

Dear Pearl,

1/31/73

Having expected a visit from you sometime around Xmas, we had, of course, wondered. I don't like the way you put some of it: "suddenly I'm a childless mother, alone - and the typewriter doesn't compensate".

Never having been a parent, I can only think about the emotions.

First of all, your kids aren't babies any more. They are close to the age when kids go off on their own, so the most protective part of the mother's relationship with them is past. Don't be a Yiddische Mama, and don't think or think of yourself as one. As I remember, the girl is younger. She'll be with her father and the title, "Unmarried Step Mother", so she'll be ok. And as I recall, there have been times when Mike has been on his own. So, the time of a different relationship is near, if not now.

You are probably right in saying that being with Mike will give you both a kind of emotional security, him, perhaps an emotional stability he might otherwise lack.

I know nothing about the job situation in California. There is a radio newsman in L.A. who has been a very good friend to me. He is Art Kevin, 10858 Fruitland Dr., 91604. Maybe he'll have some idea about jobs.

If you had come her as we expected, I'd have proposed you do a book in which I have too much emotional involvement, about us. It should have movie prospects, kind of combination of The Egg and I and Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House. We'd have asked you to consider staying here to do it, as a collaborator.

You are right to talk what you have into a tape recorder, but I think you'll find it is different without a responsive audience, perhaps with some work, more an occasional participant (the two-minds bit).

Don't you dare invent one that talks back! There is already too little communication between people.

You see, we'd thought both kids were with their father. This would have made you entirely free.

I guess your decision with Pyramid is the correct one. My experience is that what you don't get in front money you are not likely to get.

If Mosk's brother was on the Warren Commission, stay away from that subject. All those lawyers are hungup on the evil things they did and justify to themselves by telling themselves that anyone with questions is a nat of a baddie. A San Francisco Mosk with a good local rep was on the Commission.

We hope things work out for all of you. And we'll be glad to see you if you get this way.

Little is new here. This is Lil's busy time of the year, tax season. It is starting off faster and heavier than ever, so she stays pooped. Had to get her to the office early this a.m., which I wrote the above graf's prior to leaving, and she brings work home nights. I am spread to thin, so I'm not productive. However, the things I'm doing need doing, so I've no choice but do hope to get back ~~to~~ to the work I prefer soon.

I don't know what kind of news staff they have, but L.A. has a Mexican-audience, perhaps more Chicano, station. I wonder if there are many Chicano women with news experience? Hint. Incidentally, I think they also had a reporter. Ruben Gonzalez, who was killed by the cops. He was a big hero. I'm I'm right, you've got the right name!

You'll make put. Kep us posted. Best,

Alpes 966  
Mexico 10, DF  
Jan. 19, 1973

Dear Harold,

Please forgive lousy correspondent that I am of late - but I've been in the throes of deciding what to do about my personal life. It appears my kids will be away much longer than a year - it's not a sabbatical at all with me time to pound at the typewriter. Actually, it's an unbelievable time for me, suddenly I'm a childless mother, alone - and the typewriter doesn't in any way compensate. The truth is, what am I doing in Mexico? My kids there, me struggling for beans here - completely uninspired, unstimulated and absolutely dying to find a more satisfactory way to live. And what's more, my son is more or less in the same state.

So my plans are - to go to Calif. preferably San Francisco, although jobwise I might have to settle for LA for a while - have Mike with me for a while which will give us both a certain amount of emotional security, define our directions and other things. - Susy seems to be more content at the moment living with her father and "unmarried step mother" (which would make a heulva title!). I'm planning to leave around the middle of next month and at the moment besides selling things to give me the wherewithall to go - finishing up some of the local business writing I do which is also a major reason I'm leaving. I hate it. It pays very little. And it takes up too much of my time.

How I would love to sit and talk a book with you. In fact after reading about your idea I decided one of the first things I'm going to do when I'm more solvent is get a good tape recorder and talk my books to it. I find I reason better when I'm talking anyway. I hate to admit it, but sometimes I find myself talking to my friends and realizing I have only used them to air my thoughts and draw conclusions. I don't know how it will feel to talk to a tape recorder that won't answer back, but I'm going to try. They really should invent one you can have a conversation with!

As for the Kaplan matter - I submitted a ms. to Pyramid books (the mag piece) because the president is a friend of a friend. The president read it down to the last sentence, loved it, passed it on to other editors and

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finally I got it back with their saying they couldn't give me an advance because the publication of the other book would eat into the sales no end - and since they have made other extensive commitments, they couldn't risk the investment. However, this gives me more evidence when I finally get to see my lawyer in L. A. - Edward Mosk is his name, did I tell you? I think his brother once held a political post in Calif.

So, at the moment I can't think Kaplan, drugs, CIA, creativity - anyway - I've got to accomplish the major change first, establish myself and then get going with all the volcanic steam that's been building up and wants out. This will be the third time I've left Mexico - and this time it might bear fruit. The circumstances are very different. But this is all part of "Fishbine's Folly" which I just might get to do before Kaplan.

Hope this year brings you both a lot of happiness and fulfillment.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "Pearl", written in dark ink.