and my agents are TV and film people.

Some advice I wanted to impart. Perhaps by now you have your response to your book from Carroll & Graf, I don't know. But they do publish quite a few books on the assassination subject. I know you are a man of principles and that is rare in this day and age. But if you can get your work published it might be worth holding your tongue on Livingstone for now. The fact is they publish this guy and they'll probably do it again. Your revealing him for what he is will not keep him from being published, but it may keep you from being published. If you truly believe what you have to say in your book is important and must get out, it might be worth your while to make the compromise and not badmouth Livingstone. At least that way the public would get to read your book. The alternative is you go after Livingstone, he gets published anyway and you don't. And there's nothing to stop you from talking about Livingstone after you're published. Besides if anybody's got credibility on this issue it's you. The people who believe Livingstone are the Johnny-come-latelys or the out and out nuts. He's badmouthed Groden, too. Eventually, he'll lose any credibility just on the basis of his badmouthing everybody and his claim that he's the only authority. Anyone who has done any serious reading on the JFK assassination knows you were there at the beginning. You are the one that was called the leading authority on the assassination years ago as published in POST MORTEM. Your reputation will remain intact. It is more important to get your book out and ignore Livingstone. And I don't mean it's more important for the obvious commercial reasons that would benefit you. What you have to say on this subject is important and nothing should get in the way of it being shared with the public if you have a serious offer to publish your book.

-two-

I understand the desire to defend yourself. And admittedly, I've not heard what Livingstone has said about you. So, I'm only thinking this out from a strictly logical point and that is one that will make the information in your book available to the public. And if your book is published, the credibility is there and that in itself negates Livingstone. But in the end you have to decide what is more important. Your FOIA lawsuits are on record and I'm sure any book you publish could include a synopsis of what you have done to help educate the country on what really went happened on November 22, 1963.

I regret that I can't be of more help. I do have a friend who is a writer and has been published, but his agent is having trouble getting his second book published, so I feel a little funny about asking him to help get another book sold when he can't get his going. But if you are unable to get any bites on your book, I would talk to him. I'm sure he would want to read the manuscript and you might object to that. His first book was about a double agent in Isreael who turned against Israel and revealed that they were making nuclear weapons and is an accounting of how Israeli agents kidnapped the guy and put him in prison to shut him up (obviously it's non-fiction). He's a good writer and is currently an aid to the Mayor of Atlantic City. But that too is a long shot.

I hope you are able to get this book out. It is important to me and I know others would be interested to. And you're right in saying the 30th Anniversay of the Assassination would make this book timely. Hell, a president was murdered and it was never solved, a book like that should always be timely. Maybe you'll think I'm wrong in saying that you should take the Carroll & Graf deal if offered and screw Livingstone. Perhaps it's selfish on my part because I want to know what you've got say. But if you can make a deal, I would take it. If Livingstone is as bad as you say, it will come out some way.

Take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Bruce', written in a cursive style.

Robert Bruce
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