

Dec. '69

Dear Don,

I am always amazed with the way you
assaults of Ernest. As soon you know more about
him and think about him more and read his
writing. Until you came along he was nearly
gone from my conscious mind. The fact that
he used my name and wrote as he did
about that person remained - and always
will remain - a wound. I don't remember saying
that he admitted or half admitted that the story
was factual. He said he was sorry and that
everything understood was everything forgiven.
Some of it had to be ^{motivated but} some sort of revenge.
(is not against J.E.) When I know him he got only rejection slips
so he couldn't have thought of himself as an
artist. In those days he would never have
been concerned about making decisions as to
what was best for either of us. I wish you
could picture me as I was - simple - dumb.
illiterate - child like - unsex conscious. No
one would have considered making love to me,
and didn't. On the plus side - I was
usually happy and enjoyed living. We had
gay times and discussed all sorts of things -
mostly I listened. He was over my head and I
knew it - but I was relaxed and easy because
he seemed friendly - not a date. When he

came back from Canada I was not easy
and relaxed with him. That one
letter had spoiled all that. Also - I'm
sure he realized by then how immature
I was - I couldn't compare very well
with people like Irene and Mr. Coynoble.

I never saw him after I began to grow up -
until I was very grown up. All of
the memories I have are good memories,
but I prefer to wall him off after
1920. If I have turned out to be a
solid person - his influence helped to
make me that way. I never think
of him as a man - only a boy - or
very young man. Yes - I know all turned
out for the best - but I feel your
word "decision" - is wrong. Reactions
and a natural course of events led the
way - no mental decisions.

The book I read was Hemingway -
The Writer's Art of Self Defense by Barlow -
a more psychological approach - a new
book at the library. No - I didn't read it.
again - Merry Christmas
Barry.

Air Mail

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