

May 2, 1974

Dear Georgie:

That was dreadful and totally unexpected news you sent me about Marge. Maybe not totally unexpected as to sadness because Marge had seemed depressed and despairing to me, but I hadn't really felt she would go that far. Of course the twiceness of it was and is bothersome, and this feeling was not allayed by my talk with Marge the afternoon of the day your letter arrived. It was a good talk in its way without the pauses I had dreaded nor any moaning or irrationality or anything else really unusual. Marge was bright and sharp and yet she seemed quite positive that she wasn't really better and that she would have been better off if not thwarted in her efforts. She said this without any histrionics; it was matter-of-fact. None of which is new to you, I am sure, but there was one odd note that may surprise you, and I don't wish you to repeat this as it would put me in a bad light. Marge said, talking without prompting whatsoever from me, that of course Hemingway had been more successful than she because he had "better equipment." I said, Marge, I suppose you know that is funny, and she seemed to agree that it was. I tell you this now not out of anecdotal impulse but because it seemed to underscore the seriousness with which she had approached those ill-advised attempts of hers. She seemed to think the whole business had had an allergic origin and she laughed off any regretful doubts of mine that I had drawn her out too much on Hem. This seemed unimportant to her. She seemed genuinely glad to talk to me and I felt good about our

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talk -- and very, very thankful that you had gotten in touch with me. Would like to know what goes on if-at all possible, and whether Marge suffered any residual effects of her actions. Of course I will write. May I say in closing that you have been very loving and creatively thoughtful in what seems sometimes like an unconcerned world. I am not unmindful of what all this means to you in the midst of a busy life earning a living and bringing up a family. Quite moving in fact. All the best to you all,

And sincerely,

Don St. John