

Dear, dear Kathy,

2/2/95

Of course I know you are not being anything but supportive and helpful and I do appreciate it. After all, didn't Eisenhower insist that crises of the more ^{disasterous} potential be reduced to a single page for him to read? (Did I ever tell you that Ike was a fan of Lil's cooking and got and read her recipes after she was the National Chicken Cooking champion, that he raised on his farm some of our canard de Rouen into which I bred a sport of a colorful head pompon? And that he had no such interest in my recipe when I was the National Barbecue King?)

I misunderstood your card. I thought you had your agent in mind. I've had to lay this 42-page draft article aside for other work. What controls what I do is my intent to get as much as I can in paper to perfect to the degree I can the record for our history of the assassination *and its consequences*.

I've added about 250 pp to this article and am far from finished. I've two young women retyping two other book manuscripts. One of them I thought I'd completed but am adding an epilogue almost finished and to which I'll return after writing this. Which will wait a day to reduce my confabulation when I read and correct it.

My experiences with C & G have been so unpleasant and disappointing I've not even offered them the sequel to NEVER AGAIN! The copy editing, which was to have been done a year and a half ago and after this page from their catalogue (of which they did not bother even to inform me) was promised for a month ago, was again promised for this week and I do not yet have it. So I do not expect the catalogued April publication. But I fear the sequel, Waketh the Watchman, has an appropriate subtitle that would scare the hell out of Crown. It is Our Strangelovian Military and the JFK Assassination. It does not say they killed JFK. It addresses motive, means and opportunities ~~as~~ lawyers approach a case in which they are limited to that. And it is, I think, a real shocker.

As probably neither Crown nor any other publisher will think and remember, in his farewell address Eisenhower warned us to beware the military-industrial complex.

My priorities may seem askew to others but they are not to me and my history professors friends are more than please ^{d/}with what I've done since I recognized gradually increasing weakness after the successful heart surgery of 1989. I think often of Frost's "promises to keep" and am grateful I've been able to do that, remembering as I do that I am the first member of my family born into freedom and that I was not born where it was so terrible my parents would never talk to me about it.

I'll enclose what is only a few lines longer than you suggested on the chance you may want to show it to your agent who may think of a magazine ~~book~~ that handles long articles.

Thank you very, very much, dear Kathy,

Harold

Resumed 2/3/95 I was too rushed and too tired when I wrote the foregoing yesterday afternoon. I'd planned to ask Lil to retype the enclosure today but with the forecast for a heavy snow, which will bind us to the house, I'll make a copy and mail this when I leave before daylight for one of the three blood tests I must have each week. The medication that keeps me alive can also make me bleed to death. The tests are required to determine ^{the} dosage so that my blood does not clot on the one extreme or get so thin I hemorrhage on the other extreme.

I was not ~~in~~ as informative as I could have been on the book I'm making of this article. You suggest that perhaps there might be a Crown interest in it.

When your wonderful mother put up with me ^{in 1965-6} when I knew you as a little girl, and she was a wonderful mother, her day often organized around your selling Borwnie cookies, things like that I saw and remember, ~~put up with me~~ I was in New York on futile efforts to get the first book on "the crime of the century" published. I got more than 100 international rejections without a single adverse editorial comment. It remains a popular book, the basic one on the subject, and not even the slightest error has been attributed to it in the 30 years less 12 days since I completed it. Those experiences have dominated all I have done since then. I have had to cast myself in a role no writer would ordinarily elect. Since then, fame, fortune, popularity, literary success and even considerations have not been a factor in what I have done. I have preserved the integrity of my work and as I soon recognized ^{took the direction that required} would be probable, it remains the ^a basic work on that major turning point in history. That is something those subjected ~~to~~ to the revisionism cannot easily recognize. It now means that I cannot lay all else aside and finish the Senator Russell Dissents book.

I do not mean to take your time from your own busy life of ^{wife,} ~~both~~ mother and professional but because this may seem strange to you I want you to understand.

For the record for history in the unfinished book I have written myself past what I regard as most important ^{part} in it, how the Nicaraguan intelligence service and the ~~EISAX~~ Mexico City CIA station and the looney ambassador we then had there almost started World War III over the JFK assassination. Documented and true. It was a close call! So, in ~~my~~ writing, that record now does exist. Just this past Sunday I got another student to start ^p retyping what I've written.

It is not possible to solve the JFK assassination because there never was any official investigation of it ^{thus} ~~this~~ there ~~are~~ are no leads for private persons to follow. NEVER AGAIN! begins with documentation of that, and it was on the highest level, a de facto conspiracy not to investigate the crime itself. It was agreed to as soon as Oswald was killed and it was known there would be no trial. With 480 pages NEVER AGAIN! cannot be butchered as Case Open was. For your information only, yesterday the new board set up to get the rest of the official assassination records released (and it remains to be seen if they can or even will make the required official effort to do that) ^{told me it} is using

what was gutted out of Case Open to help it do that. They borrowed the disk^{ed} and just yesterday told me they had succeeded in getting it printed.

The closest we can come to any solution now is what I've undertaken in Waketh the Watchman. That therefore is now my first priority. It makes a record, all documented, of who most of all had the motive, the means and the opportunity. On the off chance that as the sequel to NEVER AGAIN! there may be commercial publishing interest in it, I want to get it as ready as is now practicable for me.

When I've done that, absent the kind of interruptions that are possible, like having to help this board, my first priority then will be this unfinished book.

I am feeble and there is no way of estimating the time that remains for me. I'll now has trouble getting out of a chair. The prospects are that she will outlive me. After her all my rights will be owned by Hood College. All decided and recorded. So it will all be available if there is any publisher interest in any of it. The other largely completed book documents another aspect for our history. I think the title, Inside the JFK Assassination Industry, is descriptive. It is quite long. The young woman who is retyping it has run into computer problems I hope she solves soon so she can resume the retyping.

Because I have no file space left in my office and can't use the stairs to the basement, each is in a separate, labelled box, in my office.

If there is any later interest, the best possible peer reviews are by two dear friends who are also among my executors. Dr. Gerald McKnight, Hood history department, and Dr. David Wrone, history department, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, provided these reviews on NEVER AGAIN! and Case Open as I wrote these books. I have not done that with Waketh because each is now too busy. McKnight is finishing up a book for a university press and Wrone, who is also an expert on native Americans, is completing a study to be used in an Indian case against the government. That should make a fine book. But when Waketh is completely retyped I'll send each a copy. I think it is an important and a frightening book.

The realities of what followed the JFK assassination are strange to most people, including professional scholars, as is the life they have meant for me and for my writing.

I've taken this extra time on the chance that either your agent or the editor you know at Crown might be interested. (Through an agent Sidney got for me ^{in 1962} I had a handshake deal with Crown on two other books when JFK was assassinated.)

Those advance praises for your book are fine and I hope an augury.

Thanks again.

I'll get the enclosed retyped or shorten it if you suggest it.

Handwritten signature

SENATOR RUSSELL DISSENTS

Two members of the Warren Commission^{ission} that investigated the assassination of President Kennedy refused absolutely to agree with its most basic conclusion. The most conservative Democratic time member, Senator Richard Russell of Georgia, and the most liberal, Republican Senator John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky, went to their graves still refusing to agree with the so-called "single-bullet theory."

Russell forced an executive session of the Commission to hear his disagreements. When Harold Weisberg put in Russell's hands proof that the record that was to have been made of his doubts and questions did not exist and that the supposed compromise wording of that basis of the report deceived and misled him, Russell broke his long and close relationship with President Lyndon Johnson and encouraged Weisberg's efforts to disprove the report he had been misled into signing, what Weisberg refers to as the assassination "official mythology." In a lengthy article recounting his experiences with Russell and Russell's with his Commission, Weisberg uses confirmation of what he writes from the archives both Commission members left.

Weisberg is a former reporter, investigative reporter, United States Senate investigator and editor, and decorated World War II war-time intelligence analyst in the O.S.S. He wrote the first book on the Warren Report, Whitewash: the Report on the Warren Report (1965), and seven other books on the JFK assassination and its investigations and one on that of Martin Luther King, Jr. As the investigator for the accused King assassin, James Earl Ray, Weisberg conducted the investigation that over vigorous State of Tennessee and federal government opposition got Ray an evidentiary hearing that was to determine whether Ray would get the trial he has never had. As a result of the evidence Weisberg adduced at that hearing the judge, in refusing Ray any trial, actually held that on what was before him "guilt or innocence were immaterial."

Weisberg filed 13 Freedom of Information Act lawsuits to rescue official records from their official oblivion. Some were precedential and one lead led to the amending of the Act to make FBI, CIA and similar agency records FOIA available. He obtained about a third of a million pages he has deeded to a fine small college in Frederick, Maryland, where he and his wife Lillian live, along with their home and the five acres of

mountainside on which they live. Hood College will preserve and ^{available} make all these formerly secret records along with Weisberg's extensive work in a permanent public archive. (He is past 81 and in impaired health.)

In one of those FOIA lawsuits the Department of Justice told that court that Weisberg knows more about the JFK assassination and its investigations than anyone employed by the FBI.

His ^{NINTH} eighth JFK assassination book, NEVER AGAIN! (in the sense that nothing like that miscarriage should ever happen to us again) is due to be published in April by Richard Gallen/Carroll & Graf.

Katharine Weber

108 BEACON ROAD, BETHANY, CONNECTICUT 06524

January 31, 1995

Dear Harold,

I read with interest the material you sent me. I don't feel that it is clear and concise enough to present to an editor at Crown, which is what I would be happy to do. Ideally, in a couple of paragraphs, you could explain what you've done (I know this sounds like a cruel joke), and in another couple of paragraphs you could explain what you are offering for publication now. A separate c.v. sort of thing with copies of reviews, documentation, etc. could carry some of the details.

I hope this doesn't sound arrogant or condescending, because it is meant only as a supportive offer to help in the best way I can. Think: short attention span. Think: telegraphic. Who what why. Do you think that would be possible?

Enclosed is some of the material from Crown on my book.

Love to you both —

Kathy

CROWN PUBLISHERS Inc.

December 1994

Dear Editor,

OBJECTS IN MIRROR ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR, Katharine Weber's first novel, is an elegantly written, wry look at the boundaries of friendship and love. When a portion of this novel appeared in *The New Yorker* in 1993, it was Weber's first fiction in print.

Harriet Rose, a twenty-six-year-old award-winning photographer, travels on a grant from New York to Geneva, where she stays with her former roommate Anne Gordon. She discovers that Anne, who has moved to Switzerland to be with her much older, married lover, has changed dramatically into "a very grown-up and very modern mistress." While Harriet struggles with her ambivalence about Anne's affair, she is haunted by memories of her own childhood. With acumen and humor, Weber chronicles the complexities in their lives, and the unexpected—and horrible—twist that forever changes them.

Katharine Weber was born in New York City in 1955 and grew up in Forest Hills Gardens. She left home at sixteen, skipping the last year of high school to attend college at the New School for Social Research in New York. She worked as an editorial assistant, a ghostwriter in an architect's office, and an editor at a graphic design institute before leaving New York in 1976, when she married and moved to Connecticut. Since then, she has done archival research at the Josef Albers Foundation, attended Yale University, written a weekly newspaper column, and published reviews, essays, and literary profiles in various publications including *The New Yorker*, the *New York Times Book Review*, *Publishers Weekly*, and the *Boston Globe*.

In addition to *The New Yorker*, Katharine Weber's fiction has also appeared in *Story*. She lives in Bethany, Connecticut, with her husband, Nicholas Fox Weber, and their two daughters. She is currently at work on her second novel.

Crown will publish **OBJECTS IN MIRROR ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR** on April 19, 1995. I look forward to your review.

Best regards,



Julie Lovrinic

Publicist

212-572-2554

CROWN

N E W S

*For additional information
Contact Julie Lovrinic
at 212-572-2554.*

Advance praise for
KATHARINE WEBER'S
**OBJECTS IN MIRROR
ARE CLOSER THAN
THEY APPEAR**

"I much enjoyed this delightfully witty novel."
—IRIS MURDOCH

"Katharine Weber's first book is tender and funny. An ambitious and sparkling first novel that pulses with real feeling, it promises even better things to come."

— ELLEN CURRIE
author of *Available Light* and *Moses Supposes*

"In her memorable first novel, Katharine Weber delivers the goods: an unpredictable, unsentimental story driven by characters who seem more alive than on the pages. **OBJECTS IN MIRROR...** fascinates as it examines and illuminates the ways in which love, friendship, and history both refract and reflect human truth. The best novels pack both an emotional and intellectual wallop. Weber's is one."

— WALLY LAMB
author of *She's Come Undone*

"Masterful humor in writing comes from emotional precision. Such humor, intertwined in a tale of endearing love and unspeakable loss, is Katharine Weber's grand gift to her readers."

— MARY-ANN TIRONE SMITH
author of *Masters of Illusion* and *The Book of Phoebe*

OBJECTS IN MIRROR ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR

By KATHARINE WEBER

Publication date: April 19, 1995

ISBN: 0-517-59890-6 * Pages: 304 * Price: \$23.00

Quote-o-gram

TO: Marketing Distribution

FROM: Peter Ginna

Here are the latest quotes we've received for *Objects in Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear*:

"What an amazing first novel Katharine Weber has written. It is wise, flippant, deep, witty—characteristics which are seldom found together. It is also a good story, and Harriet Rose is a marvelous and endearing character.

I'm sure this novel will have the success it deserves."

—Madeleine L'Engle

"Katharine Weber, in her stunning first novel, might be a murder-mystery writer, so tight is her style as she examines four lives and their effect on each other, seeing each one as if in mirrors which do not tell the truth—a fascinating read."

—May Sarton

"Katharine Weber has written a gripping tale, in the best Jamesian tradition, of American naiveté in collision with European cynicism. By turns hilarious and heart-wrenching, *Objects in Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear* movingly explores the function of love as the only real antidote to cruelty and despair."

—Lisa Alther, author of *Kin-Flicks* and
Five Minutes in Heaven