

Harry Livingstone  
3025 Abell Ave.,  
Baltimore, Md. 21228

4/5/91

Dear Harry,

Your phone calls of several days ago have been on my mind. I did not want to write you then because I did not want to write you in the heat of anger. I have a few moments before we go out for supper and I begin by telling you that you should be ashamed of yourself and should begin some serious introspection. I also want you to understand that nothing like it will happen again. If Richard can't keep confidence he'll not have another chance to violate it. And I'm just not going to try to explain things to you when you refuse to understand and think there is nothing in the world except Harry Livingstone.

In three days I'll be 78. You know well enough that my health is not good and that at the same time I try to be as helpful to others, including you, as I can possibly be. I do not know what Richard copies for you and you know I've put no restrictions on you or him and he copies whatever he thinks can be of use. If you want any more you are going to first have to grow up and behave like a responsible, decent man and second show at least some awareness that when you provoke me as you do so often it is not good for me because of my health.

In time you will find out that I told you the literal truth about those things you said were of great concern to you. You had no reason in the world, not even a rational one you could imagine, for not taking my word for it. But nothing makes any difference to you except whatever pops into your mind, no matter how irrationally, at any moment. The hell with everything else, ranging from my health to an innocent man getting fired. You had this really sick notion that you had to have what I could not give you and nothing else made a damned bit of difference to you. And, of course, nothing makes any difference if you have such a notion. Nothing at all. If you want something, then you must have it, whether or not that is possible or whether or not it can be hurtful to someone else. Nothing is important except what at any moment you think is important and only what you think is important to you is important at all.

Are you really this kind of egomaniacal s.o.b.? This IS how you acted and spoke. If I did believe you are I'd have nothing to do with you at all, directly or indirectly.

When you behave this way you do yourself more harm than any enemy can do you.

There is no connection, so don't begin to try to tell yourself that I am blaming you for what follows. It was not caused by your provoking me as you did. But it is a reflection of the state of my health and of my heart and of whether or not it is safe for me to be provoked as you provoked me by your insistence and the irrationality of your blind insistence. The very next day my family doctor phoned the local cardiologist and asked that I be harnessed with a 24-hour heart monitor. I'd made the appointment before you phoned and your provoking me as you did is not related to the reason.

But that he made the request reflects his medical ~~opinion~~ opinion and judgement.

If you are not familiar with that gadget, among other things it records every heart-beat along with a timing device and the total recording is then interpreted. It even calculates the number of times the heart beats in the 24 hours and whether it is higher or lower in relationship with some activities or lack of them. I don't know what all it does but this I know from the past it does do.

One of the things I do know and have told you before is that although in the past there was no such thing as too much excitement for me that is no longer true and I can't take any unusual excitement.

So, there will be a ~~reading~~ reading of what was recorded and then there will be a cardiologist's interpretation of it and then there will be a report to my family doctor and then he'll be in touch with me. I presume early next week.

My purpose in telling you this is to give you to understand as clearly as I can that I will not tolerate any more such arguments with you. Period.

You are entitled to decide what is important to you, whether or not you decide rationally or reasonably. I make this decision for me and with you I have. No more of anything at all like this or no more of anything at all. Believe me.

Just writing this to you has been so upsetting I'm reacting to it and I'll ask you to read and correct it.

I should not have had to give you this kind of explanation more than once, and I have several times. Believe me, it will not happen again and if you had any concern for anyone other than yourself it would not have happened a second time.

If you are capable of it you should be ashamed.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg