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Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Three weeks since the book came out I'm still shaking my head in disbelief. How did this awful book even reach the light? Before I forget, here are the listed inaccuracies in the book as I see it:

When I read the galleys that they sent me, Larry Schiller called me about my opinion. I asked him if the tone of the finished book would be similar to this? He said, in general, yes. So he says, "What is your opinion?" I told him, "Do you really want to know?" My answer was, "this is scrambled eggs pretending to be quiche." He didn't understand my point so I repeated my statement slowly. I also informed him that I did not believe the tapes [KGB] were genuine and they had been gyped if they paid for them. He asked me why I felt this way. My first example was:

1. VOL. 1, PAGE 227 The argument about me sleeping until 10:00 am is not accurate because I had to be at work. I couldn't sleep late. Schiller answered that during the argument, this could have been just a figure of speech by Lee---not that it was accurate. I said okay, that could be possible. So I overlooked it.

2. VOL. 1, PAGE 285 The argument about milk for the baby doesn't make sense at all because I was breast feeding the baby.

3. Statements by me for Lee "to take the baby and go back to America". This is completely out of character and I would never have said that even in an argument. [COULDN'T FIND IN BOOK; IN *NEW YORKER* EXCERPT]

4. VOL. 1, 226 So many arguments over the floor. Even after reading the majority of the book, I think I figured out why so much attention is paid to the floor. I is a way to keep me down and a subliminal way to keep me from "standing up."

[Marina felt Mailer wanted the readers to feel that Lee thought she may only be good enough to clean the floor or something like that. That she wasn't a good person.]

5. VOL. 1, PAGE 156 The story about me being thrown out of St. Petersburg is absolutely false. I was not even aware of this rumor and first heard it from Mailer. It is really shocking that Mailer knew in advance that it was untrue and included it in the book.

6. Mailer even distorts my aunt's love for me into pity, which is incorrect. She loved me. I'm even ashamed to have to defend myself! To be put in this position -- from things that shouldn't even be discussed.

[Marina related to me that with her uncle's position, she was frequently watched. There was no way she could have been the type of girl Mailer insinuates. Her uncle knew if she merely went into a store. Her only vice at the time was smoking cigarettes.]

Then Larry Schiller asked me if they sent a professional photographer, the best, to take a picture of me to promote the galleys---he emphasized, "of course, they'll pay you for it." So I told him, "you must be joking. How can I except the money when I disagree with the book?"

I feel now-- -- the book should be rewritten, not just corrected. There are too many things to mention.

On the way to Moscow at the airport, (my other fiasco with Hollywood people) I overheard them saying that Schiller is in Minsk looking at KGB documents, so my ears went up. I thought to myself, those poor people. Nothing good will come out of it with Larry Schiller involved. After that I brushed it off, feeling there was nothing valuable in Minsk for him to find.

I don't remember how much time passed when I received a phone call from a man who introduced himself as Norman Mailer. I told him I was surprised that a man of his stature bothered to call me. He said he was working with Schiller and would like to have my cooperation with his book. I said I was pleased to hear from him but if he is doing this project with Larry Schiller, I don't want to be involved. He said, "How come?" I said, "The first time Larry came to me he did not have a good reputation. I was warned that he would cheat me. I don't usually pay attention to what other people say, usually I want to get my own opinion. I dealt with him because that. I wanted to know first hand. I told Mailer, 'Sure enough, he cheated me.' Mailer said he didn't know anything about that and would check it out.

I was bombarded by a letter of explanation from Larry saying that it was all a misunderstanding on my part and he was not responsible for the previous deal. I accepted that and told him I'd give him another chance---if he would be absolutely honest.

A contract was arranged. I met with Mailer once to get acquainted. He asked some in general just testing the waters.

(Marina says that talked about religion, karma, what each believed in those subjects. Trying to feel him out as to what kind of man he was.)

I do not know if at this point if he had already gone to Russia or if he was to go. I'm not sure.

I received a phone call from Schiller in Minsk. He said he had visited my favorite Aunt and asked me how would I like to see her. I was bursting at the seams from happiness. (He gave me her phone number.) I talked to my aunt. she scolded me for not visiting her when I was in Russia. She informed me that my uncle had died recently. I told her that I didn't know he had lived so

long, as I had buried him in my mind a long time ago. I said there was no way I would show up at her doorstep without an invitation after what happened in 1963. I embarrassed them. She told me my family never held anything against me all these years. That they loved me. As long as I live I'll be grateful to Schiller for arranging for my aunt to come to America. (He arranged the formalities, I paid the expenses.)

Larry spoke very nicely about my aunt. So did Mailer. I didn't expect anything different. So by these kind gestures on their part, this broke the ice and they gained my trust.

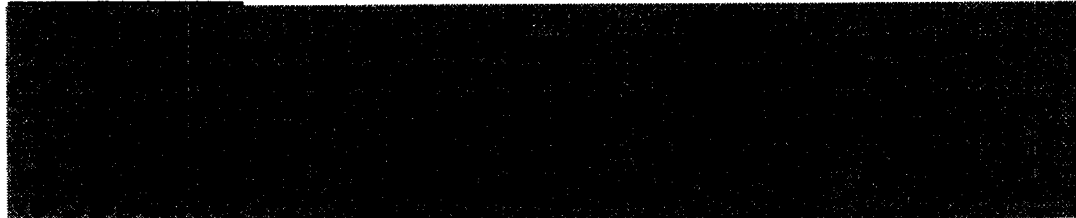
My aunt came to visit, not to stay. She made a great Ambassador for America.

Some time later, Larry and his new Russian wife and Mailer came to interview me at a Dallas hotel. We stayed 5 days at this hotel. I discovered Mailer came to interview me with Pricilla's book as his bible. Mailer wanted to interview me with this book asking if sections were true or not.

Schiller's interviews were mostly concentrated on the intimate parts of life which made me very uncomfortable (especially with his wife present). So when I bristled and finally told him, "Larry, even though you are older, you haven't changed. Why are you digging for dirt always? Why are you always looking into beds for answers?" I told him not everyone believe in the Freudian theories. He said the reason for his questions in this area was Mailer's desire to get inside of someone's personality. These things must be discussed. This was to try to understand someone better. It's not only what he asked, but his attitude as he asked. His superiority of attitude. He questioned my Russianness, my religion. Why this? Why that?

One morning he called my room saying, "We are coming." He and his wife. I told him to come alone. I didn't need an interpreter. He arrived alone. I told him I did not feel comfortable discussing my private life in front of newlyweds. If he needed to discuss these things---I'd be more comfortable speaking with Mailer. I pointed out, "if you measure me by your wife... She is Soviet. I am Russian." Even though I lived there, I was a Russian girl. She there longer and is a Soviet girl."

**CONFIDENTIAL:**



Then he said, "I might as well tell you the truth. We have two sources from Minsk that say you were given 100 (?) kilometers." [This must be about leaving Leningrad.] I had never heard that phrase before. VOL. 1, PAGE 156

"Who were your sources? You should have gone to Leningrad", I said. Yuri M. they said. "Is he the one with the big lips and always drunk? When he asked me to dance, I always said no." VOL.1, PAGE 170

He mentioned another name. I did not know this name. It is too bad Mrs. Merezhinsky died after the interview. (He told me there was another rumor, but he didn't give me the details. I said whoever said this I would knock him in the mouth.)

The night I met Anatoly I gave him my number, he walked me home. I remember this night very well because this night I met Anatoly. VOL.1, PAGES 161-162

Because I respect Mailer's age and his account of the trials of his life, I talked to him. I knew this was not true of Larry Schiller. When I see gossip repeated in such bright colors—I wonder who wrote this page [of the book]. I tried to remember this and that for them. It was so long ago.

After five days, we had dinner. Mary Ferrell and the FBI man [Marina could not remember his name] were there. I thought, "What a funny company I keep." We parted as friends with my complete confidence in Mailer's genius. Surely he could filter out the truth.

At the end I could not blame them. I was 52 years old. I wanted to give them the chance. I cannot change who I am.

After three or four days [of being upset about the book] I decided to go on and not be so upset. I feel I am clean in the way that I would not treat a dog this way.

When Schiller called the last time, he asked if I would have dinner with Mailer when he came to Dallas. I said thanks, but no thanks. I asked him, "How could you do it?" He couldn't understand my feeling. I said "If I have to explain to you I'm not going to waste my breath."

As far as I am concerned the book doesn't explain Lee's personality, or mine. After five days they came to the conclusion to do one thing—to make me a floozy. If I am what they say that I am, then they are the pimps because they are selling something that doesn't belong to them.

It is a shame to... I don't want to stoop to their level to disgrace them. They have families. This information is for you to help you correct their statements. Why they did what they did, I do not know.

My opinion of Larry Schiller is: he has a talent he redicovered an ancient formula for success, if you call it success, "It's not what you know, it's who you know. He leeches himself to a celebrity or event and exploits it."

It hurts very deeply still, to be judged by the "saints".

At the beginning, when I was trying to give Mailer information about why I didn't thing Lee was guilty...I was telling him this and that. Mailer said he wasn't interested. He was not writing a book about the assassination. (Larry believes Lee is guilty.) While waiting for the book to come out, my fear was that their feelings of Lee's guilt would come out in the book.

Marina Porter