

10/10/72

Dear Mary,

I didn't expect to be writing you this soon. When I mailed an envelope to you this morning I picked up today's mail. Lil had tax school. She was surprised in going over the envelopes to find an opened one from Outerbridge and Dienstfrey offering me the remainders of FRAME-UP as required of them under the contract. I am accepting in a certified letter I will be mailing them (copy enclosed) when I mail this.

Before I went to Dallas last November you had spoken to Arch when I'd gotten reports that they were remaindering the book. (It turned out that some stores were but the publisher was not.) Arch then said he would get these for me. By now he may have changed his mind. I hope he has not and does not. The amount involved is not large. I do not know exactly, but it looks like over \$900 and under \$1,000.

If Arch is unwilling to do this, would you mind speaking to Sue for me? (I know neither her husband's name nor her address.) And if for any reason doing either of these things or anything else that might occur to you would be any kind of embarrassment to you, please let me know for I'll have to move fast. I have caught these scum in fraud, the post office has accepted a complaint, and they would like nothing more than to do something hurtful to me. I don't want them to have any excuse. And I do want the books. They are the only ones in existence not already sold. A large number, by the way.

If I borrow in emergency, just to get the books, from someone who will want or need immediate or fairly immediate return, I would then have to find another source from which to borrow to make the repayment. I anticipate this will not be a major problem and would take a relatively short time. (I WILL not ask Bud, who owes me much more than this. I did have to phone Jim this morning with information for him and I just mentioned it to Jim.) None of my friends are of means, so from whomever I would borrow it might require a little time. Not long but some. I do hope that Arch will still do as you said he would, but I am aware that he may not. If Sue is not pressed for the money, in that event, what I would like to do if she can see her way clear is to repay her as I sell the books. I would give her all of what I get from the sale until I have repaid her in full. Lil would take care of that automatically for she would have to have a separate item in our books and inventory for FRAME-UP. We would do this at regular intervals, just so it didn't require a weekly report from Lil, or anything that would be as wasteful of her time as that, especially with tax season coming up.

We have a regular listing in the standard Bowker indices and an ad in one. If they have not closed for the year, a question I will take up with Lil when I pick her up, we will add FRAME-UP to our ad and will write them about changing the Books In Print listing. I do not have time to check the contract now, but I also think this would mean all rights would revert to me, and that also would be good.

I hate to intrude into your time with this, but the timing for me is rather bad. Lil thinks we have to come up with \$400 in interest to the bank, our quarterly instalment on interest on our indebtedness. I thought we had paid the principal payment and the interest for the year. If Lil is right, then we do have part of it, \$240 of the amount O&D cheated me out of that came today. But I also have to borrow the money to repair and raise the lane because the county raised the road level, blocking the flow of water. It becomes an immense problem in the winter from more than the weather. You may remember that a large hillside drains onto our lane, which carries that water into a road drain that I also have to repair because what the county did caused it to start to erode. Otherwise, Lil won't be able to get to the only work we have with real bad weather. For some strange reason, after repeated promises to do it, the county just doesn't. I have engaged a contractor who is due here this week. I don't know what the total cost will be but because it requires blacktopping on the fill that will have to be made plus a shoulder to keep the water from pouring over the side where it is raised, it will, for us, be much. I will, of course, sue the county for it, but that will take time. In any event, I'd rather not have to approach the friends from whom I plan to borrow for the road repair to get the money for the books if Arch has changed his mind. Thanks for your trouble. On another subject, if you have finished with the last part of POST MORTEM I have no spare copies and would appreciate it and any notes or suggestions you may have made. If you've finished. Thanks, best,