

1-6-24

Margaret C. Christie
Publicity Service, Inc.
299 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK
VANDERBILT 0881

June 27, 1929

My dear Miss Macumber:

I am immensely interested in your stories - I should like to see all the rest of them as soon as you'd like to send them on. Two readers and myself have gone carefully over two of them - FEARBITTEN and THE SMART MAN WITH THE HOGS. This latter could be followed very easily by several more, using the same character. I am sending it at once to the Argosy Magazine - not a particularly distinguished medium but in the market for short dramatic matter. I talked to the editor about this yesterday and he is quite interested. So much for that.

Both readers and myself feel that FEARBITTEN is far too good not to be perfect, our suggestion being, and I make it specific, that from page 12 on the fear of the old woman which had been a thing of the police becomes to her own dismay, fear of a man. The dramatic emphasis of the story recedes as that fear is not brought into more positive shape. I have no suggestion as to how this be accomplished and will hold the story until I hear from you. I should be quite willing to ask Harper's to read it as it is, were it not for our feeling that it could be better and it is important enough to work on.

The other two have not come back to me - Mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Baerse read them first. We all agree, however, that we want to see the rest of your stuff.

Now about your name - Mari Sandoz is by long odds the best writing name. I am inclined to feel that the transition could be made at once better than at any other time and that with a note of explanation under the title to any editor who knows Marie Macumber and on any script where it should be permanently kept, would quite cover the matter if used at this time. I am quite sure, or reasonably so, that Mr. O'Brien in any further volume or collection would make this change with its explanation. Let me have your decision on this.

Your father sounds to me like excellent material for a novel, possibly one of several generations in which his background would serve for the modern episodes. Possibly you've already done this.

Please thank Miss Hayes very much for being so courteous in recommending me. Letters take so much time and there are so many of them to go to editors, producers and whatnot, that my clients sometimes feel neglected. Do rest

1-6-25

Miss Marie Macumber

-2-

June 27, 1929

assured that however neglected your correspondence with me may be, manuscripts are very active.

And may I have some of your published material. It helps no end in familiarizing me with your work and giving me what the advertising men call a talking point.

Are you interested in doing plays at all?

Frankness begetting frankness, you should know that I've only been at this business two or three years; that most of my clients are not yet paying very well although they are awfully good bets; that editors and publishers are very interested in my group and cordial to me, perhaps because I've done a number of other writing things myself, publicity articles and whatnot.

Is there any chance of holidays bringing you to New York - it would be nice to look forward to seeing you. Are you putting any price on your material or are you leaving that entirely to me and the market?

I seem to have written a young book to you - I'll promise not to do it often.

Very cordially,

W. Augustin. Christie

MC:R

P.S. - I am returning the extremely interesting collection of letters - you are indeed to be congratulated on getting the attention of the Atlantic and Mr. Bridges.

✓