

34 Russell Chambers
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W.C. 1

(address to 99 St Martin's Lane)

Jan 11th 1920

My dear Pincher

Enclosed is a synopsis. I have been thinking, and it seems to me that I can probably send you ten thousand words before I go away. Arnold says I am not to work while we are away; but his ideas of work and mine are not identical, because he is really systematic, whereas I only appear so. The consequence is, that I might well do a good deal in Portugal. But very likely only if I had the spur of necessity. As you know, I am temperamentally very lazy, but when I do work, I WORK. I then leave Arnold far behind in the matter of quantity (you can make the obvious comment yourself. I don't need to). So if you think 'L. W.' would look at such a book as the synopsis reveals, then I will arrange to let you have the opening of the book, to show the editor, by about the 21st. I shouldn't write week by week, but straight ahead, if he wanted the story, and would cut out even the most alluring engagements to get it done. I agree wholly about the short stories, & must admit that I would rather write anything than short stories, which are the devil's own work.

Yours
P.S.

J. B. Pincher

Good about the Danish-Norwegian rights. By the way, if any money is due to me by the end of the month, could you send it a few days early? Say by the 27th? I shall have to get a number

of things before going, & straighten various matters. Also,
would it be any trouble to ascertain from Mathews the total
sales of 'September' up to the end of 1919? I should like to
know them, and also the sales of 'Shop Houses' if they
could be got without trouble

FS.