

9/5/57

Dear John,

Apparently there is nothing accidental about Dell's crookedness. It is total. Now they are cheating Sam Abbott. I have just learned this.

You may recall that when they said they would use the cover unchanged I told them I had not said Sam and they said they would. When they didn't I mentioned this to you and you spoke to someone, I believe Tobey. You told me they would pay Sam a figure that seemed a little low to me and for him to send them a bill. He also considered it low because it did not allow for his out-of-pocket costs.

Thereafter, when I was in New York and could consult someone who would know (Quentin Fiore, whose office is next to Jerry Agel's) I found that the figure they offered was \$50.00 low.

By this time they had asked for the second book. I told Sam what Fiore had said a fair price would be and recommended that he wait and see if they used the second cover. He did, and after he got a copy of the second book, sent them a bill. He now tells me by phone that Bair has written him and told him that I specifically included the cover in the deal.

As we both know, this is the opposite of the truth.

I would appreciate it if you would write me a letter confirming your part in this so that it might be possible to get Sam his money without suit or, if they continue to be such total bastards, with it.

Not the least outrageous part about the whole thing is their taking his cover and crediting another with it.

September is here and we have neither an accounting, due six months ago, or any word of payment. I keep hearing from throughout the country of the unavailability of the books and from time to time, as in Hecht's in Washington a week ago, of the wholesaler pushing of Scavengers, which does not sell despite redundant display, while he fails to replenish the supply of either of my books. On the other hand, the few reports I have of sale is that where the book is available it is selling well.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg