

Dear Stu,

Once again I have failed, not only in my duty as a letter writer, but also as a writer writer. a I just discovered that the "a" key sticks violently on this machine, so I take up my trusty pen and shall carry on. Yes, dear friend, on my third draft, I was suddenly besieged by doubt as to the quality of my construction & mechanics. I still like the plot and thought of the story, but I also fear that the time element is a little too lightly done. I see that the characterization is also rather poor, and that it is probably overly dramatic in a failing sort of way. Since it involves parent-child relations, the overdramatization is mostly ~~as~~ to be accredited to my own sensitivity on this subject at the time of writing. Still, this is no excuse. I have just decided to send you the manuscript as it is. Damn it, I can't perfect it anyway. I'll send it with many (but far from enough) corrections on it, but I hope you will find space

for more. I could criticize it much more
and expound much more on the criticism
I gave, but I'll wait for yours and see how
much of the same (and other) things you notice.
The manuscript will probably have a number
of typographical, as well as spelling, errors in
it unless I decide to make one last run
through it before I send it. And remember,
I want honest and thorough criticism of it.
Enough of this.

Your story sounds wonderful. I often
thought of how much uglier the old West
was than it is usually staged up to have
been. And you're definitely going about
it the right way with all your research.
I'm anxious to see the finished product.
The doubt about moderation you express is
exactly what I feel about my symbolism
and dramatization, so I sympathize entirely.

By the way, I've just read two
great books that I think you'd enjoy.
Jack London's Sea Wolf, and Wilkie
Collins' The Moonstone. The first book
was marvellous, not only from an
adventure standpoint, but from a philosophy

of-life standpoint. The Moonstone, as I'm
sure you know, is the 1st English best "detective
story," and possibly the best. The plot is
so intricate that you can hardly tell what's
happening until the middle of the book, and
even then it's a complete mystery. I'm
about to start D^r For When the Bell Tolls,
and am in the midst³² of The Sound and
the Fury, which I can't say I like
too much yet. Aside from this, I've
been guitar playing, movie-going, and
various other past~~try~~^{time} & sundry things. So
I'll sign off, and get this into the mail
for you.

Dave