

Mrs. Raphaela Seroy (Please Forward)
c/o Richard Gallen
260 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10001

11/3/94

Dear Raphaela,

Thanks for your letter of the 28th and the two disks. And for the other information. I was not aware that Richard had those personal difficulties, other than his father's death earlier and your concluding paragraph is not the same as your last previous letter, postmarked August 8 or 9. In that letter you said you had more to do but it involved something about the computer you did not understand and that as soon as Peter returned you'd finish it up. I waited two months before writing. I was angry and I had reason to be more that I go into.

I loved Richard for the wonderful, thoughtful person he had been. But there came a time when he just fell silent, without any explanation, ever. I can think of nothing I did to explain or justify that and his virtual total silence thereafter, other than a few short letters that were not in accord with the facts. And that is something I'd never have expected of him. He has not kept his word to me and there are indications that he is doing that again. I'm baffled. He is one person of whom I'd never have expected that.

When he phoned to tell me he'd like to do Hoax, with Herman Graf on the line, I said I'd get it retyped as soon as I could. I had in fact made the arrangements but the woman I'd hired had a son who just had an emergency operation and she had to care for him. Richard said they'd do the retyping, I agreed because they wanted it fast, taking about February publication, and never mentioning either paperback or butchery of the book. I agreed to his editing and he agreed to send me three retyped copies, before editing. He did not set any date but when I was under the impression it would be a hardback and for February appearance and that was September I expect the retyping to be done promptly and that I'd get those copies promptly. I could and would have gotten someone else to do the typing. I have two young women each of whom is retyping a different manuscript for me now. I've completed two additional books since then and several long research pieces, all retyped. That he was not going to have it done promptly he did not tell me. The first knowledge I had was when you sent me your first computer experience. What an experience, huh? And for me, too, with all the extra work it meant for me. Remember, Raphaela, I've been on borrowed time since 1975 and have been lucky. My 1989 heart operation was the second I was not expected to survive. I've been prohibited lifting more than 15 pounds since then. I'm feeble and I'm trying to do as much as I can while I am able to.

You did send me what you could when you could. But I can't use the files in the basement and some in my office are so overstuffed I can't get anything out of them. I've run out of stacking space atop ^{there I use top to hold files and work} the file cabinets in my office. So I kept what you sent me as I got it, because when I box the sets for the university and college, I want the last on the bottom, of course. So what you sent is exactly as you sent it the only place left other than a spot on the floor--and in my office there is no such spot!-- is the hearth.

Unpleasantly! Strikes everyone who comes here in the face. My wife has not complained because she knows I have no alternative. But first, I do not want anything like that to linger to be a problem for anyone, and second the only reason it exists is because I did not get the retyped copy. If I had, if Richard had done what he led me to believe he was going to do, you would not have had any problem integrating anything. I'd have done it on the final copy, retyped, that is. No part of any problem was of my creations and I was kept in the dark about Richard's actual plans abusively. Very abusively. When he knew very well what he intended ~~by~~ doing he misled me and made even more work for me. An example, is knowing he was going to cut the hell out of it—did not even have it retyped, he actually phoned me and asked me to talk to Charlie Winton and include what Charlie wanted. Winton phoned me, gave me to understand he has a deep interest in the assassination, gave me any idea of what he ~~was~~ wanted added, and I went to much trouble to try to do that even though I regarded it as assassination kid stuff, the nutty stuff of ~~an~~ ^{the} underinformed theorists. ~~He~~ ^{Richard} did this to me when there was so little of my life left and when he knew he would not use it. That kind of junk is foreign to my work. I had to collect it from others and that wasted their time and mine.

Quite aside from all of this is the atrocity to our history he perpetrated. And the harm to me and to my work and its meaning and value, what I work so hard for when I should not ~~be~~ for my health ^{alone}.

And then the typos I picked up that were not corrected! And publishing a book without even a table of contents! When I wrote new conclusions to fit what was left that was butchered without need and there are a dozen blank pages at the end! I am being criticized for these things in the field, not by readers. My mail has been fine and it continues.

There was no editing needed for libel. There was no libel. There may have been what could have been an excuse for filing a frivolous suit as they do cost money to win. And to this day Posner and RH are mute. What is in Case Open is libel if not true. None of that was any problem for Richard. But if he gave a damn about libel, look what is in that disgrace, Livingstone's self-descriptive Killing the Truth! He has me an accessory in the JFK assassination two different ways, among other libels, and he thanks Richard for his wonderful help and advice in it. I know Richard recused himself but he is supposed to be my friend and he said and did not a thing about many libels of me in it. With an announced 50,000 hardback copies. I do not know what was ~~heard~~ ^{heard} what happened but it looks bad.

I do not go into NEVER AGAIN! but Richard has not kept his word on that and he did not do what I expected of him and he led me to believe he would do with a nod of the head. It was finally scheduled for this past September but without my being told it was ^{again} delayed. Richard and Herman ¹raf told me it will be out in March. I see no sign of it and when C&G some time ago announced for March and sent an author copies I have only silence.

When Richard knows I am not able to do anything. I cannot travel. It is too unsafe.

A brother-in-law died last night. I will not be at his funeral or the services. I have not driven out of Frederick since 1977 and when I went to hospitals I was and am driven. If a hand brushes a doorknob my skin peels back two inches. It also peels back if I merely let my desk touch the back of one or an arm. And this past July I was told I have no functioning artery in either leg. So I am quite limited in what I can do ^{and how long I can expect to live} and Richard has known this for some time. ^{By} short, I trusted him completely and he abused my trust. And I cannot think of anyone I've ever known of whom I would have expected anything like that less. I knew Richard as a wonderful person. He had been with me.

I am really very sorry this has been so troubling to you. As I am about your father's situation and what that means and does to you. But he is lucky. We are both past 60, in various ways infirm, in many ways, and we have no children ^{to help us.}

I do appreciate what you've done, very much, and more, your willingness.

One other thing on Hoax. I had two peer reviews, the best possible in the field, both history professors, and both said that with normal editing it should be submitted for the 1995 Pulitzer in history. One of those professors was here when a shocking letter came from Richard. I merely handed it to him. After he was home he wrote Richard and sent me a copy. He said it in that letter, among other things. He got no answer or he'd have told me. ^{And that kind of looks Richard butchered, with a word to me.}

Also, save for asking for three copies of the retyped ms which he'd said he was giving retyped anyway, I made no demands on Richard. I did not even ask for a contract. Or any advance. He knew what I wanted and I trusted him to do it or tell me otherwise.

He did neither, and that also I'd never have expected of him.

I take this time and go into this part of the situation only to give you to understand that when I wrote him that angry letter it was not without cause and it was more than a year after he'd given me his word. ^{To give me those copies, more than a year!}

You have impressed us as a fine and caring person and we love you for it. I hope all your problems work out as best as is possible,

sincerely,



One other ~~the~~ thing. When some time passed after I got that first batch from

you and returned it with corrections and I got no

Harold Weisberg

more I phoned. Richard was not in, David spoke to me briefly. He was on another call. He said Richard would phone me. He has not since then. ^{not once since for that Winston call.}

Because your letter says you had done all the retyping and I recall your telling me you had a little more to do and would require some computer assistance from Peter when he returned I decided to check it and do the boxing when I returned from my early morning walking, blood testing, etc. and I've done that. First I must thank you for your care in packaging. Every sheet is perfect. While all I've done is check the page numbers when separating the wtp sets, it looks beautiful^{ally} and neat. I also appreciate that!

But it is not complete, as I remembered your telling me. The last chapter and the epilogue are not included.

Because it is so difficult for me to retrieve from that file drawer - and I'm getting a student to shift some of it to the basement "overflow" files - and I could not send you a copy of your last letter, I give you this confirmation that I really did wait wto months before complaining about what seemed like an inordinate delay.

You did begin with three sets, for the first batch you mailed.

I do regret very much that this has made you uncomfortable.

H

Raphaela Eeroy's 10/28/94 letter makes several things clear.

When Gallen said they'd get the retyping done there he was not in a position to get it done promptly or ~~to use~~^{to use} a computer even acceptably. He was not rushing the book as he led me to believe when I ~~could have had~~^{had arranged to} it done here but not by someone working full time. When Graf spoke of publishing in February, nobody ever telling me they planned paperback or no index, speed was essential and I was led to believe they would rush it. It was ~~only that~~^{only that} December that I learned that without consulting me Richard then planned not to keep his word for February publication and planned it for September. It was only when Winton, their distributor, agreed with me that it appeared a month later than then promised, in April.

At his request I sent Gallen the first six of seven ~~copies~~ chapters I had written and corrected. I had to send him xeroxes of them because Lee Stern had the originals to retype but could not do immediately because she was nursing her son and preparing for the holy days. Raphaela's letter makes it clear that ~~from~~^{to} the beginning Richard had decided to do only what he'd read. He added only a little ~~of~~ it and when it took so long to get any more of it retyped that also means what he did was his initial intent and he kept that secret from me.

Also bearing on this being his int ent all along, from the very first, is that he hired Raphaela only part-time, as she says in her letter, she would not be in his office until Tuesday. I think I learned from Richard's son on that call that she worked there only one or two days a week, that the computer was available to her only part time then. Having me speak to Wwinton in early December 1993 to add to the book what Winton wanted was a further deception because he did not intend to add anything and began deciding to massacre what I wrote.

There are current indications NEVER AGAIN! again will not appear at the ~~pp~~ promised time. It is not on the computer which has what is to be published in March on it. And March publication was promised this time by both Herman Graf and Richard. It could easily have been in the stores by 7/93 and that without any ~~and~~ rushing at all.

I do not recall getting any retyped copy from Raphaela that was typed. The first she sent me was her first ever use of a computer and it was a real shock when I saw it! And I do not recall getting any part of the ~~copy~~ retyping on the computer with a 3rd set. It is as I got it and I had bad dreams all night about boxing it with it incomplete. Her last previous letter did tell me, or she phoned to tell me, that when Peter Skutches returned he'd show her what to do to complete it. It is a long ms, complete or not. Last page 788 as I recall. I looked yesterday after getting her letter. When I box it I can tell if it is complete by comparing the last page or part with the draft.

October 28, 1994

To: Harold Weisberg
From: Raphaela Seroy
Re: Letter to Richard Gallen dated 10/13/94

Dear Harold:

When I first arrived at this office last winter, Richard was going through some personal difficulties of his own, and I truly believe he did not really want (or need!) to take on anything else. But I was desperate, financially and emotionally, and out of the depth and kindness of his heart, told me he might have some work I could do for him. He handed me your manuscript and instructed me to "retype it exactly": **THOSE WERE THE ONLY "ORDERS" I HAD FROM RICHARD!** (I remember sitting at the typewriter and thinking I must be in heaven; not only to have been given work, but to be typing something for Harold Weisberg)!

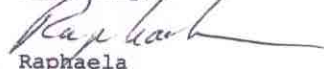
I began your manuscript on a typewriter (since I was totally computer ignorant). After Diana and Peter showed me how to use it, I was still very slow with the computer. The insertions were a bit confusing, and I tried to be careful to match your instructions with what I had already inserted into the computer to make sure of every single word. So some of the manuscript was hand-typed and some was in the computer. Then, a personal crisis came up and I had to go down to Florida.

While I was away, Richard used what I had typed, and working from that material, he edited out any possible libelous material, in order to get your book published and distributed, for you!

I won't bore you with my personal problems, (one of which happens to be with another Harold, my own father, who is 93, terribly alone, and in need). However, I've just returned from Florida again, and again, must go back there. But today, having read the letter you sent to Richard dated 10/13/94, there is something I must make clear to you before I leave: **YOUR ANGER IS TERRIBLY MISPLACED!**

One time, I remember, I sent you one copy, and, much later, sent two copies together, which would make it three copies altogether of the work (incompleted) I had done so far. I think I've re-typed everything now, and the entire manuscript plus new insertions, etc. is on two discs. Today is Friday and the mail room is closed, but I will send you those discs next Tuesday when I come in to the office. Since computers are second nature to people now in school, surely someone closer to you can use these discs and finally clear up the mess I've made. I hope so.

Sincerely,



Raphaela