

Dear Floyd,

1/11/63

The letter you mailed on the 30th came here promptly enough and I read it when I got it, but I postponed reading the enclosure until I'd had other things off my mind so I could pay attention to it.

This piece is better than some of the earlier ones but you still reach too far and for too much. You also, while doing less of it, also stretch to fit in what you think may sound or read good. I think the most important thing for you in writing is to think and be simple.

To illustrate: does a Scaud of Democles really "loom," as you say?

Why don't you reread this piece and ask yourself how much of what you say is you saying it, whether there is something in this that you have not seen before, and if there is, do you need or really want the rest to take attention away from it or to lead some readers to ask themselves if they haven't heard or read all that before?

I am not aware that anyone has ever said anything about the possibility of the entire government being wiped out, so what do we do about it. I think the rest of this can be abandoned and that developed.. I'd not try to do anything with it with your present return address, but while you are there, why not try to work that one idea over, and forget all the rest, which add nothing at all to it or to what has been written over and over again.

You may want to say more, I don't know. But keep it simple. For example, why the detail of the parking of a van in front of the White House. Do you think it would doxy there, uncollected, long enough for anyone to get far enough away from the blast? I don't. Besides, it could be parked anywhere, even abandoned in a parking lot, couldn't it?

Avoid using large words. They are not necessary and often they can connote other than what you have in mind.

Whether another jail book could be published today I don't know. I think the odds are against it absent something really new and different. But if you have this in mind, make all the notes you can now. Incidents, people, situations, problems (solutions?), attitudes, anecdotes, etc.

Intellectually this can have meaning for you now, so think all you can about it. But my own opinion is that you will serve yourself much better if you think about what possibilities you may have when you are out, how you can make a living, anyway at all to begin with, but with your eye and mind on something better after you are on your feet again.

My own belief is that you are best suited for contact-type work. You were always very good at that, and I think you also liked it. I don't know where you can get a chance at it, but opportunities might come later. If you have a library available and they have any books on this, now is a good time for you to be reading them. You'll have less time if you get a job and your evenings are free.

We both look forward to seeing you here a free man. It won't be long now!

Our best to you and yours,

Dec. 28th

Hi Harold,

Great to hear from you. It's been a long hard uphill battle but the light at the end of the tunnel looms large. Yep. You're right I'm still full of metaphors! I am as happy as my surroundings would allow. I look forward to coming up and visiting you and Til upon release. It will be a joy and a pleasure. You are also right about me working my way out. It's been tooth and nail and the bastards have given me nothing. I did all on merit. I was surprised that I made the first parole. I figured 2 on 5 atleast. But....

I have written much in the past few years. I have enclosed one particularly contemporary piece for your evaluation. About the self control. While on the run, those back home would ask of me, "When are you coming back?" on the rare occasions I called. My answer, "Soon as I find a cure for cancer!" I guess things were not that severe, but to me there was little difference. I have wanted desperately to become the man I once was and put my life back together the way it should be. The impossible dream is now becoming a reality. ~~Anything~~ Everything else is now feasible.
Right Harold!?

Buck is gonna be a handsome young man and I am proud of him. He seems to learn fast and Jan adores him. She has withstood tremendous pressure, considering she never knew who I really was until I left and I love her for it. Her son Clinton is 9 and I want to adopt him. I long to be with them and make a family.

As for Jennifer, please let me know if you hear from her again. I would love to hear from her. By the way, Ricky, one of my original co-defendants is in on 1st degree murder charges. Strange world. Seems as though Jeff was also involved in it to some degree.

I am fortunate to have had Dick to represent me. It all seems to have fallen into place and not so randomly either. He spoke by me very loyally and gave me good counsel of which I am in debt (financially also). I am deeply appreciative.

I would like to publish a book on my experience in jail, it could be of journalistic value. Perhaps you could offer some advice.

Say hi to Gil and thanks for being the friend you always have been. A reunion, I look forward to in many ways. There's still plenty of fight left in me. What do they say in Texas? It's the size of the dog in the fight. It's the size of the fight in dog! Huh Harold?

My best to you as always,

Floyd