

Feb. 25t h.

Dear Don,

You aren't even close and there would be no way for you to guess. If you are still interested after your book is on the press I might tell. No, the verb endings couldn't have been from Ernest. It was only because I was as mixed up in language as in everything else.

I have run out of subjects. If you think of any I will try them. Writing, itself, is no strain. It is almost effortless. But in writing about Ernest there is an emotional involvement that I don't quite understand. There is a disturbing pull that I can't describe. When it gets too intense I know I have to run into any sort of outside interest. Wednesday I went to spend two days and nights with a friend in Ormond Beach, including a fun dinner party. So, when I stop telling you things, it isn't reticence but a sort of self preservation. I have heard tell that when someone takes their life they are earthbound for the duration of what would have been the life span. I can well believe it.

You must not feel guilty about involving me in this. It is much better for me to face it. It needed this sort of surgery to open a wound to let it heal. I never even recognized it as a wound. Just to be able to tell you about the writing makes me feel a more normal person. I have even been able to tell Helen, so we are going into some library reading on the subject. So you are sort of a miracle for me, and any help I can give you has been earned. Somehow you, too, are involved in this Hemingway thing. Thank God you are writing it, not I.

When you get to Italy, look up whatever you can find on Caesar Borgia. I will tell you at some later time why.

About language, I can read both French and Spanish fairly easily, but if I have to speak I panic. I have used records for both which are some help in understanding the spoken combinations of words. Perhaps I better make a stab at Italian so you can practice on me.

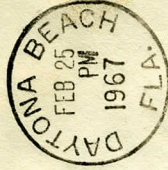
Bring on the questions.

What shall I sign myself? I know what it should be, but this I reject.

Marga

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ZIP CODE