

Dec. 5, 1969

Dear Don - Ruth -

This will be a Christmas letter - for my card is too heavy. I feel Christmas in London will be a special experience - where traditions are deeper.

George has been reading and enjoying the new book on Hemingway way. I have looked into it here and there - and am glad someone has written a more sympathetic view. I still can't read about him with pleasure for as he rejected the people in his past he became a stranger. The Ernest I knew would never have written about me as he did. He could never have written it until after the break up of his first marriage - The bit about the love castle could only have been about the cottage where he spent his honeymoon.

The Ernest of influence in my life was the one unknown by people other than those he later rejected - I don't want to know that ^{later} Ernest -

Of course something of the one I knew
had to live on to cause conflict
and unhappiness.

What complicated
things we mortals be. What small
things change the course of our lives. You
might say his rejection of his mother
caused a break with ~~to~~ us. He
wanted me to reject my mother too -
and worked at it. When I didn't -
he rejected me - and I rejected him.

Of course that is our simplified -
but there is some structure there.

The Bible tells you to honour your
father and mother to be happy -
not necessarily to admire everything
about them - but to honour them.
Perhaps that was a ~~the~~ weakness in
his ^{life} structure.

How I go on -

Merry Christmas

The Tallest Day is
5' 10"

Love and Best Wishes to you both.

Barry -

VIA AIR MAIL



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