

Dear Pa --

I'm not sure there's much point in dwelling on Kent's Medea complex. (His is not really a very apt metaphor, is it? Kent's wrath is directed, not against her spouse, but against her spouse's king.) Anyway, she's excited, upset and not herself and cannot be held too strictly accountable for irresponsible threats under the circumstances, in my opinion. Actually, I'd say that Mother's remarks are less excusable: All she's lost is money, which is unfortunate, but no disgrace. Kent has lost, or faces the loss of, all honor, respectability and the company of her husband and the father of her children. There's no comparison, really.

The action mother is ~~the~~ taking (with, I might add, the approval of Arthur, Caroline, Barbara and I) is a lawsuit against Harvard Trust Co. and one or two brokerages for negligence in the stewardship of her assets. The case against the bank is the strongest. The bank allowed Tony, using forged documents, to persuade bank officers to drill mother's safe deposit box. As I understand it, a handwriting expert, retained by Choate, Hall & Stewart, is prepared to testify as to the falsity of the signature cards Tony employed. Although the bank perhaps should not have been expected to apprehend the forgeries, which were, in fact, quite clever, it neglected even to place a telephone call to mother, or so we have been led to understand.

(There is, of course, the possibility that the bank did, in fact, call mother and that she, in one of her depa tures from lucidity, authorized the drilling of the box and has since forgotten that she did so.) Please do not suggest that possibility to anyone, though. So far as I know, it has not occurred to anyone but me.)

The ~~inevitable~~ inevitable result of the lawsuit will be that the bank's bonding company, if not the bank itself, will immediately notify the Middlesex county attorney, and perhaps the United States Attorney and the Securities and Exchange Commission as well, that an alleged theft has taken place. I believe they are obliged by law to do so, and even if not, there is little doubt that they would. The result will be, doubtless, prosecution of Tony.

Kent's position is that if there were not a lawsuit, there ~~would~~ would be no prosecution, and that attempts to recover some of mother's assets through a suit against the bank and the brokerages signifies greed on the part of Mother, and her ~~potential~~ potential heirs. She is unmoved by the fact that some of us, in an effort to remove even the appearance of a conflict of interest in the matter, have in writing renounced all claims to Mother's estate and have asked that we not be mentioned in her will.

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I'm sure ~~xxxxx~~ Tony knows very well who his creditors are and my understanding is that he still believes himself to be residually obliged to them. He refuses to discuss them, however, and I've temporarily given up trying to persuade him to do so. Perhaps sometime in the future we'll learn the whole story.

Please give my love to everyone on the island. It was generous and thoughtful of Nancy to have written to Tony and I'm very glad she did. I'm certain it meant a lot to Tony -- he mentioned it to me and he took what is for him the almost unheard of ~~xxxxxx~~ step of making a reply.

Love
B

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