

Dec. 21, 1966

Dear Mr St John.

I hope you were not so exhausted as
I was after yesterday. I skipped dinner
and slept three hours. I enjoyed the
conversations but am glad they are past.
I may think

From time to time I may think
of things to add - so I will
jot them down to send later.

First - your asked about the appearance of my mother. If you can picture me with hair combed up and back from my face - and shaped in the back - ~~you can~~ ^{you can} see her. ^{She was same coloring} She was the same size - even to shoes. ⁹

was the same size. -
was always well groomed and modishly
dressed. She had a good personality. I
doubt that she gave too much thought to
Ernest. She had an interesting life of
her own and she trusted me. She never
objected to having me with Ernest - and

I can't imagine the picture painted of
a watchful eye. Ernest was always
and come at both houses.

X + + +

In all fairness to Ernest - I don't
believe he meant to imply a lower
social status in his story. I believe
when he had Bill say I should marry
someone my own kind he meant
someone small townish - narrow
minded and naive. I was all of those
things - and did marry someone
more my own kind. I don't believe
he wanted to imply immorality, either.
In those days it was assumed that
girls were moral - Times have changed
and people of today read more into
situations than could have existed.
Even you - I am sure, couldn't imagine
the innocence and ignorance of the girls
of world war one era.

X + + +

It comes to my mind that just as Ernest always assumed that I knew he wanted to take me to dances and foot ball games - he may have assumed that I knew he might want to marry me some day. Since I didn't get the message - he might have felt it was rejection.

If you ever see Bill Smith, tell him I hold no resentment. If he did turn the course of my life, I feel he did me a service in turning it into a constructive pattern. In Ernest - and in Bill too, for that matter - I saw a goal of sophistication toward which I grew. It was subconscious but quite real.

+ + +

It is strange how certain patterns follow lines entirely apart. All of our children had characteristics that Ernest would have liked - Barbara with her quiet reserved beauty, Georgie

with his warm sensitive artistic nature -
and love of sports and activity - Sid with
his love of hunting and fishing and his
rebellion against a regimented life.
All of them have felt repelled by phony
situations and people. That trait may
have been the greatest contribution that
Ernest made to my character development.
He hated anything of sham or pretence.
X + +

I talked with Sid about the
pictures and he will send them.
He feels I should have copies made
of those you want - will you
be in Florida again to choose?
X + +

When you finish the Henry way
subject - how about telling me something
about your self?

M. Mair
As you can see Ursula was in Duluth not Rochester.
These letters may let you see it a better.

X X X

When I talked with Georgie on Christmas
I told her you asked if Ernest had
seduced me. For a moment she
was shocked into silence and then
she started to laugh. She said she
guessed no one in this world could
believe any one like me could exist
unless they knew me. I am
drawn to worldly people - but live
in a glass case myself.

M -