

January 12, 1960

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

Dear Mrs. Wilck:

Enclosed is refund in payment to you on postage advanced on Sorority Row msct., New York to Sherman Oaks, thence to Yakima, \$3.04.

The returned manuscript arrived late yesterday.

Of course I was disappointed that Julian Messner, publishers did not find it to their liking. However, in view of Return to Peyton Place reaction, I suspected it hit them at the worst possible time.

Enclosed too are some chapter revisions. I've considerable work additional done on the msct. Let me know how these strike you. Chapter I, although not starting at college sets it up and gives characterization. There are references and additional characterizations in II and III, but it all simmers down to Teri Ann, Letty, Jori, Rick, Test Tube as principal; Sharon, Prof. Nicolay, Sally, housemother, Louise, Prof. Archer and incidental girls and Teri's family as weak secondary. (Including Tent Wendling). It won't be heavy on characters from here on out, enough and often enough to carry out plot. Really it revolves around a few girls and guys. Dunno how I could simplify III much.

The diary part is eliminated with parts of it becoming incidents, also no doubt much about Prof. Nicolay and the field trip. Teri Ann is seduced. All girls are after the same thing. Who won? Teri Ann will still find her one and only but she's, after all, just a sophomore, looks forward to more college, then marriage. Letty not a nympho but fully experienced, steadying influence for Teri Ann. Jori maybe smartest one, will snag onto Test Tube who is going places and knows how he will get there.

AND: Maybe the Sorority Row title is against it. Maybe we'll end up with Meet Letty Holiday (?)

It's coming along fine, now, I think. Let me know what you think. However it means practically entire re-do to make it keep moving as to conversation, through that medium.

My problem: Re-typing. I can't very well figure on re-typing this

every so many months and end up with a normal paperback deal. And I still think maybe that's where it should head for direct so I can get it out of my hair and then go on to Lonely Road (on which there has also been some wrk).

But let me know, frankly, if the chapters enclosed sound ready. If they do, and Vic Hurley who I have much respect for is satisfied with the opener then I can give you an idea about when to expect the first half or all, for a start on typing, and I'll save my money for it.

The collaborator isn't paced yet for the writing, but she's still good for incidents, college-level reaction etc. "riting name use is im aterial.

You should be glad you are in Calif. One below this morning, snow and ice on ground etc.

Noticed Sat. Eve Post had featured story on "College Cheating." Teri Ann disposed of that when she took her tests (and more than Post had) One by one the mags are knocking at the various facets now being covered by more lively conversation, and adding to plot. I don't think they hurt, should help.

If you need re-type on chapters enclosed to show possible interested party with other msct. go ahead and have it done and let your typist send me a bill. But with other letter and this, I suspect you've got sufficient info for any use you might have.

I think the big strike against it for a hard-cover is that it is "just another college life deal." I'm trying to make it a little more potent. Colleges and their situation IS. And it is growing. Now the National Education Assn. and its powerful lobby is on defensive on turning out engineers and scientists in comparison with Russia. Now the colleges themselves are on the defensive. Yet to be written on the magazine level is the deal by which few college instructors are really teachers. They are working for their doctorates etc. under various grants, become specialists only in certain fields and as a result are flops as teachers. Students suffer. Tax write-offs, Ford, Rockefeller, Fullbright etc. are wonderful things, running into millions, but their benefactors, the profs. are working for themselves and to earn doctorates etc. The chapters etc. about the profs won't campaign, but in few lines, through conversation, it will show.

Hope you are having better success with others than me, but I haven't given up yet. Drop me a line, soon. Meanwhile I'm still working.

Sincerely and the Best

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