



6040 Claremont Avenue / Oakland / California 94618 / Telephone (415) 658-2323

October 21, 1977

Nell Dorr
Nettleton Hollow Road
Washington CT 06793

Dear Nell,

We're delighted to send you 25 copies of MOTHER AND CHILD. We have about 1125 copies left which means that we have about 3 year's worth on hand. It's a book which brings us all steady pleasure and very modest income.

I seem to be a good correspondent only when I am feeling clear-headed and positive in the subject of the correspondence. I have felt badly for a long while about the way we have dealt with you--never sending statements or any royalty payments (or very few anyway) and thus forever seeming to fall behind and behind. I know that I needn't really feel guilt, but I do feel as though I am failing to measure up. And I become silent. Which, of course, then fails to project the love I feel toward you, royalties or not. At any rate, I am delighted to be writing to you.

Happy to say that the Mitchells are themselves in the pink and are more enjoying themselves as a family than ever. Greta is as you know a workaholic and probably destined to be one forever, but she loves well, too, and that makes all the difference. Seems to be finding her own way

I've just come back from two weeks at book fairs in London and Frankfurt. I think that I see the outline of yet another scheme to help the Press, this one bringing an alliance between us and a large New York house that knows the mechanics of the business as I do not. Normally I would expect nothing but misunderstanding from a larger publisher, but I've met an editor who seems sincerely interested in working with a California press to use our (imagined) knowledge of this peculiar place (and its social ferment and new ideas) and his own company's money and distribution power. If we can work something out, it will be forever fragile, since the big publishers are themselves, in spite of their vast bulk, ~~some~~ very changeable and indecisive. We shall see. In the meanwhile, Scrimshaw is insolvent and likely to remain so until something is resolved.

So I consider myself more blessed than most, in friends and family and health. The money side of life can be fixed. I hope that this finds you well and ready for the blaket of winter that is coming . . .

Love,
Frederick