

Just a letter
from Josh &
I

Joshua Grove
1003 Greystone Drive, #3A
Frederick, MD 21701

1/17/97

Dear Joshua,

The undated letter jointly from you and Susan that was in the mess she delivered today speaking incomprehensibly as she came up to me and saying nothing other than to refer to this letter as she left, ladylike walking away as she spoke incomprehensibly, is an absolute outrage and an entire misrepresentation of the realities. It is unmanly. It is irresponsible. And if you had robbed me you would have done me less harm.

While it is not possible from that letter to know which of you is meant by "I" you are the one responsible and you are the one who would have hurt me less by robbery.

There is no way anyone can return hours stolen from a person of my age and you have wasted much time for me. Leaving me with a disgraceful mess that makes what you have done worse than valueless.

A man, as you should have learned before you entered college, keeps his word. A man does not make promises he does not keep. A man does not undertake obligations he does not meet. And a man is truthful.

Aside from ~~man~~ this absence of manliness you also reflect an exalted opinion of yourself and what all the world, especially anyone who has anything to do with you, automatically owes you. Just who do you think you are to misrepresent the actualities the way you do?

It is now five months since you said you'd do the job of retyping the manuscript on which you said you could work about 20 hours a week. I do not have a record of the date of the first payment to you and am not taking the time to find it. It is enough to remind you that the second one was on September 19th of last year.

You were taken ill and were hospitalized. You asked me to pay you in advance for completing the work. I agreed and did, although you were a stranger to me. For a man to behave as you have since then is entirely unmanly.

You even prepared what in effect is a contract when I gave you that money. I enclose it. When we gave you the check October 16 you said that payment, your words, completes the book and corrections. *you have not !!!*

By your own estimate you should have had it finished by the middle of November. But from then until now I do not remember a single call from you to report anything at all. I had to call you each time. When you said Susan would complete it for you I agreed and then heard nothing from her. For months! Then when I got after you you told me she had more than three chapters done. I asked

you to have her deliver them. You phoned her and she ~~ad~~ made a date and did not keep it. Two weeks later, having heard nothing, I phoned you. She then phoned to tell me there had been a death in her family. She made another date. That day the weather was bad. When she phoned before she could get to it I told her not to come in that weather. She picked another date and once again neither kept it nor phoned to tell me she could not or would not. That is why I phoned yesterday. You had long silences when you called me back each time I referred to the responsibility ^{to be in} yours, not Susan's. That is why I said ^{good} ~~good~~by abruptly. It was also because I was unclothed for medical reasons, for the application of ^{med} medication ^{after} after washing. That was also my situation when Susan phoned ^{In} in this kind of weather yet cold and windy as it is!

Because it is not possible to know which of you is at any point in that letter "I" I say that ^{if} ~~it~~ is Susan who says I cursed when speaking to her, ^{she} ~~she~~ lies. I did speaking to you and it was only part anger and disgust. I don't know who you think you are or what the world owes you but in all that time, assuming there was legitimate reason for your not keeping your word, and I do not believe that for a minute, there certainly is no excuse for your not ever informing me.

You refer to what you describe as my "time standards." Five months for part of a manuscript?

If it is you who are the one referred to as ill, you did not once ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ that time so inform me.

You make no reference to my health and what it means for self-import irresponsibles to waste any of the time that remains to me.

What you have done is worse than nothing for me because it is a total waste of all the time I have in this retyping. It is the same as robbing me, which is what you did.

And with this record you have the brass to complain against me?

I bailed you out four months ago and have not a thing from you since then other than this mess you now are not man enough to deliver yourself!

I have taken this time in what is ^{probably} ~~probably~~ a futility but in the hope that you will give it ^{some} ~~some~~ thought and rather than considering yourself some exalted personage to whom normal standards of conduct do not apply will come to understand how very badly you have behaved and learn from it. Learn in particular what it is to ~~be~~ a man, act like a man and think like a man, not like some kind of badly spoiled brat.

Because Mr. McKnight planned to use this ms. and had been using raw materials not included in it I now have to tell him not only ^{why} ~~why~~ he did not get any more for so long but why he will not, at least for some time.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harold,

Enclosed are the remaining chapters which I was to have finished by today. I had finished the book, but unfortunately my computer shutdown, and with it took the book on my disk. Thus, I had to retype a large portion of the book, being unable to complete it in its entirety.

The chapters complete are:

Chapters 9-14

Chapters 17, & 21-22.

Chapters unfinished are 15-16, 18-20, 23, and ofcourse the corrections.

The total amount given to me by Joshua to finish the book was \$375, with \$75 of that amount for the corrections.

Each chapter took over four hours to complete. This in turn is 40 hours, and at \$5.00 hour that comes to \$200 that was made by my work. The remaining \$175 is enclosed in this envelope for the unfinished chapters and the corrections. Thus, seventeen of the twenty-three chapters are complete. There are six chapters remaining.

We apologize for not being able to finish the book, and for not telling you in person. However, your disposition and choice of words over the phone to both me and Josh was unappreciative. We understand that it took longer than anticipated, but that was no reason to curse and hang up the phone. Thus, we are giving you this book to pass on to someone else that can better work for you and abide by your own time standards. You may feel that it is disrespectful to not approach you in person, but considering that my well-being was not of any concern to you yesterday when I was ill I really have no feelings about this situation, and figured that you did not want to hear the reason behind the book not being complete or how ill I had become. Due to these circumstances, we are sorry to say that we too have lost our deep respect for you.

Now that the money has been returned to you, along with the disk and completed chapters, this is the end of our employment in typing your manuscript. Please refrain from calling us any further, you have all of your material. We apologize for the unpleasant end of this situation. We wish you the best of luck in finishing the book and finding someone more appropriate to work for you.

Sincerely,

Susan & Josh

Joshua Grove

1003 Greystone Drive Apt. 3A

Frederick, Maryland 21701

(301) 682-4292

Social Security - 220-15-8261

Number of Hours Worked/Projected = 75 (\$375)

This completes the book and the corrections.

Thanks a bunch!

#5779
10/16/96

*Paid in advance - no record of time worked -
actual no. of hrs worked - not just start/stop times*