

356 West 22<sup>nd</sup> St  
New York 11, N.Y.  
Saturday, Feb 5, '49

Well, Laurie!

Just as I start clearing out closet space in eager anticipation of your arrival today or tomorrow comes your air-mail letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Stymied again, you poor kid. But all for the best, I am sure, especially as Goodwin is coming your way. Wiped you this morning (and I hope it gets through promptly to relieve your agony of mind) to wait for G. in Browns-ville. <sup>He should be there by Feb 15<sup>th</sup> definitely</sup>

After your two letters, & then the wire that you were starting East by train, I tried to get base at this end. But as luck would have it, my telephone went dead that very morning. Not only could I not 'phone the publishers for appointment, but had to stay in all day waiting for the repair-man to show up. As soon as phone was fixed that evening I got in touch with Barbara Morgan. She was most interested & intensely sympathetic, but could throw no light at all on the mysteries & discrepancies at DS & P, ~~but~~ but assured me as far as she knew everything was O.K. there, & that she had no fault to find. Advised me to talk with Duell himself, whom she'd always found most understanding & cooperative. So I made an appointment to see him as soon as possible, which was Thursday P.M.

Duell was most reassuring: especially as to that dummy which so upset you. It was nothing but a hastily scabbled together sample for their salesmen to take out. They had to have something, as Feb is the month they all go on the road.

It does not in any way represent the final set-up.

Be seeing you by March 1<sup>st</sup>, anyway, dear. Meantime my love & sympathy. Brendie

which Mr Duell assures me will have a format to your own specifications. In this connection, I remember that the dummy of my X Ray book consisted merely of jacket, frontispiece, and one ~~long~~ lone story with accompanying plate. It was pathetic-looking, but there again, salesmen had to have something to show. I blame Goodwin for not writing you an explanation when he sent you the dummy. No wonder you hit the ceiling!

Duell's present hope and plan is to have the book out by July 1<sup>st</sup> - especially to catch the vacationing public in the West; keeping the main bulk of publication here in the East to come out as a Fall book, thus getting reviews in important papers & periodicals here. Sounds good to me - also enterprising. D. also assured me that it is Goodwin, & he alone, who is handling your book.

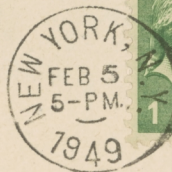
I doubt if the man you speak of has had any connection with it. But I told him I didn't like the cropped title, either (& neither does Alice Campbell, to whom I mentioned the proposed change to just "The Rio Grande"). We both think "Follow" is just the word needed to give both a challenge & an invitation to the reader. Psychologically sound & appealing. You stick to your guns on that.

Meantime, while you wait, your d--d weather must relent in time, & give you sunny days which will not only cure your cough but enable you to do all that final & crucial work.

So darling - relax and take it easy. All is well, and I am sure from the way Duell spoke that they're all for you and are going to do a good job.

If you still want to drive east, I should warn you, perhaps, that one can no longer park one's car on this block. New police regulations - & what with staggering garage rent (even if one can find space) it

May prove quite a white-elephant once you are here. Hope you can retrieve your tripod-trunk from Wichita Falls! Or just maybe Betty hadn't yet sent it? Things crossed on that one! By the way, you must let me know if you need a check to pay travelling East. Promise me. I have more than ample funds.



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