

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS
9 Rue de Teheran
Paris 8, France

16 March 1948

Miss Vicki Baum
C/o Doubleday and Company
14 W. 49th Street
Rockefeller Center
New York 20, New York

Dear Miss Baum:

Please help us!

The American Library in Paris is desperately in need of new books, and unfortunately we do not have the funds with which to purchase them.

Will you please send the Library a copy of HEADLESS ANGEL?

The interest shown in Paris in American books is tremendous. We circulate over ten thousand volumes each month, and the demand for new books is so great that it has become embarrassing to us since we cannot furnish the public with the books they desire.

Our readers have been most enthusiastic about your earlier books and they circulate as much now as they have in the past. THE WEEPING WOOD has been especially popular this past year, and a copy of your new book would be most welcome here at the Library.

Sincerely yours,

W. K. Harrison III
W. K. Harrison III
Librarian.

*OK
per
T. B. Elder*

*Copy sent from
office 4/6/48
JWA*

January 5, 1949

Dear Vicki:

Happy New Year! I am sorry you have been laid up with the flu and hope that you are better now.

As to the length of DANGER FROM DEER, I should think the minimum ought to be about 90,000 words and the maximum 120,000. It sounds to me as if it ought to be on the shorter side.

I barely survived the holidays and have felt absolutely rotten ever since I got back from Europe, so today I am going to a new doctor who sounds a little bit like Cagliostro and have millions of tests made to see what keeps me ailing. I can see myself going around somberly, and probably soberly, all winter and taking hundreds of little pills out of hundreds of little bottles all day.

I'll write you at length as soon as I get over my feebleness.

Much love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, Calif.

Ⓔ
airmail

DOUBLEDAY & CO. INC. 14 W. 49TH ST. NYC 1/11/49 12:00 NOON

MISS VICKI BAUM

2477 CANYON OAK DRIVE

LOS ANGELES 28, CALIF.

NELSON DOUBLEDAY DIED THIS MORNING.

DON

DOUBLEDAY & CO. INC.

DBE:JSH

67

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

NA001 NL PD=LOSANGELES CALIF JAN 11=

1949 JAN 12 AM 8 54

DOUBLEDAY AND CO=

19 WEST 49 ST=

DEEPLY GRIEVED OVER THE LOSS OF A GREAT AND GOOD FRIEND.

ALL MY SYMPATHY TO THE CORPORATION TO WHICH I FEEL BOUND BY

THE CLOSE TIES OF MANY YEARS=

VICKI BAUM=

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

VICKI BAUM

January 31st 1949

Dear Don, Thanks for sending me the wire with the bad news of Nelson's death- I knew it had to happen when I saw him last, and I think it is altogether to the best that the end came comparatively quick. I do hope that Ellen can give herself a little rest after the terrible siege she has been through these last years. I suppose that in the office and in your work it didn't make much of a difference anymore and that you're managing a fine equilibrium between work, play and hangovers. How's your health these days? I understand that New York had a fine winter after shoving all your snow and freeze over to our side. In my garden all the subtropical splendor is frozen and dead and I'll be more than glad to get outa here. Had two nice letters from Rosie, it seems the two of us shall have a fine time together in and/ or Rome and Paris.

I'm sending you my passport and would appreciate it no end if someone in the office would take care of whatever visas I need. One for Portugal- possibly that's only a transit visa, as I'll stay only two days in Lisbon. One to France, respectively Marocco. I don't think I need anything for Italy, Switzerland and Belgium. Anyway- could you people do it for me? I understand the Portugal people are fussy, but your office knows how to handle those things, yes, please? I still don't know where I should stay in Rome and it's high time to get my reservation there. Can you or your travel buro (Is it Pleet or what) give me some advice? Not the

Eden
Flora

Excelsior, I'm sure. I don't know how the Villa Hassler works now, but before the war it had the stuffiest German better middleclass, families etcetera, and wouldn't be my cup of Asti Spumante. Please, halp, halp! I'm getting awfully restless, sitting overhere only with one hemisphere, while the other is already overthere in the other hemisphere, if you know what I mean. I'm speaking a funny brand of French and no Italian whatever. Brrrother!

Much love, I'll be in town by March 8
second.

Always

Vicki

If my friend Carl Osterberg should call you up again and ask your wise counsel about the Italian trip, please, don't suit him, he's a nice sort and helpful

VICKI BAUM

February 7th , 1949

Dear Don,

Yesterday I sent my passport to you, registered, hoping that the Doubleday office would take care of my visas in the usual efficient and rope-pulling way. Now I have to trouble you once more because I ordered me a car in Paris, and to have a car and papers ready on my arrival there, I have to send them post haste, some information about my passport. That means that I either need my passport back here as soon as possible after the visas are obtained (can you see how the red tape English is taking possession of me?) or that one of your girls would have to copy some of the ~~the~~ highly embarrassing details from my passport and send them to me. What I need is: Name and first name, in my case also the "known as". Date, number and place of issue, date and place of birth, goddamit.

I hope you don't mind, doing all these nice things for me, I'll do the same for you whenever necessary. Looking forward to a good, long evening session with you,

yours as ever

Hedwig Lert

Known as Vicki Baum

No. 198228 issued 4/28/48 at Wash. D. C.

Austria 1/24/28

Vicki

February 8, 1949

Dear Vicki:

Thank you for your letter. Nelson's death affected me more than I thought it would but as far as work in the office goes it has not made a great change for us since we had anticipated it for so long.

I have given your passport to Molly Ryan and she will attend to the matter of visas for Portugal, France, and Morocco. I hardly know what to tell you about hotels in Rome since my first choice would have been the Villa Hassler. When I was in Rome it was definitely the best hotel - just a little better than the Excelsior and was inhabited by characters out of Henry James novels. My second choice would have been the Excelsior for which I have had a peculiar affection since last winter when it was the warmest place in Rome. Since I have a taste for deluxe hotels my third choice would be the Grand (that is, the Grand Hotel of Rome, Italy and the universe). I know I always preferred the hotels on the Pincian Hill because of the wonderful views, but if you want to live down in that flat region between the Piazza di Spagna and the Tiber there is a fairly nice little hotel called the Inghilterra. There are other hotels in the flossy tourist section such as the Flora, the Eden, and the Savoia. They are all run by Swiss of course and most of them are inhabited by English. I stayed at the Majestic most of the time but I really don't recommend it because it has a really Swiss dreariness about it.

Your friend Carl Ostertage called me and I told him what I could about Rome and Italy although really there was nothing I could tell him that he didn't already know. At present the Italians make everything so easy for visitors that it is no more trouble than going to Hoboken. I am looking forward to seeing you on March 2nd.

With love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, Calif.

P.S. Molly has just given me the enclosed forms which you must fill out for the French and Moroccan visa. If you are going for pleasure only fill out the blue form. If you have a business reason also fill out the white form. We will be glad to give you a letter saying that you are going for the purpose of writing a book if you want us to. After we have the forms filled in by you, we can get the visa in one day.

February 10, 1949

Dear Vicki:

Here are the details which you requested. Your mama, in case you didn't know it, is Hedwig Lert, known as Vicki Baum. The passport is No. 198228 issued 4/28/48 at Washington, D. C. The birth date is given as Austria, January 24, 1888. As you will know by this time from my last letter, we can't get the French visa until you have filled in the forms so I think it is better for us to hold the passport here.

As ever,

Donald B. Elder

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, Calif.

g



April 8th 1949

Ou, my darling -
This isn't a letter, only
a line to ask you to
write or wire Rosie
that I'm at the
Villa Hassler in Rome
and would she get
in touch with me.
And do it right away.
Will you, please -
Thanks ever so much.

About everything else I
shall write at leisure
(this is only a stop-over)
or better yet, we'll talk
a lot when I come
back. It's good to see
good old Europe getting
back on its feet. Florence
is the same town it
was for quite a few
short centuries - the
other part of Italy I crossed
by car a little sad. In
France I saw beautiful,
very little known things in



The League doc -
and, my God, I
didn't know how much
at home I'm still
in this part of the
world and that I have
roots and shouldn't
forget it.

Loads of love -
keep me a line, will
you? - Always
Vicki

April 22, 1949

Dear Vicki:

I cabled to Rosie the minute I got your letter from Florence and I hope that she got in touch with you. She had just returned to Paris. I am awfully glad that you are having a good time in Europe and I envy you your tour through France. Italy is a little sad and I hear that it is much worse than when I was there. Spring seems to have helped New York and there are faint stirring in my heart. Otherwise there is nothing much to do but work and no startling news of any kind that you can't read in the Rome-American. I hope that you love the Spanish steps and the Piazza di Sp the Forum, and the Palatine and the Villa Borghese, all of which I regard as my personal possessions. I also think that I own the Appian Way at sunset especially after having toured all the towns in the Alban Hills and sampled the local vintages. I am dying to hear all about your trip.

With much love,

Donald B. Elder

Miss Vicki Baum
Villa Hassler
Rome, Italy

8
via airmail

July 14, 1949

Dear Vicki:

I hope that you arrived home and found your family well. It was nice to see you if only for a couple of days and I hope you understood from our talks that we value you very highly as a friend and as an author and that we are appalled at the idea of losing you. I hope you will give us a chance with this next book which you are writing as a serial since I'm sure that we will want it and I will muster all our forces to give it a good launching. As for the following book, when it's finished, won't you at least show it to us and give us an opportunity to lay out a complete program for its publication including jacket, advertising approach and budget and every foreseeable detail. Then if you are not satisfied with what we can promise you, you would be quite justified in going elsewhere. Needless to say, all confidences would be strictly preserved. I realize that you have some very well founded complaints and I'm anxious none of our errors should ever be repeated. I also realize that you want to do a different kind of book but I feel that it is quite possible that we might accomplish your literary transformation as well as another publisher. We're quite willing to give any necessary guarantees and to live up to them.

Ellen sends her love to you and gave me hell for not letting her know at once that you were in town.

This is one of the worst summers that I have ever spent in New York but it has been brightened occasionally by some pleasant visits and a few excursions which have relaxed me and also built up my ego. What really worries me is that the books we are getting are so terrible that I hardly know what to put on our winter list.

I'm very glad that you are such a comfort to Rosie and were able to help her on her book. I felt quite useless at this distance and I was beginning to fear that she would despair of it entirely. Ken saw her in France. He is still in England and will probably be back the end of the month. I saw Tilly the other evening and she sends love. Her children seem to be doing quite nicely.

My best to all your family.

With love,

Donald B. Elder

DBB/ea

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Kenyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, California

Return

VICKI BAUM

July 18th 1949

Dear Don,

your letter struck such a lovely balance between emotion and formality, it read almost like an oldfashioned marriage proposal. Thanks a lot for it, darling. I didn't realize it meant anything to you personally or to the anonymous moloch called Doubleday's whether I stay with you or go somewhere else. But as it seems it does matter and as you promise me such a paradise, - of course you may count on my next book. I'm starting to write it tonight, and, please, give me your blessing and keep your fingers crossed for it. Writing has become such a hard task for me in the last years that I'm almost afraid of my typewriter. I hadn't known those panics when I was younger. Well, anyway- could you do me a great favor? I'm going to San Francisco by August third for a bit of background and research; could you give me the address of your office there? And the name of the nicest and handiest guy to ask for help and/or information? And drop him a little line announcing that I might come and pester him a bit? I'll write him myself before I'm going up North. Mainly I'll want him to tell me how and where to get access to the two S.F. papers from the nineties up to now. Otherwise I know the town fairly well, my best friend is curator of the Museum there and can give me a wealth of information, and I am persona grata with some of the old time S. F. society lionesses and toothless lions who'll be hard to stop from telling me all.

As for the book after this--well, you know that it will have to be discovered by an especially astute editor, and the less said or written about it beforehand, the better. If it pans out the way I plan it, you'll be the editor. If not, there won't be any reason to be mysterious about it. So, let's keep this a secret between you and me, and just have a gentlemen's agreement on it, right?

I'm so sorry for you people sweating it out in New York; we are having a pleasant time here now, with those very rare warm evenings when we may sit out on the terrasse wanting for things it's too late to get, if you know what I mean. I still feel that Europe has done me a world of good, I ~~know~~ know again that I have roots somewhere, even though I don't come from Brooklyn or Ushkosh, and, more important, I've got things into their right proportions again and slipped out from that hysterical American notion that the world is coming to an end.

If you want to send me a contract, it's okay with me. As for the money-- could you again hold it for me, until I see how my income for this year shapes up, respectively what my taxes are doing. I have an idea that it would be more just to us writers if the income would be spaced the same way the work is. But I simply am not bright enough to engineer such matters to my advantage.

The novel shall be called: " Danger from Deer". The title comes from a sign in Bushey Park near London: The public are warned that it is ~~dangerous~~ at all times dangerous to go close to deer; the danger is especially great during the rutting season.....

Wishing you the same, I'm as always,

yours
Vicki

July 20, 1949

Dear Vicki:

I was overjoyed to receive your letter this morning and to know that you accepted my proposal of marriage. I give you my assurances that everything will be done as you want it and I am very glad that you are starting to write the book immediately.

As for San Francisco, we no longer have our office there, but I have asked Howard Gady who formerly was in charge of it to look up a well-qualified associate of his in San Francisco who can tell you everything that you need to know and direct you to all the necessary sources of information. He is writing today and I will have definite word for you in a day or two. You may be sure that you will be well looked after.

I am drawing up the contract at the usual terms and will send it on. I'll let you

- 2 -

know all the news as it happens.

With love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, Calif.

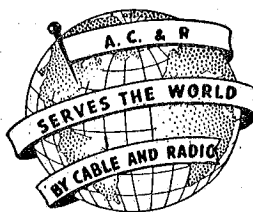
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airmail

American Cable & Radio System

"Via Mackay Radio" "Via All America" "Via Commercial"

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THE CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED



An IT&T Associate

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Time	_____
MM	_____
Check	_____

SENDER MUST FILL IN ROUTING HERE →

"Via _____"

July 20, 1948

Ken McCormick
Douboe
London, England

Vicki Baum definitely signed up.

Don

SEND THIS MESSAGE SUBJECT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS SET FORTH IN THE COMPANIES' TARIFF BOOK ON FILE WITH THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

FULL RATE MESSAGE UNLESS MARKED OTHERWISE, SEE OTHER SIDE FOR CLASSES OF SERVICE.

July 21, 1949

Dear Vicki:

I am enclosing the contract for DANGER FROM DEER made out according to the usual terms. You will note that I have put in a purely fictitious delivery date, just because I have to put something in that space. If the book is finished sooner, so much the better, and if you need more time we won't rush you.

With love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, Calif.

E
enc. (2)
airmail

July 25, 1949

Dear Howard:

Sure I'll be glad to be of what use I can to Vicki Baum when she arrives in town. There won't be any difficulty steering her to a place where she can examine the files of SF newspapers from the 90s on and maybe I can give her some other leads in the way of source material.

Ask her to give me a ring when she reaches town and we can arrange then to get together.

Otherwise, how goes it? Thanks for the West and Mora books; the Mora looks quite handsome and even reads well, which last is surprising considering the mess the manuscript was when we first got hold of it.

All best,



Mr. Howard Cady,
Doubleday & Co., Inc.,
14 West 49th St., NYC.

Home 2740 Union St. Walnut 1-5742
Office Sutter 1-7532

VICKI BAUM

July 30th 1949

Dear Don, forgive me for not returning the contract sooner, I'm quite wrapped up in writing that "Danger from Deer" story, and, as you might know by bitter experience, beginnings of novels are always a hard job of concentration, as you have to have the whole development down in the little seed of the exposition. At least, that's my method, and during the first few weeks of work I'm a rather unlovable character. I discovered that a split bottle of champagne makes me work much easier, it's also possible that it imparts a glow to my self-appreciation which the quality of the writing doesn't quite justify. Anyway, it seems to go fairly well, and I'm having some fun with the old bitch I'm writing about. End of the week I'm going to San Francisco for a bit of background, and thanks for the helpful address. I won't pester the fellow too much, but I might need him to introduce me to the public relation people of the Southern Pacific as I need a few details from them.

Listen, Don- I made a question mark to paragraph 10 of the contract which provides your agreement to any magazine publication. We never had such a thing before, or, at least ~~not~~ ^{XXXX} I didn't notice it. I think you could cross it out, as I won't sell to a pulp magazine, and if, as I hope, a magazine takes it, it won't delay the book publication too long. I should have the book ready by New Year, and the magazines are hungry for material and won't keep it too long on the shelf. Okay?

So long, and I'll tell you how I'm coming. Give all my love to Ellen, I'm going to write her soon a little line.

Vicki

July 27, 1949

Dear Vicki:

I have found your guide to show you around San Francisco. He is Oscar Lewis whose books you probably know and who was associated with our San Francisco office. He knows the city very well and says that he will be glad to be of any use he can. He suggests that you call him when you get there. His office address is 549 Market Street, San Francisco and his telephone is Sutter 1-7532. His home address is 2740 Union Street and his phone number is Walnut 1-5742. He is extremely friendly to us and very glad to be of any service.

I hope that your trip will be pleasant and profitable.

With love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, Calif.

E
aimail

August 1, 1949

Dear Vicki:

I am sending back your copy of the contract with Clause #10 omitted so that you are perfectly free to do whatever you can with the book before we publish it. I hope that you will take advantage of Oscar Lewis's help in San Francisco because he really knows a great deal about every phase of the city and will be very glad to give you assistance in any way he can. I am sorry that you are having birth-pangs over the novel but I guess that they are inevitable. We are still sweating out a dismal summer and I can't wait for October to come around.

Love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, Calif.

g
enc.
airmail

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.



Mrs Vicki Baum

~~1461 Analf Drive~~
~~Pacific Palisades~~
2477 Canyon Oak Dr. Los Angeles
Hollywood, 78 California
CALIF U.S.A.

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Second fold here

To open cut here

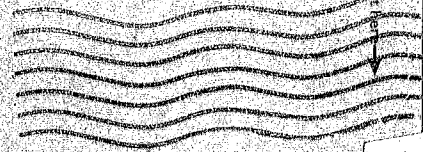
Sender's name and address:-

M. Goldswell

1 Granville Square

Wharton Street

London W1C



To open cut here

1 Granville Square
Wharton Street W C 1
August 30, 1949

my dear Vicki. It seems awful that the first letter to you after all these years should be a business letter. First let me ask how you all are and send my love. All well here, though we all had rather a hectic war in London as you can imagine.

The businessletter is this: you may remember that I translated RESULTS OF AN ACCIDENT (Was it Life goes on in USA?) at any rate Zwischenfall in Lohwinkel--on a royalty basis of 1 and a half percent. I have never from Bles or from Heath, the agent, had any moneys for any cheap editions, and am now trying to follow this up (as in common with most writers here I am short of cash) I gather that there have been several editions of a cheap edition in this country, and wondered whether you can tell me when there was a cheap in the USA and by whom published. I should be extremely grateful if you could send me this information soon, so that if necessary I can get the author's society onto all concerned. Thank you very much for any information about it.

Norah James now lives in Jersey in the Channel Islands but is here just now for a few weeks and sends you best regards. She has been here only to do some dialogue for a film.

I have not taken any trips to Germany since the war, as I simply could not bear to see many ex-Nazis up to cold tricks and finding that "No one had ever been a Nazi". I still read French and German books for publishers and have seen many novels from Germany and so far haven't found a one that was not full of self pity and "it was the other man's fault". I am still in love with the eighteenth-century and enjoy writing my sort of books as much as ever.

It would be grand to see you again if you ever come this way. And in the mean time I hope to hear from you soon not only about Zwischenfall but your own news. Love from

Margaret Goldsmith

No
reprint
here

to
B
reprint
here

2

September 27, 1949

Dear Miss Goldsmith:

Vicki Baum has forwarded your letter to me. I have looked up our records on LIFE GOES ON and I find that there never was a reprint edition in this country. We bought the translation outright from Bless and the contract is now voided since the book is entirely out of print in this country. I am sorry to say that there is no possibility of any further royalty from us.

Sincerely yours,

Donald B. Elder
Chief Associate Editor

Miss Margaret Goldsmith
1 Granville Square
Wharton Street
London WC 1, England

g
airmail

November 17, 1949

Dear Vicki:

Thanks for your letter which I received in Rome. I found Rome just as cosy and wonderful as ever and all my shady friends such as pimps, gangsters, and black-marketeers welcomed me with open arms and made life very agreeable. I find that in Rome, of all places, the underworld and police are the best people to know. I also met a lot of my old American friends there and did some intensive sight-seeing. I think that I know every stone of Rome now and I also know the Alban hills well. I found Paris a little boring. The Pont Royale was very comfortable and thank God they had heat without which I would have frozen to death.

I saw Rosie and she seems unusually happy and very sanguine about her novel. However, I think she does want to come back to America.

I have a bit of business to report. We have sold the twenty-five cent reprint rights to MORTGAGE ON LIFE to the Avon Publishing Company for a royalty of 1¢ to 150,000 copies and 1½¢ thereafter, and an advance of \$500.00 on signature and \$500.00 on publication. They will publish between April 1st and July 1st, 1950. They may wish to change the title but I will see to it that they don't change it to something horrible.

I hope that you are feeling well and that the work is progressing.

With love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, Calif.

Ⓔ
airmail

VICKI BAUM

Nov. 21st, 1949.

Don dear,

Welcome home, flags, fanfares, red carpet to you and everything else. I started wondering whether you would stick to your schedule and am pleased to know you some threethousand miles closer. While you did in Rome as a certain percentage of the Romans do and, as I understand, left no stone unturned, I was a very good girl, hunched up over my typewriter every night till four or five in the morning. The result is a first draft of "Danger from Deer", consisting as far as I can see of two fair parts plus four rather malodorous ones. After Thanksgiving I'll clean it up a bit, then I'll let it simmer for a month or so and then I'll rewrite some more. The material as such turned out rather thin and, damn it, I don't seem to be able to write anything out of spite but it works only if I feel some sympathy and even pity for my characters. But that's not the way for treating a mean old bitch like my Leadinglady!

Mr. and Mrs. Black came out here and gave us little authors a shinding in which I felt rather lost among those awfully nice, spry and "sincere" salesforces. I admit it's a much greater art to sell a book than to write one, but it's always a joke to see how far the distances from the heartbroken experience that makes us write a book, and the typewriter drenched in blood, sweat and tears, to the people in whose hands the final product is put. I wished all evening long to have you at my side, except that you would have got high-stinking, you would've fallen into the pond where ^{all} ~~you~~ may catch ~~you~~ but at a dollar extra and I would have had to take you home and held

your head over the black marble washbasins of the Townhouse.

Glad you found Rosie in good shape and at work, she sounds as if she had found something useful in the line of a lover or consort of some sort.

Not knowing that you were back I pestered Molly Ryan to try and dig up two copies of my Shanghai book which are needed for the Mil. Government to clear the book for a Japanese translation. Could you possibly look into the old Garden City wastepaper baskets or something? And thanks for the 25 cent edition of that old little stinker, fivehundred bucks might come in very handy around X-mas time. As soon as you have caught up with your work will you have time to let me have a peek into your private soul?

Love as ever, Yours,

Vicki

Holiday Greeting *by* WESTERN UNION



LA930

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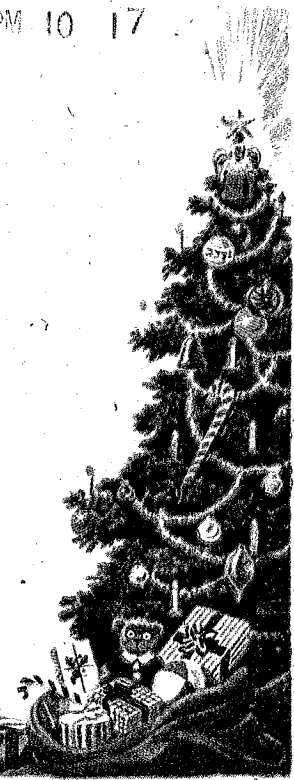
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•DON ELDER, DOUBLEDAY AND CO=

14 WEST 49 ST NYK=

ALL THE BEST=

VICKI=•••



VICKI BAUM

Dec. 31.1949.

Hello Don,

Just a line to wish you a happy New Year and to thank you for the books you sent me; I tried industriously to learn how to write both , short and long stories, and it is faintly possible that a few months from now a new young American writer whose name I don't know yet will submit some of his first short-stories to you for kind perusal and to one or the other highbrow Little Magazines. Anyway I'm looking forward to some sort of fun in that field. The books you sent me were more than welcome as I had to spend a few days in bed with a touch of the flu. In a little while I want to start cutting "Danger From Deeper" to a reasonable length- please write me a line how long the thing can be. It hasn't much weight, but, on the other hand, whatever quality it has seems to be in the mood, sometimes in the background, and in the psychology, and that, as you know, runs always into more words than just a simple slam-bang murder.

Will you ever have time to get a little less impersonal, my pet?

I want to know how you are, what you're doing and whether it's fun?

Wishes
All my love and best
as ever
Vicki

VICKI BAUM

March 2d 1950

Don darling, I'm trying hard to picture you as the second half of the century's Mc Fadden, but it takes all my flamboyant(quote ^Time) imagination, anyway, nothing could have pleased me more than your letter. Keep up the good works and stay just well enough not to lose your sensitivity which is such a rare thing in God's own country. Homesick for Europe? Me too, ever so often when things seem just a trifle too, too adolescent over here- do loyalty spies rifle through the letters you receive? Please, burn this subversive document or hide it in a pumpkin, but quick. Well, what should I tell you from this end? I was dutifully plodding ahead on my " Danger from Dear", I think it stinks in parts and is faintly fragrant in others, and it's no chef d' oeuvre by any stretch of the imagination, but, I hope, still a tenth of a degree above the " Parasites." As this obituary may show you, it's finished, the goddamned thing, and just in the process of being deloused and copied. As promised- or threatened- it's going to get to you on or about March 15th. I'll send a copy to Jaques Chambrun who in turn will try to palm it off on some magazine- though it turned out a bit too sour and pessimistic for magazine digestion, I'm afraid- anyway, I'd ask you to get losely in contact with him about the when and where's of the opus. I guess I wrote a lot of gall out by creating a sweet, stupid, charming old bitch. For some reason the story makes wide circles and detours around any of today's issues- partly because a few things I'd have liked to say were too heavy for the material, partly because I am not less mixed up ~~and~~ than the next person. Things seemed a bit clearer when I was abroad, but overhere you can't hear yourself think for all the din and the noise and the fury. Horizons get more and more covered by artificial fogs and sprays, and I think we're approaching a new sort of Middle Ages. We be-

lieve a bit too implicitly in hells of our own invention, and what makes for dark ages is first of all fear and secondly ignorance. So, we're afraid, and if we aren't, newspapers are trying their best to make us, all for the purpose of better circulation, and, certainly, no people has ever been left more ignorant about the real issues at stake. It's an awful feeling to watch how the final decisions have been taken completely away from a nation who originally was to be governed by the people—oh, hell, maybe I'm only ranting because I'm having the headache of all headaches today.

So: Germs! They've been crawling all over this here family ever since November and by the time one person comes out of a temperature and the pukes or the sneezes or the cough the next one has got it and that way it's been going round and round and round. Especially the little boy has been in and out of bed all the time and looks very peaked and I feel sorry for him. As for this here old party, I'm having a considerable ~~itch~~itch in my stern for going off and away. At first this will take the mild form of a four weeks vacation with my husband in Mexico, just sitting around a highly radio-active swimming pool — that's what they advertise in any case — and maybe motor around a little bit. But that's no answer to my itch, and a trip down to Tehuantepec and Chiapas doesn't come off quite the way I hoped. My faithful boy friend who drove me all over Europe last week and wanted to drive me to the jungles, too, has to stay in town because he is learning to be a silversmith, on the G I plan, and can't break training. In the meantime I'm hung like a Xmas tree with the products of his considerable talent and highly limited craftsmanship, just now I'm expecting a very beautiful sugar and cream set, handwrought, whose two parts can also most handsomely be used as breast shields a la Cecil de Mille, I tried them and they fit. (Cup shaped, the brassiere industry calls it.) Well, in any case, I might roam all by my little self a bit through Chiapas and into Guatemala, I liked it so much the last time I was there. From Paris arrive anguished cries demanding I go there soon, but I certainly wouldn't during the tourist season, and also, it all depends very much

VICKI BAUM

on the question of whether or not I can manage to make some money with that Dangerous Deer. I have an idea that I'll get to New York in early Fall, providing you'll be there. Out here my bit of English is deteriorating by leaps and bounds and that's very bad. As soon as I have the manuscript off my chest I want to go into a bit of Spanish and French reading and talking- or trying to, at least- and that won't be much of a help. Today I have a feeling as if I were pretty soon, maybe this afternoon, going to die like Roosevelt. Just a bit more pressure on those calcified nerves and veins in my head and something is apt to bust. Otherwise I'm in a fine mood, my garden is full of Roman hyacinths and almond trees in bloom and some highly oversexed birds are making quite a to-do in the tree before my window.

Thanks for squeezing in a bit of time for writing me a letter, I need very much to know that you're there, somewhere, even if terribly busy and successful and preoccupied. So long

as ever

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vicki". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "VICKI BAUM".

March 8, 1950

Dear Vicki:

Just when I start bragging about my good health I get struck again by my resident virus which is the only germ I have left but a very persistent one, and it knocks me down every week or ten days. However, my recuperative powers are better and it does no serious damage.

I am delighted to know that DANGER FROM DEER is finished and I'll be looking forward to seeing a copy. I hope that we can have it for the fall list but that of course will depend on serialization plans. I know exactly how you feel about the atmosphere of America these days and I watch with regret all my friends getting off to Europe as fast as they can. I hope you will be able to have a good vacation. This year I will have no more than the usual two weeks and I can't think where to go. I haven't heard a word out of Rosie for weeks and I shall have to write her today and nudge her.

With love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, California

8
airmail

March 9, 1950

Dear Vicki:

I am sorry to be sending on this dismal statement which I am sure you would rather not see. However, it is my duty to do so. I am looking forward to the new book.

With love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, California

g
airmail

VICKI BAUM

March 15, 1950.

Dear Don,

Today I sent you my "Danger from Deer" and I hope it meets you surrounded by millions of slaughtered resident-germs and on the up-curve of your manic-depressive wobble. Really, you mustn't do that to me and get feeling sick again, just when I am beginning to be glad about your pep and health. I'm sorry that I'm sending you a rather messy manuscript, but my regular girl went to Europe-as who doesn't- and the ones who did the copying made quite a mess of it. However, before you ~~people~~ people will be through with it, I suppose the manuscript will look a lot worse yet. Let me know fairly soon how you feel about the stuff and what ~~XX~~ sort of a dazzling contract you want to give me on it; remember, you promised me heaven on earth when I saw you last. Jacques Chambrun has a copy, too, and I suppose you'll want to keep in contact with him about what the magazines will or won't do with the stuff.

I'd like very much to come to New York in Fall, provided you'd be there at that time; also, if you'd put the book on your Fall list, it might be a good idea for me to be available for those ~~EGAW~~ gawd-awful publicity doings which seem to become more and more the most important part of writing a book. Have you read anything good recently- and I don't mean the Flair-babies? If yes, tell me what, as I'm quite hungry for something good to read. Otherwise I'm having the usual pooped-out hangover, but that will pass within a few days.

Yours, with all good wishes, as ever

yours
Vicki

March 31, 1950

Dear Vicki:

The manuscript has arrived and I shall read it this week and write to you about it. Meanwhile, I'll be in touch with Chambrun to get information regarding the serial. As for the contract, don't you remember that we made one last July with a \$5000.00 advance?

I would love to put this on the fall list and I hope that you will be here so that we can give horrible parties for you and put you on all kinds of ghastly housewifely radio programs. I'll be writing to you again in a week or two.

With love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, California

\$
airmail

April 3, 1950

Dear Vicki:

I have read DANGER FROM DEER with the greatest pleasure and I think that you have done a really remarkable job. It is immensely readable and my god, what an awful bitch your central character is! I have never seen anyone handle that double flashback trick so skillfully before and it is never in the least confusing. It is certainly more bitter than sweet and I am afraid that might hurt your magazine market although I don't think it will affect the book market. I would like to suggest a few cuts but I would like to have Lee Barker read the manuscript first, since he is our book club expert and is very good at streamlining manuscripts for book club acceptance. After he has read it I'll make my suggestions which are really not drastic. I think that you have done an excellent job on the period and background which have real flavor and a great deal of appeal. Congratulations and much love! I'll be writing you again in a few days.

Sincerely,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, California

8
airmail

April 7, 1950

Dear Vicki:

The enclosed letter is self-explanatory, and I trust that it will not bore you too much. I don't know what twenty-five cent editorial genius invented the subtitles and I don't know how they are going to promote the book to any great extent, but if you have no great objection to it, won't you please scribble an okaying letter and return it to us.

Lee is going to read DANGER FROM DEER over the weekend and then we'll put our heads together over what we would like to suggest to you regarding cuts. I still have no definite word from Chambranes to serial.

Much love,

Miss Vicki Baum
3477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles, California

§
airmail

VICKI BAUM

May 11, 1950.

Don, my Darling,

Just a line to tell you that I'll be off to Mexico for six to eight weeks with hardly a constant address. Mail will eventually reach me if you send it to my Hollywood address. The magazines have so far observed a dead silence about my Dangerous Deer, a fact that doesn't surprise me at all but hurts me deeply in that most sensitive spot, the bank account. Are you in touch with Chambrun about that loused-up story? And will it be on your fall list or could you palm it off on an unsuspected readership around X-mas time? I'd like to know so that I can synchronize the European publications with ours. It would also be nice to get some money on my NY bank account by the time I'm coming back- or is no payment due until publication? Gosh, what a businesslike disgusting sort of letter! Let's hope Tehuantepec will put me in my usual mellow-romantic mood.

All my love as ever,

Vicki

May 12, 1950

Dear Vicki:

I am sending you a sketch for the jacket of DANGER FROM DEER. It is rather a rough one but I'd like to know whether or not you approve of the idea and if you have any other suggestions to make. The manuscript has been circulating madly among the book clubs and consequently Les has not finished reading it. In regard to my own suggestions for cuts, they will not be drastic, but I'd still like to hear some reactions from book clubs before I go ahead with too many. Won't you please return this sketch to us by airmail, since our sales conferences are approaching fast and we are very anxious to have jackets finished as soon as possible. I am up to my ears in work but will write you more later.

Love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, Calif.

Return to D. Sedur

VICKI BAUM

May 16th, 1950

Don, my darling,

Thanks a million for letting me have a peek at the sketch for the cover and, please, don't get mad at me if I keep wondering loudly, and even shrilly, what causes the immeasurable difference of taste as expressed in, let's say, the nice modern museum prints in your office and the combined cottage cheese salad and banana split on said sketch. I'm afraid I'll have to go into a few basical ideas of and about modern design, even if it bores hell out of you and gets me the wrath of your highly esteemed sales department on my obstinate noodle. Item one: it has been known for about forty years that a crowded design distracts rather than attracts the attention of a prospective buyer. Today even Klein's and Ohrbachs realize that a window which focuses the attention on one or two worthwhile features gets better sales than the old general-store ways where everything from fishing tackle to salted pork and men's woolen underwear was crammed in on exhibition; consequently, a jacket like the proposed one seems to have gone out of fashion together with the spittoon and the cracker barrel. Look here, my pet, your designer is always trying to tell the whole story on the jacket; but telling a story is my business and not his. His business seems to be to catch the eye of the browsing customer and possibly arouse his curiosity- but this design ain't it. I wouldn't utter even a whisper of protest if the public would respond to the oldfashioned and stuffy Doubleday jackets with a mad buying rush. But I can only repeat that in all other countries my books come out with quiet designs in fairly good and contemporary taste, and in all other countries my reputation is much better, and my sales are incomparably higher than here. I guess we have been through all this before and I'm sorry if I bore you with this, but all I can say is that this might be a mighty fine jacket for Faith Baldwin and that I, hard as I might try, and hard as your sales department might wish I were- just ain't no Faith Baldwin. Of one thing I'm sure, a jacket like this would cause me, or every single person I care for, to turn away from the book in abhorrence.

As you know, I'm the last one to think that I've written a masterpiece, but I believe that it's fairly amusing stuff which would lose whatever charm it might have, if you let the reader forget that it's all told obliquely, ~~bit~~ and with irony; the jacket, however, is a hodge podge of melodrama, while I tried to make fun of it all, even with my title. My personal idea of a good jacket was, for instance, the one for "The Sheltering Sky". I realize that I don't belong to the breed ~~of~~ "Flair" is growing in its little hothouses and, therefore, can't endeavour to demand really intelligent jackets for my little book; but if Doubleday insists on an illustrative cover, may I humbly submit my idea of just putting up a somewhat lopsided warning sign ! ! ! " DANGER FROM DEER ! ! ! and keep my name and whatever else in a separate little box somewhere at the bottom of the cover. Unfortunately I have not the slightest talent for designing, and the sheet I'm enclosing will possibly give you not even an indication of what I mean; however, if you agree in principle, I might try to make one or the other of my young designer friends indicate what I mean in somewhat more comprehensible terms, — and I'd send it on to you and maybe you could feed it to your designers as a suggestion of your own.

One more little thing, when you start printing I would like the sign which sent me off writing the novel, as a motto ~~put~~ before the beginning of the story. At the moment I don't have a copy of that sign at hand, but I have the old lawyer quote it somewhere in the first part; it goes something like "Danger from Deer! Visitors are advised that deer is dangerous at all times, especially during the rutting season....." Also, when you get around to cutting the damn thing down, please, indicate the cuts and let me do the final cutting myself the way I did in the Weeping Wood; you will remember that I'm a passionate and not at all complaining cutter-downer and I can always help the cuts by putting in little transitions in my own inimitable style which won't look so patched up. I could do such cuts either between June 1st and 15th when I'll stay put in Balneario San José Purua, Mexico, or after my return to the States during July. As soon as you have an idea when the book will be published, please let me know, because I'd like to make my own plans accordingly. There might be some reason for me to go to New York in fall anyway.

Enough and too much for one evening and heaps of love for you

always yours

Vicki

VICKI BAUM

May 20, 1950.

Dear Don,

I wonder if Doubleday's would do one of their less successful and somewhat dated authors a little favor? Could somebody ask somebody to make a few copies of the manuscript of "Danger from Deer", and do it right away and send some of them off to the following addresses? And kindly charge whatever expenses against my account? I'm just taking off for Mexico and can't do it, respectively I'm out of copies and the one blurred stuff I have here I want to keep to myself ~~for~~ for making cuts and changes etc. Now for the addresses:

Dr. F.H.Landshoff
Querido Verlag
262 Singel
Amsterdam/ Holland

Pearn, Pollinger and Higham
38-40 Bedford Street Strand
London/ England

M. Georges Robert
30, Rue de l'Observatoire
Paris (14e) France

Mr. Ingo Preminger
204 So. Beverly Drive
Beverly Hills/ Calif.

Thanks an awful lot and let's hear from you.

Love, as ever,

Vicki

May 22, 1950

Dear Vicki,

I can't thank you enough for that blistering letter with which I agree so thoroughly. I took it right down to the art department and found that they also concurred. We have a running fight with the sales department on this business of jackets, and we have some very good art directors and designers who would much rather do the kind of jacket that you like. We threw out the whole sketch and got hold of a good modern artist who has done some very fine and simple jackets for us. Your letter provided me with just the ammunition I needed.

I talked to Jacques Chambrun today, and while he has not yet sold the book, he still feels that there's a good chance and wants to keep on trying. According to our present schedule, the manuscript should be due on press June 1, but if he does sell the book, the present October date will be impossible for us. There's also the matter of cutting which is going to be difficult if you are in the wilds of Mexico. Obviously since you are on your way to Mexico, we cannot work this out before June 1, and altogether it looks to me as if we'd better postpone the publication until after Christmas. This will give Chambrun a chance to exploit every possible market for a magazine sale and we can also do whatever cutting is necessary with much less pressure. It seems to me that one of the troubles with HEADLESS ANGEL was that the publication schedule required a rush job on the cutting. I would much rather see this postponed by one season and come out to everyone's satisfaction. Consequently, I have removed it from the Fall list and put it over to Winter. I hope this delay does not cause you any anxiety. Our Fall list is overloaded anyway, and I see no point in trying to jam the book through a heavy schedule and at the expense of its magazine sale and its editing.

I hope that you will have a good trip and will not worry about business matters.

Much love,

DBE/fb

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, California



MICHOACAN, MEXICO

June 4th

Dear Don, just a line to let you know that I got your letter, and I'm sure you'll do what you think best for the book. I'll be back in L.A. by the beginning of July and ready to do my part in cutting and editing, if you just want to indicate where the darn thing is too long, too involved, or repetitive.

Down here I'm frighteningly famous and my books sell like crazy which would be fine if my agent would deliver the royalties with a bit more accuracy and asperity. Anyway, books sell so cheap, on account of the low currency. By the way, here, as in France, Italy, et al, I get constantly complaints from the bookstores that they can't obtain my books in English. I have cried many a silent tear about the Doubleday policy of quickly killing off any book that isn't a roaring best-seller right away- but, well, what's the use. I haven't read a paper in weeks and so I don't know about water shortage, heatwaves and the newest fashion in atom bombs and withh hunts. Hope, though, that you're well and content and that the battle of the bugs and/or bacteriae goes in favor of your side.

Lots of love, always

June 9, 1950

Dear Vicki:

I hope you received my letter in which I told you that I was postponing DANGER FROM DEER to the winter list. We could not have kept to our schedule if we had had to send the manuscript to you in Mexico, and also we felt that unless the book got very well launched well ahead of the Christmas market, it would have been swamped by items about Rome, babies, and other such novelties which now seem to be the standard fare for Christmas consumption.

I hope that you're having a nice trip. I expect to take my vacation soon, and if you had been at home, I would have flown out to California. Now I don't know just what I will do.

I am having the extra copies of your book typed and will send them to the people whose addresses you gave me. Meanwhile, I have no word from Chambrun and I gather he has hopes of selling it.

As ever,

Miss Vicki Baum
Balneario
San Jose Purua
Mexico

DBE: bz

July 5, 1950

Dear Vicki:

I have had copies of DANGER FROM DEER made and sent to the addresses which you gave me. We have now scheduled it for February 1st which gives us until September 14th to work on it. I still have received no definite word from Chambrun as to serial so I gather he has not given up trying.

I just had my vacation which I spent with my brother and family in Michigan, and for once in my life, it was extremely interesting to go back to my native town and pack up a few things that I seemed to have forgotten when I left. I think I learned more in a few days than I did in all the 18 years I lived there and it dispelled all kinds of illusions. I take great delight in my nephews and they think that I am wonderful, and so my ego has been rebuilt.

I hope that you are enjoying your trip through Mexico. Won't you let me know when you plan to be back so that we can work out a schedule for working on your manuscript.

Much love,

As ever,

DEE:bz

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles

VICKI BAUM

July 8th 1950

Dear Don,

Thanks a lot for sending out the copies and for your letter. I toddled back into USA two days ago and have been nursing a chest cold ever since that lovely Los Angeles air hit me like a sledge hammer. I'm now at your beck and call, ~~and~~ let me have whatever work and/or editing you want me to do. I am a fiend for cutting, as you know, and a very old hand at doing an editor's job. If you want to make it easy for both of us, please let me have one copy with your suggestions (and I mean yours, personally, and not those of the girl-however charming-who answers the phone nor of the esteemed middle-aged lady entrusted with the cleaning -up of the ladie's room) and another copy for me to work on, as I am out of such. I shall go to work on it with a vengeance, as I'd like to clear the decks by and by for future work. Also, having returned fairly broke, it would be nice if some funds were forthcoming; you wrote me once about a small advance payment on the cheap edition of I don't quite remember what; and the guarantee on the dangerous deer. How about it, pal? Excuse the poor typing, I'm still back on my Mexican typewriter with all things in different places. I had a sweet-sour time down there, having been loaded down with husband and his friends, his tooth/ache, his distressed stomach and his general phobia against lice, flees and alacrans. Only the last ten days of my stay I was left to myself and went way into Chiapas and off the roads, and I mean literally off the roads, into forests with millions of orchids and strange Indian tribes and unbelievable mountain lakes, and, Gawd, was it cold up there in the highlands! And hot at the Isthmus!

So now I am, as always: a sus*ordenes

Yours, Vicki

Order
Check

July 13, 1950

Dear Vicki:

I'm sorry that your Mexican trip was not an unmixed joy, but I am glad that you are back so that I know where you are. I'm sorry that you have a cold. I have been having beastly little summer sinus infections that all seem to occur after my first string doctor has gone out of town for a few weeks. However, be glad that you're not in New York.

As for the editing and cutting of DANGER FROM DEER, we sent out all the copies which we had made at your request, and I have still only the copy you sent me. I think that I should make my suggestions on this copy and send it to you. Do you prefer to have the suggestions made on the margins or on a separate sheet? Since we will have to use this for setting copy, it might be better if I do not mark it up too much.

As for money, you have \$5000 coming on DANGER FROM DEER and I have ordered a check for it. As soon as I get Rosie's book to the press, I'll start on yours, since hers is already due.

With love,

DBE:bz

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, California

VICKI BAUM

August 12th 1950

Dear Don, n

Just a line to remind you that you wanted to send me my manuscript for cuts and such- wouldn't now be the time to do it? Later in the fall I might have my nose to the grindstone and not be as unencumbered by worries about the stuff I want to write next. So- I'm waiting /

yours, ever

Vicki

August 14, 1950

Dear Vicki:

I'm a louse not to have written you sooner. I'm working on your manuscript but I have been slowed down by the fact that my resident virus has flared up for the past few weeks and I've lost a good deal of time. I'll shoot the manuscript along to you very shortly. I'm sorry to have held you up. I'm not making any drastic cuts because the underpinning of the story is rather intricate.

I want to write you a long juicy letter soon since I have much to tell you.

With love,

As ever,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 28, California

DEB: bz

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a full rate telegram	
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DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

WESTERN UNION

1206

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
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FULL RATE	DEFERRED
CODE	NIGHT LETTER

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Miss Vicki Baum
 2477 Canyon Oak Drive
 Los Angeles 28, California

DEAR VICKI

YOUR POINT IS WELL MADE NO CHANGES NECESSARY

MUCH LOVE,

DON

VICKI BAUM

August 24th 1950

Dear Don,

I can't tell you how grateful I am to you for the tenderness with which you handled my story. You are right, the darn thing is so tightly figured out and written, that it would fall to pieces if we would take out great big hunks. My trouble is that I'm such an oldfashioned, solid craftsman, all the seams hold and are hard to rip open. I'll go over the whole thing once more and see if I can snip off little bits here and there and you will see that I have gladly accepted almost all of your suggestions, but one. It hurt me deeply that the only scene I really like and that is honestly written, didn't meet with your approval. I wrestled with it for two days now, but, no, dear darling, I can't change Larry basically. I re-grouped those dialogues a bit, cut out some and tuned down some, but the facts have to remain as they are. You say that Larry becomes too important; but I made him so for good reasons. First of all, there is so much Period in the story, that I must balance it by something that's today. Also, I wanted to give the story a lift at this point by bringing in a new and fairly amusing and interesting character. There was none of it since Florian's exit and the thing would sag badly without the introduction and build-up of Larry. Now then, as to his being homosexual: it's the only possible answer in the situation. A normal man, telling a girl that he is her friend but not in love, would appear terribly rude, and it would make poor

Joy appear still more unattractive. A girl, on the other hand, might not take No for an answer and keep on trying to get him, if not as a lover then as a husband. Furthermore, and to be a bit personal, there exists a certain compulsion in making one write certain things. As it is my tough luck to have variously fallen in love with Harries, and ^{to} have gone through experiences of the described sort, I guess I just had to get it out of my system. So there, Don- it's the one point where I have to be adamant.

And thanks again and again for the trouble you took and the job you did and, please, let me have the promised letter and tell me all about your virus , and I'll tell you everything about my overwhelming and greatly troubling white blood corpuscles. Much love , now that I have a new typewriter I'm doing worse than before, don't I.

Always
Vicki'

Suggestions for cuts and changes for DANGER FROM DEER

p. 25 - The brakeman couldn't open the gate from the outside if the train were moving. (Don't forget, I'm an old railroad man!)

pp. 22-23- slight cut

p. 31- slight change for style (too many train noises) Also P. 29

~~p. 37- slight cut--not absolutely necessary~~

p. 40- cut- a little repetitious

p. 85- cut - this point is sufficiently made elsewhere

p. 102-103- cut- just to break up the Generalin's conversation a bit

107-108- cut- to speed up action a little

pp 116 ff--Mousie's slang seems a little too modern for 1898, so I've modified it a little.

~~pp. 129-130--also--slang seems too modern~~

~~p. 133--cut- a little irrelevant~~

P.p. 137-- The full moon---it was three nights before, wasn't it, that Ann last saw Florian, and the moon wasn't due to be full quite yet. See p 124. (No, she says: in three days we'll have a full moon.)

p. 162- cut, to speed up scene

p. 165- cut -- unnecessary over emphasis

p. 176 - cut (I've made a few cuts like this because Angelina's feelings and character are by now quite predictable and don't have to be pointed up so much)

181 - cuts-- the suspense seems a little too much

P. 192- cut

p 200- cut

p. 213- I've made a few little cuts because the fire scene seems to me a bit long.

p. 215-- same

p. 218- same

p. 224- 225--same

p. 235- slight cut- a little too tearful

p. 241- cut a little dialogue which seemed unnecessary

p. 247-- It isn't clear for over a page whom Angelina is talking to,

I modified this cut a bit, to prepare for the stillness of the next paragraph.

Let him swear, he grew up in a mining camp - and look at life with Father - who, after all, was a gentleman!

- p. 252-- slight cut--Joy wouldn't be old enough to realize this, and anyway it isn't necessary to point up how glad Angelina is to get rid of Hopper
- p. 355b- 359. This is the only very drastic change I have to suggest. I don't think it is necessary to have Larry be a homosexual. The purity of his motives toward Susan is already sufficiently established for the reader, and the fact that he is not "in love" with Joy is not hard to explain. His confessing his homosexuality seems to me one twist of the knife too much. Besides, this is a long and rather talky scene and ought to be shorter. I have indicated the cuts I think might be made; if you agree, a few sentences are needed to fill in. If you feel strongly about it, leave it as it is; but it seems to me that it makes Larry a more important, more highlighted character than he needs to be, and puts him out of proportion to the rest of the characters. It is Joy who is important here, not Larry. I think he'd be just as convincing as a monkish sort of man who is fond of ~~sex~~^{JOY} but doesn't happen to be in love with her. I think that as he is, he is overemphasized.
- p. 371 - Would Susan have spoken so bluntly and insultingly in the presence of Angelina? (Presumably Angelina is present, or she wouldn't have known of this conversation.) This tactlessness seems out of character for Susan.
- p. 375-- I have cut a line which seems to me an abrupt change of point of view.
- p. 404- cut-- unnecessary detail
- p. 406--cut--this line is all too familiar by now.

I've been through this three times and it still seems very readable, the background and detail are very fine and the characters fit it perfectly. Sorry to have been so long, but it takes just as much time to decide to leave something in as to take it out, and you see I haven't cut much. Hope it doesn't cause you much work--you may have even more drastic ideas yourself.

DE

VICKI BAUM

August 25th 1950

Dear Don, I wanted to be a good little author and go over the stuff once more to look for cuts and/or slips of taste, but I'm simply not up to reading it, and I really think you have done such a magnificent job that the few puny things I might still cut won't amount to much. It seems more important to shoot the manuscript back to you on time, isn't it? The trouble is that just now I am slowed down quite a bit, doctor's orders, there's a crisis brewing about my health and, well- you have your resident virus and I have a few other nasty little items, and so, forgive me, please, for being, with your help and consent, a bit lazy. Thanks again and all my love

Vicki

September 6, 1950

Dear Vicki:

I have sent your manuscript to the press without making any further changes although no doubt some queries will arise in the course of copyreading. I shall take care of all that I can to spare you the trouble, but I might have to pass a few on to you with galleys.

Please don't feel hurt that I suggested a change in the scene between Joy and Larry. It was not because I did not feel that the scene was honestly written and, as I told you at the start, I did not insist on your changing it. I only felt that from a structural point of view it caused a little over-emphasis. As for the characterization itself, you are quite right and I shall not touch it.

I'm terribly sorry to hear that you're not in good health and I hope that there's nothing serious wrong. Myself, I am improving although my virus has not been clearly diagnosed and I have to have more tests to be sure I don't have undulant fever or mumps nucleosis. However, my own good doctor is back from his summer vacation and that alone makes me feel better. My only other worry is that my mother is hopelessly ill with a cancerous blood condition and we are rather grimly awaiting the fatal outcome.

I am enclosing a royalty statement as of April 30, 1950. I'm sorry that the typing of DANGER FROM DEER ate up your profits and I hope that I'll have a more cheerful statement to send you the next time.

Much love,

DBE: bz

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles
California

VICKI BAUM

Sept. 15th 1950

Don, darling,

Thanks a lot for your letter and the sketch for the jacket. First of all, though, what stuff and nonsense about your health! Undulant fever- the last thing I had expected from you is an ailment induced by drinking the wrong sort of milk. But ~~now~~ that they know what it is, they certainly get you well quickly, won't they? As for myself, well, I'm just sort of pooped and not feeling too good, and now it seems the doctors agree that it's sort of a slowly sneaking, crawling leukemia, nothing alarming and it don't hurt, just keeps me way under par and will eventually kill me, if not my wobbly heart or ~~my~~ the very old growth in my ear will do it before. But as life in general is one of those ailments that inevitably end letal, it neither bothers nor worries me. Just makes me at times as listless as the stockmarket during a depression. ^{Depression.} And please, don't talk about it, I didn't tell anybody, not even in my family, and the last thing I'd wish is to be treated like a patient patient.

Now about that jacket, and I feel like a crabby old bitch if I say that it don't quite hit the spot either. The stripes are okay I guess, although the colors are pretty vile, especially the yellow. Anything on the more chartreuse ^{side} might go better with the rest, but, hell, any paint shop or hardware store has now those charts which the new science of color dynamic has evolved and where you can't go wrong. However, that "Field and Stream" ~~dear~~ with the doublechin is really quite out of keeping with the ~~s~~lightly more contemporary rest. And

why have the animal at all- after all, it's not a hunting story and no real deer ever makes an appearance. And if a deer, why not have a funny cartoony line drawing, a caricatur of one, let's say a Steinberg or Thurber deer attacking a ditto man, just a little black scrawl in a corner, if you know what I mean. Or, for that matter, why have anything illustrative at all? My, I think I've lost my innocence by having too many good painters and industrial designers for friends!

I treated myself to a new typewriter, and for the time being it makes nothing but mistakes, excuse, please.

Much love, always

Vicki

VICKI BAUM

Sept. 19th 1950

Gosh, darling Don, I really don't like to be a pest but the longer I have that new jacket on my desk the more horrible it begins to look, and whatever simple, objective people enter my room and accidentally see the thing there, utter cries of anguish. Doesn't your art department like me at all and do they do it for spite? Or are they so unbelievably incompetent and without talent, knowled~~ge~~, training or ideas? Or is somebody sitting on top of them who has his own taste- about ^{which,} no doubt, one can't dispute? Gee, well, I mean to say! When I go to my basement where the various translations of my book kick around, comprising everything from Fin~~nish~~h to Urdu, Italian to Hebrew, they all have decent, more or less contemporary, or, at the worst, inoffensive jackets. I shot a Japanese one to you that had arrived the same day, the downside is the upside if you know what I mean, well, it looks decent to me, good colors, well balanced, and catching the eye. Can't anybody in your department cut three pieces of colored paper and paste it together in a bearable pattern and put some lettering on it so it can be read?

This, obviously, isn't meant for the official files of the venerable House of Doubleday & Co, nor to be read in a salesmen's meeting, but, after all, we do like to sell books, now don't we? And why make it so hard for the customer?

Forgive me, I love you dearly, and I hope your undulant resident is in the moving-out stage.

Vicki

September 21, 1950

Dear Vicki:

I sent the Japanese jacket down to the art department, delivered a brief oration, and asked for a new sketch. They have promised me something tasty and simple. Their trouble is that they really try to hard to be dazzling.

My undulant fever is officially cured now since it takes very little to kill it once they've diagnosed it. I'm still a little tired from it but that should pass in a week or so. I hope the new sketch is a good one.

With love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles

DBE: bz

VICKI BAUM

Sept 28th 1950

Dearest Don, thanks for being so patient and nice with all my bitching about the jacket, and I'm glad to know that your bug is gone. Now look, I spent these last miserable weeks in translating the damn story into German, some fun, and in the process of it I found various little mistakes, but also various spots where I'd like to cut what's repetitious ^{or} unnessecary. Can that be done in the galleys, or does it make trouble and cost money? It's a nightmare, to think that I hve to read the entire drivel once or twice more, but c'est la vie! Excuse my thin writing, the ribbon is awfully tired and I never learned to put a new one in without getting myself into a sort of Laakoon Group tangle, so there .

All the best to you, fondly

Vicki ~~Victoria~~

To Don

October 6, 1950

Dear Vicki:

I'm sorry that it is too late to make changes in the manuscript since it's on its way to the press. However, if the changes consist mostly of cuts, it won't be so terribly expensive to do in galleys.

I'm having a new jacket sketch made up and will send it on to you as soon as it begins to look like anything. Meanwhile, would you return the striped horror. The artist wants it back in case he can peddle it somewhere else.

With love,

Donald B. Elder

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles, Calif.

DBE: bz

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a full rate telegram	
FULL RATE TELEGRAM	SERIAL
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

WESTERN UNION

1206

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent at the full rate	
FULL RATE	DEFERRED
CODE	NIGHT LETTER

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Miss Vicki Baum
 2477 Canyon Oak Drive
 Los Angeles, 28,
 California

HAVE REPRINT OFFER FOR 35 CENT EDITION OF THE SHIP AND THE
 SHORE PROVIDED TITLE CAN BE CHANGED TO ONE TROPICAL NIGHT
 750 ADVANCE PLEASE WIRE REPLY

DON ELDER

October 17, 1950

Dear Vicki:

No less than three Doubleday authors got together and proposed to us that they collaborate on a novel with a United Nations background. I remember that this idea is one that we discussed a couple of years ago and I firmly vetoed the idea of anyone else's doing it. As a matter of fact, we didn't want these three particular people to try it since it would be a rather shoddy synthetic job. They may take the idea elsewhere and we can't prevent them from doing that. I wonder if this book is still on your agenda because the idea appeals to us and we think that you could do an especially good job on it. I just wanted you to know that I am protecting your ideas.

Have you looked at the jacket proofs yet?

With love,

Donald B. Elder

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles, Cal.

DBE: bz

VICKI BAUM

Oct. 17, 1950.

Don Darling,

In a tearing hurry I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving birth to a real nice cover- and salesmen be hanged! I like best the one with the black ground and the pink, white and gray print. I could possibly imagine that my name could be printed a little smaller and still a little shockinger pinker, if it could be done without causing any trouble. If not, I'm perfectly happy, and my never ending gratitude, etc. etc.. By and by I'm getting a bit homesick for you and the big city and a very small handful of friends I have there. By the way- since I read that General Speidel is the German HighCommander presumptive, I'm just waiting for the day when friend Rosie will be made Empress of a future United and through and through fascist Germany, Heil!

As ever yours,

love,



VICKI BAUM

October 21st 1950

Dear Don,

Thanks for being such a knight in shining armour about that UN novel, I shed a silent tear over it, because it could 'a been such a good novel, but that was when the UN had still hopes of becoming what it was meant to be, not a political tool, or whatchamacallit, where we do a lot of pushing and occasionally get pushed a little ourselves. Also, at that time I had secured me a job as liaison officer for the visual propaganda department which was headed by my good friend Benoit-Levy (La Mternelle, remember) a man of greatest integrity; I could have worked there in something I knew how to do, would have been sent around ~~XXX~~ to all other departments, would have soaked up the entire atmosphere and lingo, and, well, it might have been good. Now Benoit has left and is or was in Paris, he saw me just before leaving; and furthermore, my lovestory would have taken place between a Russian and a British girl who click in bed and in a few other things, but remain eternal strangers, like most lovers, because the man was in constant conflict about his beliefs, his orders, in other words, an indoctrinated Communist discovering that he had also an individuality. In the end he simply disappeared, and no one knew what, whereto and why. Well, what's the good of crying over spilled milk, today it is impossible to paint a Russian Communist as a quite human, quite likeable and rather tragic ~~XXXXXX~~ person, and so- no soap.

But thanks a lot for thinking of that old idea of mine and protecting it. I couldn't write it today, and tomorrow it'll be outdated.

Much love, and how's the bug?

Always

Vicki

October 23, 1950

Dear Vicki:

I'm delighted that you like the jacket. I like it too and so does the art department. We are all battered and bleeding from the fight that we put up for a good jacket and I hope that the reaction from book sellers and book buyers will justify us.

I don't think that Rosie is going to stay to be empress of Germany since she says she's coming back here in November. Much as I would love to have her here, I've tried to dissuade her since she has money in Europe, but none here.

I hope that you can come to New York soon. I would love to see you.

With love,

Donald B. Elder

Miss Vicki Baum

DBE:bz

October 27, 1950

Dear Vicki:

I'm very sorry that I made a mistake when I wrote you the letter of agreement concerning the publication of ONE TROPICAL NIGHT (THE SHIP AND THE SHORE) by the Garden City Publishing Company. I said that your share of the advance would be \$1000.00 whereas actually it is to be \$750.00. The reason I made this mistake is that I was dictating from a new clause in the contract which named a hypothetical figure. However, ~~your~~ royalty remains the same, which is the important thing.

It's too bad about the United Nations novel. It really could have been a humdinger.

With love,

Donald B. Elder

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles, Calif.

DBE:bz

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a full rate telegram	
FULL RATE TELEGRAM	SERIAL
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

WESTERN UNION

1206

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent at the full rate	
FULL RATE	DEFERRED
CODE	NIGHT LETTER

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Miss Vicki Baum
 2477 Canyon Oak Drive
 Los Angeles, California

URGENTLY NEED CORRECTED GALLEYS HATE TO RUSH YOU

LOVE

DON

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1201

= (51) =

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

• LA851 L•LLR251 NL PD=FY LOSANGELES CALIF 20=

DONALD ELDER=

CARE DOUBLEDAY 14 WEST 49 ST NYK=

21 AM 12.07

HAVE SENT GALLEYS ONE WEEK AGO MUST ARRIVE ANY MOMENT LOVE=

= VICKI

~~(calls I-1-10)~~
They came today + were sent down - (11-21)

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Bagnold, Enid

Baum
~~THE LOVED AND ENVIED~~

3.00

Oddly period in feel, this is actually a contemporary tale of the fading glories of a vanishing generation of the socially elite of Paris and its environs. Clinging to a past when the standards of social success had been within their making, a tiny segment of a lost world find their dreams have become ashes, that jealousy is stronger than passion. There is the Vicomte de Bas-Pouilly, to whom his relationship with Rose over thirty three years means more than marriage could have meant, though Rose can still be jealous of the once glamorous Lady Maclean, whom all men love, and of Edouard's unhappy sister, whom she had never seen... There is Rudi Wolbein, playwright, whose shadowy wife, Cora, suddenly stepped out of character, left him, and became a painter of some renown... There is Ruby Maclean, envied by all, but defeated within herself by the withdrawal of her husband, the hatred of her daughter, Miranda, with whom she had abysmally failed. There's fortune seeking cad, Tuxie, who falls in love with Ruby and marries Miranda, only to make her life a double hell in Jamaica, where they are sent. Such is the cast. The drama is acted out to almost classical tragedy dimensions of death on all fronts, with wasted love and active hate as motivating forces. There is no feel of the modern world; the story - which might have carried conviction in more glamorous days - seems to exist in a vacuum.

Baum, Vicki

DANGER FROM DEER

3.00

Some extroverted emotions and a familiar flourish for the story of Ann Ambros, whose doe-eyes concealed a lifetime of deliberate destruction to those around her, a life-time now in full recall after she is pushed off the platform of a train by her stepdaughter, Joy. From the time when at fifteen Ann had fallen in love with the famous violinist, Florian Ambros, she had let nothing stand in her way - not even his marriage to her older sister in whose death she had been instrumental. Marrying Florian, she later drives him to suicide, ruins Joy's chance at marriage, and is now bent on breaking up her son's home when Joy intervenes, and, for her brother's sake, tries to kill her ... The expected largesse of decor and drama, for the expected audience.

Hindus, Maurice

MAGDA

3.00

From his own early experience in this country as an immigrant farmer, stems a substantial, sentimental if quite earthbound story of Mike Koziol, a Polish boy of twenty-one, who comes to America with a great "hunger for land", goes to work for Titus Lockwood who treats him as a son. And from the beginning there is Mike's worship for Magda, the wife of a neighboring farmer, Dan, - Magda who served the finest food but also read the best books, and whose beauty as well as attempted self-betterment made her suspect. Although aware of the tension between Dan and Magda, Mike still refuses her when she makes herself available, stands by through the tragedy when she becomes pregnant by another man. Dan takes his life, and she leaves forever to atone for his death... A lot of dirt-farming talk and Polish folkways temper the romance with realism, give this a certain vigor. The market however may be less vigorous.

Note: Please, discuss with Mr Don
Elder if we should not set the
foreign language words in
italics. To my mind it would
point up the smellyish back-
ground and cosmopolitan
pretensions of Angelina!

V. B

I showed this to Ethel -

She says it's in house style now
but wants to talk to you about
it before she releases them

VICKI BAUM

Nov. 18, 1950.

Dear Don,

Please have Doubleday's send one set of galley proofs
of DANGER FROM DEER to

sent 11-20-50

Editorial Sudamericana
Calle Alsina 500
Buenos Aires
Argentina

and charge it to my account. I suppose Michael Joseph will have
asked for galley proofs also- if not please let them have some.

Forgive the briefness, I'm dead pooped.

Love as always

Vicki

November 22, 1950

Dear Vicki:

I'm sorry to hear that you feel so tired and I hope you're feeling better now. We have received the galleys of DANGER FROM DEER and we are italicizing the foreign words where you have indicated italics. I'm afraid that this is going to make the style a little inconsistent, but it is almost impossible to be entirely consistent about foreign words.

I have sent galleys to England and also to the publisher in Argentina. These are, of course, uncorrected, but no doubt you will have a chance to see proofs of their editions.

With love,

Donald B. Elder

DBE:hz

Miss Vicki Baum

2477 Canyon Oak Drive

December 5, 1950

Dear Vicki:

DANGER FROM DEER has been taken by the Fiction Book Club. This club does not make any minimum guarantees and it's not a Doubleday Club, so I have no very accurate idea of their circulation. It's one of the smaller clubs, but whatever we get is pure gravy. I hope you're feeling well and able to withstand all the rigors of a family Christmas.

With love,

Donald B. Elder

DBE:bz

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles, Calif.

VICKI BAUM

Dec.20,1950.

Don Darling,

Thanks a lot for the Maugham, I shall take the old Master to bed with me tonight and enjoy his keenedged bitchiness as usual. I'm just in the process of betaking myself to Mexico for the Holidays and want to wish you a very merry X-mas, satisfying New Year with only a mild hangover and not too many good intentions and most of all very good health. At the same time I must bother you to have somebody send me post haste a statement about the amounts paid to me during 1950, I need it for my income tax return. Please don't forget to give my request to whom ever it may concern. After my return I want to settle down to work on my next book although the idea of work somehow seems for the time being rather inconceivable to me. Well, we'll see if I can get this experienced old behind glued to the chair once more.

With all my love

Vicki

\$75000

29 December, 1950

Dear Vicki:

I hope that you have had a good holiday in Mexico and are in good health.

You asked me for a statement concerning the amounts paid to you by Doubleday during 1950. We made no payments except for the advance of \$5,000. on DANGER FROM DEER.

Rosie has just arrived from Europe with a spectacular coiffeur. She is now a platinum blonde and looks very fine indeed. She's very happy to be back and altogether seems to be in excellent spirits. It would be fun if you could come to New York so that we all could have a reunion.

Thanks so much for the new photograph. It's really stunning. I have shyly hinted to the publicity department that they might pay for it.

With love,

Donald B. Elder

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles, Calif.

VICKI BAUM

Jan 11, 1951.

Dear Mr. Elder,

Vicki asked me to write a few words to you as she is at the moment completely submerged in her new book and refuses to answer the telephone. So, please don't mind that the letter has her name and my signature on it.

Vicki would like to know if you have ~~send~~ a set of ~~XXX~~ galley proofs to Edition Sudamericana in Buenos Aires as they have written again and would like to have them as soon as possible.

Thank you very much.

Very sincerely yours,

Carl H. Stewart

Waiting for
bookies

were
sent
11/20/50

15 January 1951

Dear Mr. Ostertag:

We sent galleys of DANGER FROM DEER to Edition Sudamericana in Buenos Aires last November 20th. Since they have not received them, they must have got lost and consequently we will send them a copy of the bound book which we expect to have this week.

Please give my love to Vicki.

All best wishes,

Donald B. Elder

DBE: bz

Mr. Carl Ostertag
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles, Calif.

21 February 1951

Dear Vicki:

I am enclosing a dull royalty statement, without a check, but I hope that the next time, it will be considerable.

DANGER FROM DEER has had a very good advance sale, the way novels are selling these days. I'm extremely disappointed in the reviews, which are very unfair and which seem to reveal in most cases that the reviewer hadn't read the book. However, I hope that the book will sell a long time in spite of them.

I hope everything goes well with you.

With love,

Donald B. Elder

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles
California

DBE/bz

VICKI BAUM

Dear Don,

Please have a copy of my book sent to

Miss H.M.Hirschbach
119 West 87th Street
New York 24, NY.

Mrs. Johanna Mueller
52 Jericho Turnpike
Floral Park, L.I.

Theodor Hagun
895 Westend Ave.
New York City. NY

Dr. Elisabeth Moses
2700 Polk Street
San Francisco

Beth and Dana Reddish
Pacific Grove
Gen.Delivery
Calif.

Thanks

VICKI BAUM

March 1, 1951.

Dear Don,

Thanks for your letter, statement and my five books. I haven't seen any reviews aside from the very benevolent and completely illiterate local ones and something in the New Yorker and ~~MAXWELL~~ Newsweek. Those I thought fair enough, as I myself have no illusions about the qualities of my opus. That the critics don't read it is understandable as long as everything they need to know is told in the blurb. I guess I never get together with the Doubleday sales forces, ^{or} that there should be a just division of work; that is, the writer would write the book and the salesman would try and sell it. Sometimes I have the impression that I could do a better job of selling my books than they do, while on the other hand I doubt they could write it better than I. Miss Thomas has stirred up a lot of people who are only too willing to have me speak on the radio and in all sorts of clubs and I appreciate that. However, after I have spilled charm all over the place and made my pitch for that goddamn book and ~~was~~ succeeded in bringing my listeners under the magic spell of my personality so that a few of them actually bustle around the corner to the bookshop to buy the thing- well there is no book. It's the good old Doubleday policy, I know it, and obviously it's working fine for the shareholders. As for the writer

- well, sometimes I have my doubts, in any case, it's quite a bother to me to have so often to answer letters asking me where they could obtain one or the other of my books and why it can't be had. Forgive me if this sounds especially grouchy, maybe because I'm in bed with influenza bugs sitting all over me, and, anyway, I know that you play on my team.

I should have liked to get to New York in spring but in the meantime I have plunged into work, it goes a little slow but not unsatisfactory, and I figure that it'll take me another three or four months to get through with my first draft. If I get stuck, I might still decide that a bit of NY air might give me a lift.

There is another little item I wanted to tell you though it's strictly confidential yet: a highclass musical is being made of 'GrandHotel' and if things go according to plans it should be on the stage by next winter. I have an idea that in such a case a new cheap edition of the old chestnut would be called for. Sometimes I ask myself, what has Fitzgerald got that I haven't - except dypsomania?

How are you doing? Are you being a good boy? I'd like to go to Europe this summer, how about you?

All my love, as ever

Vicki

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

575 Madison Avenue

6 March 1951

Dear Viaki:

I'm very sorry that you're disturbed to hear that there are no copies of DANGER FROM DEER in book shops. This is a phenomenon that I can only compare to Flying Saucers. It happens with every book that we have ever published; someone always tells us that they have gone to a book shop and have found no copies of the book. Our Los Angeles accounts are particularly well covered, and I'm afraid that, if the bookseller does not have the book, it is because he has failed to order sufficient copies. It is not a Doubleday policy to keep books out of book stores, which you can readily see would be of no advantage to the shareholders who only make money on the books we sell. It happens that the Booksellers of America are the greatest cats in the world and are only too willing to blame the publisher when they don't happen to have the book that the customer wants.

I'm sorry that you've had 'flu. I know how miserable it is because we have all had it here. There seems to have been a small epidemic.

I will make a mental note of the musical of GRAND HOTEL. As soon as you tell me that it is not a confidential matter, I'll go to work on a reprint edition.

I am very well and have got through this winter with far less difficulty than any previous winter in 15 years. I'm afraid that the reason is clean living, which, although very dull, has its compensations.

With all my love,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

575 Madison Avenue

6 March 1951

Dear Vicki:

I'm very sorry that you're disturbed to hear that there are no copies of DANGER FROM DEER in book shops. This is a phenomenon that I can only compare to Flying Saucers. It happens with every book that we have ever published; someone always tells us that they have gone to a book shop and have found no copies of the book. Our Los Angeles accounts are particularly well covered, and I'm afraid that, if the bookseller does not have the book, it is because he has failed to order sufficient copies. It is not a Doubleday policy to keep books out of book stores, which you can readily see would be of no advantage to the shareholders who only make money on the books we sell. It happens that the Booksellers of America are the greatest cads in the world and are only too willing to blame the publisher when they don't happen to have the book that the customer wants.

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I am very well and have got through this winter with far less difficulty than any previous winter in 15 years. I'm afraid that the reason is clean living, which, although very dull, has its compensations.

With all my love,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXX

575 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N.Y.

March 9, 1951

Dear Vicki:

We have a chance to sell second serial rights - i.e. the right to publish in newspapers after book publication - but our contract for DANGER FROM DEER does not include these rights. The usual arrangement is a fifty-fifty split between author and publisher. The sum of money involved is not large, but it's all gravy, and if you would authorize us to handle these rights, I think we might pick up some extra money. Won't you let me know if you're willing to let us handle them?

With love,

Donald B. Elder

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles, Calif.

DBE/bz

cc: Mrs. Pollard

VICKI BAUM

March 12, 1951.

Dear Don,

If you'd let me know a bit more definitely who wants those second serial rights and what they want to pay for it, I could give you a more definite answer. Offhand I'd say that I'd rather not do it; you know that when I make myself write something for the magazines, I get very well paid for it and I don't want to risk lowering my standard as a high-priced magazine author by selling second rights for chicken feed. But thanks for trying to prop up my finances.

How is my little miscarriage doing? I saw it on one or the other bestseller list- does Miss Thomas hustle some business in San Francisco? If one could make the people there think that it contains the dark secrets of somebody of the name of something they probably make a run for it, their local pride and gossip being what it is. Also, if it should help, I could fly over and do my bit.

Down with the fly again, or still, yours fondly

Vicki

the story - Phil Gul. 300
70000 Stan - 200

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

575 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N.Y.

March 15, 1951

Dear Vicki:

We have a chance to sell a condensed one-shot version of DANGER FROM DEER to the Philadelphia Bulletin, and we would stipulate that it could not be published for some months to come so that it did not interfere with the book sale. Another good possibility is the Toronto Star, which might pay \$800.00. Actually, your second serial sales would not effect the price of your first serial sales.

DANGER FROM DEER is doing quite nicely. The last sales figures I have are for February 28th, when it was a little over 10,000 copies, and its weekly rate was very steady. I'll see if we can't start a whispering campaign in San Francisco.

I'm sorry to hear you're still down with 'flu, and I hope you'll get over it quickly.

With love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles, Calif.

~~1. Mrs. Pollard~~
2. Mr. Elder

VICKI BAUM

March 17, 1951.

Dear Don,

Thanks very much, but I really wouldn't like to make hash of my tough old dear for just that little bit of money, so, please let it go. I wouldn't want to have it in any newspaper in the USA and as of Canada, my British agents have the rights to sell it there and, in fact, might already have sold it, as it was published as a first serial in England and I think in Canada too. Thanks very much and all my love

Vicki

Al Lobel

3-5-51

Billing

Don Elder

Please send a copy of Baum: DANGER FROM DEER to each of the following:

Miss H.M. Hirschbach
119 West 87th Street
New York 24, N.Y.

Dr. Elisabeth Moses
2700 Polk Street
San Francisco, Calif.

Mrs. Johanna Mueller
52 Jericho Turnpike
Floral Park, L.I.

Beth & Dana Reddish
Pacific Grove
Gen. Delivery
Calif.

Theodor Hagun
895 West End Ave.
New York, N.Y.

These copies are to be charged to author.

DOUBLEDAY & COMPANY, INC.

Memorandum For Don Elder

Date March 21, 1951

Dept. Editorial

From Mina Turner

Re: GRAND HOTEL by Baum

We are making a contract with Permabooks for publication of the above book at 35¢ in late 1951 or early 1952. The guarantee is \$1000.; royalty is .014 to 150,000 and .021 thereafter. Proceeds will be divided equally with the author.

As you know, this has already been in a 25¢ reprint with Avon and is now out of print with them.

Mina

22 March 1951

Dear Vicki:

I have asked our syndicate department not to try to do anything with the second serial rights of DANGER FROM DEER.

Your request for a reprint edition of GRAND HOTEL must have been telepathic, since we are just now making a contract with Permabooks for publication at 35¢ in late 1951 or early 1952. The guarantee is \$1,000.00, and the royalty is .014 to 150,000 and .021 thereafter, with the usual 50/50 split between author and publisher.

I'm hoping to take my vacation in April, although so far I haven't decided where to go. I hope that you have no more 'flu germs and are feeling well.

With love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles, Calif.

DBE/bz

April 2, 1951

Dear Vicki:

In the course of moving our offices, we have found that our old files have regurgitated a great many manuscripts from the past, some of which are German copies of your books. We have the following titles:

DAS LEBEN OHNE GEHEIMNIS (1932) - many copies.
ULLE DER ZWERG
CARRIERE (ms.)
FALLENDER STERN (also the English translation)
in ms.)
HELL IN FRAUENSEE

I don't like to do anything about them without your permission, so won't you let me know which books or manuscripts you would like to have returned to you, and which can be destroyed.

The manuscript and galleys of DANGER FROM DEER have been returned to us by the press. Would you like to have them back, or shall I throw them away?

DANGER FROM DEER is showing a healthy weekly sale and its total, based on an unaudited figure, is so far about 11,000 copies.

I hope you're feeling well and not working too hard.

With love,

Donald B. Elder

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles 24, Calif.

DEB:BZ

VICKI BAUM

April 5, 1951.

Dear Don,

Thanks very much for letting me know about the treasures you dug up - please, burn all manuscripts, and let me have a few copies of "Ulle der Zwerg" and "Hell in Frauensee". "Leben ohne Geheimnis" and "Fallender Stern" are one and the same book and I wouldn't mind having two or three copies of it. Otherwise I believe that you could sell any German remnants to PETER FISCHER - you will find his address in the classified - he specializes in German books. Manuscript and galleys of "Danger from De" can be thrown away too as far as I'm concerned.

Now another thing which you might relay to Miss Thomas if you will be so kind: I'm going on May 17th to San Francisco to peddle my book at one of Mrs. Girvin's very efficient ~~Mr.~~ "Book and Author Club luncheons". It occurred to me that this could be conveniently combined with an autographing binge at one of the big bookstores, either on May 17th in the later afternoon or on May 18th, as I ~~planned~~ to stay over the week end in San Francisco in any case. As San Francisco is a good reading city and this is a San Francisco book we might sell fairly well up there and Mrs. Girvin would also give it a good build-up. In fact she offered, in case you people are too bored or too sleepy or too something to handle this thing, that she would have your Mr. Myers arrange some rousing festivity of the sort. Me, suffering ~~from~~ senile amnesia, I don't quite remember whether Myers is or is not the good-looking and friendly gentleman to whom you handed me over when I did my research in S.F.? Mrs. Girvin is going to San Francisco on April 10th and she as well as I would like to know whether and what before that. So please, Don, my darling, could you shoot a letter or a wire to me on time?

Thanks and love, still or more or less wobbly with afterflux germs, yours ever

Vicki

sent to Don 11-51

Doubleday & Co.

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles, Calif.

(April 10, 1951)

Doubleday arranging autographing and all possible
publicity for your San Francisco visit.

Details follow. Love.

Don.

VICKI BAUM

May 7, 1951

Dear Don --

As I don't know how and where to contact the Doubleday boys in San Francisco, would you kindly let them know that I

shall be at the Fairmont Hotel, arriving May 17th in the morning. However, I'll have to wash my neck and make my luncheon speech, also at the Fairmont, which means that I wouldn't like any calls etc. until after the lunch.

Another thing -- at the time I went to San Francisco for background you had fastened me to a very nice and helpful former Doubleday man whose name I, in my usual idiocy, have forgotten. Though I think he'll be glad if I leave him in peace, I should at least call him up and thank him once more. Could you tell me name and address?

Had a rather melancholy letter from Rosie, do you see her or is the divorce total?

All the best, as ever,

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vicki".

Express the love in your heart
MOTHER'S DAY
Greetings MAY 13TH
ON TELEGRAPH
 ATTRACTIVE BLANK SPECIAL ENVELOPE



WESTERN UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS	
DL	= Day Letter
NL	= Night Letter
LT	= Int'l Letter Telegram
VLT	= Int'l Victory-Ltr.

(12)
 1951 MAY 11 PM 5 21

day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

NA329 PD=FY LOSANGELES CALIF 11 1122A

= DON ELDER, DOUBLEDAY AND CO =

:575 MADISON AVE:

= SORRY CANNOT AFFORD HANGING AROUND SAN FRANCISCO JUST FOR THE PLEASURE OF MEETING BOOK SELLERS LETS FORGET THE WHOLE THINK

THANKS =

:VICKIE =

May 17

*use party money for ad =
 Cady or Geo. Hughes couldn't be there.*

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

This was per order of Pylce Johnson.

Doubleday & Co.

May 11, 1951

To: Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
SNN Los Angeles, Calif.

Autographing party May 19th cancelled. Will be party May 21st
Monday to meet local booksellers. Please give ~~xxxx~~ your
address to Cady, 441 Phelan Building, and contact him for
details.

Love. Don.

Howard

San Francisco

x

Doubleday & Co, 575 Madison

May 16th, 1951

Miss Mary Lou Mueller
Doubleday & Co., Inc.
441 Phelan Bldg.
760 Market Street
San Francisco 2, Calif.

Please send nice bouquet flowers to Vicki Baum, Fairmont
Hotel May 17th enclosing card saying Love and Good Luck,
Don Elder. Many thanks.

Don Elder

DOUBLEDAY & COMPANY, INC. • PUBLISHERS • GARDEN CITY, N. Y. —

14 West 40th Street, Rockefeller Center

New York 20, N. Y. Circle 6-1700

— HOWARD S. CADY, 441 Phelan Bldg., San Francisco 2, California • YUkon 2-5158

May 16, 1951

[To Mr. Elder]
Dear Mr. Elder:

Helen Girvin of the Book and Author Luncheons telephoned yesterday morning, somewhat upset because the Fairmont Hotel had informed her Vicki Baum had cancelled her reservations. Later Al Meyers of Macy's called, equally concerned because of the ad scheduled for May 17th.

In the afternoon, Mr. Meyers called back to tell me that Helen Girvin, as I understand it a personal friend of Miss Baum, had gotten in indirect touch with her. It seems Miss Baum's daughter is seriously ill and it was necessary for her to cancel her trip to San Francisco. The message as I got it indicated that Miss Baum is most apologetic about the whole thing, and that she might consider making the trip in June.

All this is simply by way of saying that in view of the above I have not sent the flowers that you requested for Miss Baum. I should imagine that you would be hearing from her directly as soon as she has an opportunity to write.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou

Mary Lou Mueller

Mr. Don Elder
New York Office

May 21, 1951

Dear Vicki:

I have heard from our San Francisco office that your trip had to be cancelled because of illness in your family. I don't know the details, but I do hope it isn't serious and I hope whoever the patient is recovers rapidly.

If you are able to make the trip later, we'll try again to arrange some sort of function which will be helpful to the book and not too painful for you. Incidentally, autographing parties seem to be almost out of the question since none of the stores seem to want them.

Curt Riess is here, in an agonizingly complacent mood. In appearance he is completely square. I still see Rosie. Our divorce is not complete; it's just a temporary separation. She's doing one book for another publisher and then she will return to us.

With love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles

DBE: bz

VICKI BAUM

9 4 3 7 2
to Mr. Campbell
to reading
rec. - May 29

Dear Don,

An old friend of mine, Dr. Paul Moses - or maybe he is Prof. at Stanford by now - writes me that he sent Doubleday's a manuscript of popular psychology about his special field which has to do with speech defects and analysis of voices or some such thing. You know that I never recommend things and I wouldn't do ^{it} in this case as I haven't read his stuff; I understand though, that Doubleday's have repeatedly asked to see his manuscript. Anyway, Paul is a very good lecturer and a very amusing and original fellow and it is quite possible that he's got something good there. On the other hand, I'm not sure that his idea about popular writing is the same as Doubleday's. After all, he is a very renowned scientist and his standards might be quite ~~XXXX~~ different from those ^{of the} people who have to sell a book. Far be it from me to inflict upon you another Herr Professor like Dr. Ernst Tert; all I wish to do is possibly to pave the way for Paul's manuscript so that it might be read with a friendly and interested eye.

I'm just getting ready for a brief vacation in Hawaii, my address until the end of June will be Hotel Hana, Maui, Hawaiian Islands.

All the best for you, as ever yours,

Vicki

June 6, 1951

Dear Vicki:

I find that Dr. Paul Moses' manuscript is in the house and is being given very careful consideration. Thanks very much for writing to me about it.

I hope that you'll have a good time in Hawaii and that you'll send me a postcard of a girl in a grass skirt.

With love,

Miss Vicki Baum
Hotel Hana Maui
Hawaiian Islands

DBE: bz

July 31, 1951

Dear Vicki:

I'm sending you a check and a royalty statement covering your account up until April 30, 1951. This amount does not represent the total sales of DANGER FROM DEER and I hope that I will be sending you more at the next royalty period.

I'm afraid that I've forgotten the original title of ONE TROPICAL NIGHT and I don't suppose that it's worth going into. If you want to, I'll have you meet the Perma Book title man personally the next time you come to New York -- he might take us to the Latin Quarter or some other glamorous Broadway bistro. Meanwhile, here is a cool grand to squander on your second grandchild.

I hope you've had a pleasant vacation in Hawaii and are feeling well.

With much love,

Miss Vicki Baum
2477 Canyon Oak Drive
Los Angeles
California

DBE: bz

VICKI BAUM

Aug 6, 1951.

Dear Don,

Thanks for the most welcome check, nice to hear from you in any case. I had neither a nice vacation in Hawaii nor did I feel well, which sounds more sour than I actually am. What are you going to do with your vacations and how are things in general? The original title of "One Tropical Night" was "The Ship and the Shore", but who the hell cares anyway. Forgive me, but I'm in no writing mood tonight, so just thanks, Pal, and all the best.

As ever yours,

Vicki

Baum

VICKI BAUM

November 3d 1951

Don

Dear Ken,

I want to thank you for your very sweet letter, and I just want to repeat to you what I told Don. I don't blame anything or anybody but my own somewhat vague feeling of restlessness and uncertainty for wanting to get away. I guess it's in the air. I've been working very hard - and am still at it - on a very unfriendly novel of which I am by no means sure that I'll wish it to be published in the U S at all. There is no country I love better than this, but, on the other hand, there are so many things going on here which upset me (and I have always been most critical against those I love most, maybe that's why) that I had to clarify for myself a lot by writing it down. In any case, your sales forces wouldn't like it and somehow it wouldn't fit into the Doubleday setting. I'm not sure I'll like it myself after a little while or from some distance, but for the time being this book is the most important thing to me. Let's say I'm working out a compulsion, and that usually isn't a very profitable thing to do, is it? Well, there it is, and you can see by this confidence or confession that I think of you very much as one of my very few close friends. In fact, I'll feel much better with you and Don now that no business gets mixed up in what I hope will be a lasting contact and some good talks when I get to N Y - in early Spring, I hope.

Personally I'm a bit under a cloud just now - Wolfgang has another grave operation coming up next week, just when the younger boy is sent back to Germany by the army, and my own health isn't all it ought to be - but that's less important. However, the two grandchildren are great fun and I'm getting lots of pleasure out of life, malgré tout.

Thanks again, and every good thing to you
always

Vicki

Baum

October 25, 1951

Dear Vicki:

When Don left on leave of absence to write the Lardner book, he broke the news to me that you are leaving Doubleday. This is a great disappointment and I want you to know that you will really be missed. We all loved you here very much and if we have made you unhappy in our handling of one or two of your books that makes us all the more unhappy. I feel a responsibility in this in that I'm afraid your discontent started with my rushing you through that book three years ago. I've never really excused myself for that and feel that that was a piece of very bad judgment on my part.

The main point of this letter is to tell you that we will watch your career with another publisher with the greatest hope for your success. We are happy that you have been with us these many years and we would hardly be friends if we didn't wish you every success in your future.

I had a nice vacation this fall on Martha's Vineyard and ran into Lucy Goldthwaite whom I haven't seen for years. We talked fondly of you. She has her same job at McCall's and looks very well.

My very best wishes to your family and of course to you.

Love,

Ken McCormick
Editor in Chief

DEAR AUCK'S

Miss Vicki Baum,
2477 Canyon Oak Drive,
Los Angeles 28, California.

KMc:PS

October 25, 1951

VICKI BAUM

PS. —
did we card?
We've had her for years

Dec. 16, 1951.

Dear Ken,

Just to say hello and to wish you all good things
for X-mas and whatever kind of New Year you want, - happy or
prosperous, if possible, both.

Love, as always, yours,

Vicki'

7-15-51