

4/9/77

Dear Jim,

When I am home, which for some months has been most of the time, I generally go over the mail when it arrives and either take care of it promptly, think about ~~scribble~~ it or do a little of each.

Matter of fact there is an earlier step. As I carry it back up the lane from the box I separate it into his and hers.

What grabbed my mind and imagination was a very fat package addressed to "41 from DJ. Recently I wrote a request for the personal files on her for her. Mine if of quite long ago and has been without response. Guessing what this was cannot really be called a guess. We skimmed it and went to the other mail. This included your 4.4.

From then to now it has remained on my mind, of course. I know there is nothing I can say that you both do not know. Yet there is so much I want to say, so much I wish I could do, so much that I hope with you.

What I guess it reduces to is that you are both very lucky that Jenifer is what she is, a wonderful, remarkable person.

Two or three months ago this would not have been the surprise and disappointment it is today. Then I had an uneasy feeling. Since then I had just assumed that some adjustments were inevitable and necessary.

With all else that occupies you today anything that relates to me certainly should not. Perhaps what is most important is that if they have the need Jim and Howard be able to draw upon your wisdom and experience. That is not right away. ...

Recently I sent you a 3cl mailing. Soon there will be another. I've started it with a 3-part series "41 saved from the local a.m. Perhaps what is affot or I think is in the area of my work and interest may interest Jenifer. I'll keep you onformed, not expecting to hear from you. ...

You enclosed KPFA's 6 p.m. 3.30/77 beginning with Sprague's resignation, followed by Marguerite then Peter Dale Scott. I've lost track of what I've sent you. Your appended note deals with deM and the diagnosis of paranoia. You ask about the release of this info. My unclear recollection is that the hospital confirmed rather than ~~re~~released. Both deM's had the same Dallas attorney, one Russell. With what has happened it would not surprise me if he authorized. deM's problems were so serious a month ago he went to a psychiatric institution not far from Dallas, Terrell State. A psychiatrist reached a diagnosis and opinions. deM had gone and submitted voluntarily. Who he did not show to be hospitalized his wife took those steps that led him to go to Par~~it~~and "voluntarily" for 7-8 weeks. Then it turned out that all the vampires are not Carpathian, that there is at least one who is Dutch. deM had lived up his means, had been unemployable it his non-lingual specialties, had reached the age at which the college would no longer employ him, so he decided that with all the others who had made a million with a fake book this was his solution. The Dallas Morning News informed the committee's Tannenbaum in advance about the psychiatric situation, including the name and number of the doctor. Instead of consulting the doctor the committee dispatched the Konz. Whether he got there unassisted, of E.J. Epstein did, is not as material as that Epstein knew first, paid \$5,000 for the interview, a bit more than the average reporter gets from that amount of time. ... Much of the media is out of hand on these stories now. At this point last night a reporter friend phoned and kept asking questions to close to midnight. About the past and the meaningless past. All look for non-stories or sensations without significance.

Our best and our hopes for the best,

4 April 1977

Dear Harold:

As you probably have sensed from my growing silences, Jenifer has developed further problems that have preoccupied us both for some two months. Shortly before Christmas she developed muscle pains which came on irregularly and which caused no great alarm to the two doctors she immediately consulted, our regular GP and the surgeon who did her colostomy a year ago. However by February they became frequent and severe enough to begin to cause disablement, and a series of tests were begun, all of which showed nothing wrong.

However things didn't improve, and as the tests continued to show nothing the doctors were reluctant to hospitalize her, so she stayed here, painfully climbing the hill up to the road when necessary to go for another X-ray or some other test. During February and March I took over the cooking, as she could not stand long enough without pain, and we got along quite well except that she didn't improve.

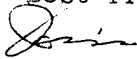
Finally a bone scan showed metastasis in several parts of her bone structure, and she went into Marin General on March 31. She is much more comfortable now and today began radiation therapy. This may be supplemented later with chemotherapy.

None of this is pleasant, but she continues just as calm and determined as ever, and we both are greatly relieved finally to find out what's wrong so that what needs to be done can be done. The prospect now is that she'll probably be hospitalized three or four weeks, depending on how things go.

I spend as much time as possible at the hospital, of course, as I can be helpful with her colostomy and ~~swimmer~~ other problems with which I'm familiar. She is glad to have someone around who understands these things, and it makes things a bit easier for the nurses, who are good and extremely kind and attentive but who have several problem patients in the same wing. This means of course that while I can keep the house running (cats fed, necessary washing and other maintenance work) I have little time for clipping and filing, so it looks like that aspect of our life is suspended indefinitely. There is no reason, of course, why I can't continue our repository function here, but I can't promise when I can find the time to write in the immediate future. I shall, of course, try to keep you informed of anything important that develops. Meanwhile Jenifer's attitude is just what you'd expect, full of hope and confident in her ability to do her very best. As you know, that's very good indeed.

I would have written much earlier, but we frankly did not know enough to give you any intelligent picture until yesterday and today. I know this will reach you at a time of great pressure, and regret it very much, but I am grateful at last to be able to give you a real idea of what's involved. We know we have your best wishes and support, and that's what counts.

Best from us both,

  
jdw