

1001.
Saturday Mar 22, 80
(4 letters Rec'd one day)

My dear Don -

Whenever I read one of your letters I am surprised by the way you interpret some of the things I say. It is hard to diagram things in proper time sequence.

About my mother - at that time M. would not have cared what Ernest was doing. Whoever told the story must have wanted to seem to know something. She actually liked Ernest in those days - and both she and Grand mother invited him to eat.

Mother and my stepfather lived in what we called "Our house", the one built by my father. That winter my sister and I lived next door at Grandmother's - for G. ma was alone. I grew up with two

homes. My grandparents always went south for the winter. In the spring I would move myself to grand mother's house.

We called it Grand mother's House even when Grand father was living. Pudge preferred mother's house. We usually chose where to eat according to the menu. I liked pie. Pudge liked ice cream.

During that last year ^{that} I was home - our lives continued to fluctuate between the two houses. Ernest was welcome in both homes. Mother did not dislike Ernest until he wrote me the "Clean slate" letter. Since I didn't see him except casually, after I graduated from High School - there would have been no occasion for Mother to rebuff Ernest's attentions to me. By then his interest was in Irene

Goldstein (Gordon). One time that summer he came to Pittsburgh to take Irene to a dance. He spent the night at Grand mother's. I had another date for the same dance. E didn't dance with me even one time.

(3)

that fall I went to college - and
never saw Ernest again until the
winter he called on us in Armond Beach.

So there goes your romance.
about "that summer" - as you say -
there was no summer. I was
never alone with Ernest - He
gave no ~~indication~~ to me that I
was more important to him than
Connie C - or Helen Sly or Pudge -
(the other rabbits) We mureid in Horton
Bay all that much. We were never paid
by Mrs Delworth to wait on table. We
did it for fun - a few 25¢ tips and
for the ice-cream and cherry pie we could
eat after the dinner parties. Ernest
didn't spend a lot of time at the Bay
either. When he did he stayed most
of the time at the Charles' with Bill.
Sometimes he came over to fish and ~~work~~
spend a few days at the Delworths. It

40
was with in possible walking distance
from Wallson (a short cut) to the Bay.
I walked it several times when Ursula
would visit me for a day or two.

I always liked Ernest and I felt he
liked me - but by no stretch of
the imagination could we have been
considered a two some. Carl Edgar
was always especially nice to us. Bill
Smith was feared by us - but
Ernest always seemed full of adventure.

He gave the colorful nick names -
and thought up what seemed then
exciting things to do.

During the three months in Petropav - I always
went with him to dances - but
mostly because no one else asked me.
after Ernest left - many boys asked
me - probably to find out what I
saw in me. I always thought of
E as a friend - not a date - We

became close friends but no experiment

Never at any time did marriage enter a conversation - and certainly never in my mind.

Much later Mollie told me that E talked to her about me - She told him I was too young to be serious - also that I would not have money as long as Grandmother lived. He had no money or job or prospects. ^{He had no} ^{It may have been} ^{from that time that E} ^{tried to dissuade to M.} ^{tried to dissuade to M.}

When I said Hadley enabled him to write - I meant she had money - and no close family ties - and they could travel. She could make it possible for him to spend time at writing.

About Marcelline - It was in the early days of Ernest's writing that she wanted to loan his books - But in Pelahay, but in Detroit. Ernest was not important there - and both Marcelline and Mrs Hemming way were ashamed of him. They were close to the Dilworths and the way E wrote about them was

worse than the picture he gave of me,
and of course there were others. Later
when Ernest became famous - Marcelle
changed her tune.

As for me - I feel Ernest killed
Marge Bump. Marge Main has
survived. I don't even want a
marker on my grave in Peloskey where
my ashes will be in the Bump lot.
I feel it would discredit the name of
Bump. So if Ernest was
getting revenge for something - he
succeeded.

Enough for now —

Love to you and Ruth —

Marge.

Yes I have watched John's daughter with interest -
Marge resembles Ernest at an early age. Mariel has
a little - but not too much of Sonny.



Mr Don St John

Haverhill

New Hampshire

03765

Main

1111 S. Lakewood

Winter Park, Fla.

32792

