

December 13, 1958

Laura D. Wilck, Literary Agency  
14647 Dickens Street,  
Sherman Oaks, California.

Dear Mrs. Elliott:

Please forgive me for not immediately acknowledging receipt of the msct., The Lonely Road, but I allowed activities to interfere with my correspondence.

I think a "momentary" layoff from wrestling with it will do me good at the holiday season, although things are shaping up and I have a difficult time resisting an urge to get going. My collaborator is also simmering with ideas which I am confident will be productive.

You asked if she did or did not do the Teri Ann part of the manuscript. The answer is, she did and she didn't. A brief explanation of how we work will clarify that.

She would submit material, a first draft, which I would go to work on, and if the sequence or material I had applied to situations, development, I would submit a sketch and through innumerable exchanges, the writing would shape up.

It was the same with some of the characters in the bar scenes. Some of the chapters, selected anywhere in the book, would undergo eight to fifteen revisions. My own "college" research has, if nothing more, proven the background for very definite patterns at certain cultural levels. And in the continuing research, some very definite trends have been disclosed that I am sure Miss Shore does not realize. Although her close observation of people and activities gives a true flavor of authenticity. And she has come up with a character to fit into The Lonely Road and perhaps give that book the thing it needs when I develop the character.

She has also come up with a character for "her book," a girl she calls a "townie," an uptown girl, and she is developing, at least in both of our minds.

So, you may feel assured that the work will not be dropped. Neither will it go "wandering" around elsewhere, but in time--I have no way of knowing how long--two manuscripts will find their way back to you. I am sure The Lonely Road will be the first completed as Miss Shore indicates she is somewhat occupied with thesis material presently.

Again, accept my apology for lack of immediate acknowledgment. And more importantly, the best wishes for a happy holiday to you and yours

Sincerely

Click Relander



December 29, 1958

Laura D. Wilck, Literary Agency,  
14647 Dickens Street,  
Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Elliott:

Regarding the unfinished original manuscript you have on hand. Please discard it, save wear and tear on sending useless material through the mail.

Miss Shore has put some work in on the college story, but it is rather hard going during holidays I guess. Holidays don't bother me much, nor help the State Liquor Store increase its sales.

I obtained some material from Miss Shore, my collaborator, the three introductory chapters, have worked them over and got them back to her. It's coming along nicely I think. They run to about 9,000 words. Some of the Teri Ann material from The Lonesome Road tie right into there, with scarcely any editing aside from a few characters who need reference injection. Miss Shore is at work on drafting out some material for the next chapters, then there'll be more Lonesome Road material, and then some concluding chapters on which both of us have already spent some time.

The Lonesome Road was well along when I decided that the Teri Ann material should be washed out of the way first. Seems like timing is very important on that kind of material, especially when someone may hit the market with a College Life story any time. I'll bend every effort to get it through by say February 15. I know that sounds pretty fast, but so much is already done on it. If for some reason you have more of a definite idea when you could use it to best advantage, and have to step it up a week or so, maybe it could be done.

I reached the stage on The Lonely Road where I needed a rest from one chapter. I'm real pleased the way it's coming, the plot and story move along, excepting bogging down on the individual stories. The "tone of the bell" idea I mentioned, with the various tones having counterparts in heredity and traits of those in the tavern has good, I think very good prospects. I'm far into that, the stories behind the tones, the bits of metal in the bell giving them their "tones" and "character." I even suspect it might get kicked back some day for a separate.

One deals with an older man who sits around every night while his younger wife, a German girl, teaches a young German

English.

They sit and talk, German, night after night. The husband gets "suspicious" goes out and learns some German and comes back and sits there listening to them "talking love" about their former life as sweethearts. He sits night after night listening until he is sure, then goes out and sneaks back and "eliminates" them.

Maybe it isn't original, but as far as I'm concerned it is.

If you've got any connection with the program, "Suspense" I've an idea is the kind they would go for, but perhaps they don't buy. You'll get a chance to see a draft of the "bell" chapter one of these days when the College Story material comes inslow from my collaborator, although I'm pounding her to keep at it. I'm discovering my knowledge of college is rating pretty high, nut she is putting some nice touches into it and making it quite definitive.

We'll do our best. We're not the optimistic kind but plug along and try hard. We're not expecting anything and appreciate your kind interest. And if the college story and The Lonesome Road don't go, maybe something else will come along.

If you want the complete manuscript of The Lonesome Road back for any purpose, a kind of preview of material type etc., let me know. I've kept it together and we're lined out now on the revisions and expansions.

Again thanks for your time and consideration. Best wishes for the New Year's. I'm off New Year's Day and another day this week, add that to Sunday and my evenings, and I hope for some real progress.

Sincerely

Click Relander