

December 17, 1981

Dear Eliot,

you are certainly a hard person to reach by phone, my dear friend! After trying seven times last week, I decided that I had better just write you a letter before more time elapsed.

Did you have a wonderful birthday? We thought of you so many times that day and hoped that you were surrounded by good friends and loved ones. Sorry we didn't reach you to sing our "Happy Birthday." We both hope that this will be your best year yet. Magic People deserve only the very best!

We are meeting my folks in Aspen for a ski trip on March 20th through March 27th. If you and Aline plan to be around and have some time to spare, we would love to come see you either before^{or} after those dates. I have checked on our flight arrangements both ways, and we can fly into Albuquerque and drive to Santa Fe. We just

(over)

couldn't get that close to you without ⁽²⁾ trying to arrange a visit. We hope your schedule will allow you some time.

Thank you so much for signing and personalizing the books. It really means a lot to us to have your personal touch in our books: and, I know our good friend, Mark Traubsdorf, and my parents will be thrilled as well.

We are in our last week of our month commitment at Center Stage. We have sold a good number of ~~one~~ books and even a print, but sales have been slow in general - as they have been for everyone else. We have been open 10 to 9 on Mondays through Friday, 10 to 6 on Saturday and 12 to 5 on Sundays. Since we have been splitting most of our shifts, George and I have been seeing very little of each other. We can't wait until it's over; I miss him.

A couple of weeks ago, we found a great house with terrific work space that we want to buy. Needless to say, this is a terrible time of year to be changing homes, but

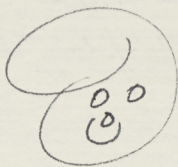
we have put our house on the market. Now it's just a matter of seeing if we can sell our house before he sells his. What a mess!

Also, last week, our car got hit. Fortunately, it was parked, and we occupied; unfortunately, it was badly damaged. Two other cars collided, sending ^{one of the} cars smashing into the driver's side of our Toyota. We now have a V in the left side of the car, no glass in the windows and glass all over the inside of the car. We had just gotten a great trade-in offer from a dealership toward a new car to be bought in January. Oh well, so much for that! It's been a crazy month.

We really enjoyed the article about you in "American Photographer". The selection of your photographs and your portrait were terrific. The article did sort of make you out to be a kermudgion (how in the world do you spell that?), but it's kind of a nice image all in all. If you're a kermudgion, you're the sweetest one that I've ever known!

We hope your incarceration is as pleasant as possible, and that you are back home soon. Take care of yourself and remember you are loved.

Love: George



G.S.

We hope you and Aline have a very Merry Christmas! Give each other a hug for us.