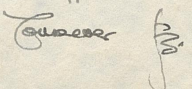


friends that Wally has been sending free copies of 'The Elder Brother' instead of 'Summer Storm' to the names given in a list sent by me before we left home, all may yet be well. I am delighted over your success with the cheapo. That is, assuming that the deal goes through. If it collapses, it will not be your fault, and my banks remain the same for all grand efforts. What you say as to the acquisition by Wally of bankrupt businesses is very sound. It is bad for business all round, and life will not grow easier for us in the future. Your explanation as to the royalties makes clear to me what had been a puzzle. I hadn't known (or had forgotten) the 13/12 clause. It is good to have got rid of this. That was why I told you that 'The Elder Sister' had practically earned its advance, & you quailed me by raising its actual earnings, which were much below. I had counted 5900 at 20% - 1/6 a copy - £42.10.0 or thereabouts.

What a life. The 'extensive entertainment' has been staggering. It finally blew up a week ago, with hell to pay. I wish you were here. I have been having a series of grand wars - not wars, but passionate conflicts of will. I won. God bless us. G.H.P. quite tractable now, but at first it was a fearful eye to eye determination. I now have on a super row with Hughie. I am divided between thinking our U.S. visit a great success and a fiasco.

G.H.P. tells me that 'Summer Storm' subscribed nearly 10,000. That its sales are now 13,000. And that he will certainly do 20,000 with ease. I dread to receive your notification, some months hence, that the actual sales are 8,374.

We are very well, & happy; & are longing for home. We have had a wonderful time, & have deep thoughts. What those are will have to wait until you too are home again. In the mean time we both wish you the fruit of good fortune, health, & happiness. Be very careful of yourself.

Yours


Hotel Touraine
 9 East 37th Street
 New York City

U.S.A.

November 19th/26

My dear Eric
 Many thanks for yours of Nov 17, received yesterday, and very welcome. The one blot upon it is the fact that we don't see you here. We leave December 1, per 'President Roosevelt' (George, by the way, leaves same day, perhaps, per 'Mantetania', so he will just miss you). We expect to be home Dec 9. We travel per 'President Roosevelt' because friends of ours are going by that ship. It is a disappointment not to see you.

Now as to other matters. I am much obliged to you for paying £450 to my account for the Hatch advance, & for advising Mrs. Willmott. This will have relieved her mind, as she had been forced to attack my deposit account. Doran (without reference to me, but thoughtfully) had hypothecated the American advance, I hear from Ursula, at the same time sending you your commission. Our finances seem fairly flourishing, as Stuart has sold three of the short stories at full price. You will have heard of this. I am opening a bank account here, which will be a convenience.

Then to the grand Wally deal. This sounds A1. I hope it has come off. If it has, you may have sent me a line. In any case, I shall know when I get back. As you suppose, I regretted the fourth book, but at the same time the advances are A1. etc. and if W. sells 'Summer Storm' in spite of what appears from this distance to be highly incompetent advertising (he only won one shot of the tin, among the also rans, has seen no reviews, & has from my mother and