

Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701

11/26/67

Dear John,

I've just returned from a trip to New Orleans, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles (very successful in terms of appearances and exposure)/ I know I read your letter of 10/22 after returning from NY but do not know if I answered it.

Sem Abbott never sent a bill because by the time he learned that Tobey would pay for the cover, Dell was doing II and he waited to bill for both, to see if they'd use the second cover.

The question with Starr is not Starr but Dell, which just sits still and does nothing. They have declined to give me an affidavit on sales, which they place at 117,000 US, 15,000 foreign, of a print of over 500,000. They dare not give me an affidavit for that would be perjury. So, you see, you also have an interest. Now I have no doubt I can prove their sales figures wrong. What I doubt is that I can take the time to establish what they really are or that, with the time, I can do this with complete accuracy. So, we need all that can help in a suit. If I were in New York, the suit would have been filed before this. As it is I have to spend time on the phone with Dick and John, each of whom is busy, and they rarely can get together. I hope this weekend I arranged for the beginning of a suit.

I think getting the lawyer to send you the papers and then getting you to send them back is dangerous and time-wasting. Why not make the arrangement, when the suit is being prepared, to have your lawyers let me go over them, or the lawyer, or both, and we select what is helpful and make copies, leaving your files intact?

Meanwhile, when you get a chance, please get your letters and mine out and prepare all the information in a single letter. I have no doubt that we have them over the barrel on returns of the original edition, because I have the signed contract that they later backed out on, AFTER SIGNING IT. What I want to do is establish the case on royalties. While it may be that no one in his right mind would ever believe that with an initial printing of 250,000 Dell would twice reprint having sold so small a percentage that their sale almost a year later was less than half of the original printing, we must be able to prove a case in court. I think that the more we can prove by way of their dishonesty and its flagrancy, the better the chance there is of getting reasonable estimates accepted by a jury and of getting other things we might be able to prove weighed more carefully and fairly.

So, please get this thing going on your end so that I can do something here. One thing that may be important is your files. Arrange to make them accessible.

I have not been able to write anything more in two months. Too many other related things keep me too busy. When I'm home I am now trying (and often succeeding) in sleeping a little longer. I stay tired. When I'm away I go at the old clip. One night, in SF, I didn't even get in bed or get to change my clothes. The fifth book is written, half prepared for offset printing, and hot. It goes slowly because we are both so tired and have too many other necessities. We are still with most of our property in boxes, with much not yet moved, and with piles of stuff under cover outside. Our health is as it was, save that we have discovered that I have a high blood sugar count. Do not yet know what it means, aside from a diet that conflicts violently with that for ulcer. How goes your writing and other things with you? Prepared to be a war correspondent? You are properly located. Our best,

Oct. 22, 1967

Dear Harold and Lil:

Congratulations on moving into your new house. It sounds very thrilling. I will still send mail to your old address, however, until I hear that you are definitely settled.

Harold, as I remember, Tobey did say that they would pay Sam Abbott, the artist, "a few hundred dollars." I think this was about \$200. I wonder why Sam never sent the bill as soon as Whitewash I was published. Anyway, Pell definitely owes him some money.

As far as Whitewash II is concerned, I don't know what agreement Starr made for the artist; therefore I am not qualified to say what Sam should get. I think that this is Starr's responsibility and something that you should not spend your time worrying about.

The other details involving Pell's payment to you for your unsold copies and the distribution contract are all correct as you have written me before. I can think of nothing new. Again, not to be repetitive, I think this is Starr's affair. I tried to hash all this out with Pell. Maybe he can do it also.

I have written to you all that I have remembered. If you still want the papers, I will write to my lawyer and ask him to send them to me and I will send them to you. Whatever you want, I will be happy to send and I hope that this whole matter resolves itself favorably.

Lil, I am enclosing some brochures from the orphanage you asked me sometime ago to visit in Jerusalem. I spoke to a Mr. Weingarten, the principal of the school. A bearded, black-robed orthodox Jew, he told me during a brief tour of the modern building that the orphanage is filled. Its capacity is three hundred. He said it is the only orphanage for Jewish children in Jerusalem and has been there for 65 years.

There was an exhibit in one of the rooms showing the handicraft work of the girls. A new auditorium wing is now under construction; awaiting additional money. He said that all of the funds for the girls come from contributions.

I signed your name in the guest book and <sup>WILL SEND</sup> ~~sent~~ a picture <sup>I TOOK</sup> of the white, stone building. It looked clean and well kept-up.

If there is anything else you would like me to do, please let me know. I will stay through Christmas here, particularly because I want to see Bethlehem. I will leave before the first of the year.

My book should be finished within the month. The weather is <sup>now</sup> cool during the night and warm during the day.

sincerely



UNFORTUNATELY, I DIDN'T GET  
A CHANCE TO SPEAK TO ANY OF  
THE GIRLS