

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

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Jan. 25 , 39

Dear Miss Jean Gould -

Do you believe me that it was a real pleasure to
get your letter? It means a great deal, and it is
a good, encouraging thing - to receive signs - pro-
ving that people don't just listen and forget; but
that there are a few among them - not very many, I
am afraid! - who understand, and remember, and think
a little about the story I tried to tell.

And your letter was especially nice. You must allow
me to tell you: I have the idea you are too modest,
as far as your own writing is concerned. The honorable
suspicion which you have against your own talent
proves, already, that it could not be as weak as all
that. The very fact that it makes you "uncomfortable"

means that it cannot be as poor as you may think it
is. You are absolutely right not to stop writing:
the "self-expression" which gives now satisfaction
to yourself, may give pleasure to many people - one
day.

"quant à moi" - I never stop writing, it's just
a habit of mine - a dangerous kind of a heritage, I guess
- , and I simply need it, like breathing and eating.

"Visit the New York World's Fair 1939 - May to November"

Just now, I am finishing two long books: one non-fiction, "Escape to Life", which is dealing with refugees, ~~which~~ I wrote collaborating with my sister Erika; (it is going to be published ^{by} ~~with~~ Houghton Mifflin, Boston, ⁱⁿ March 1939;) and a big novel - which is much more important to me - , dealing with international exiles as well, but in a different style. It will be published, first of all, in German (by my Amsterdam-publisher;) later, the English translation may appear.

As you tell me that you "always" ~~can~~ read everything you could lay your hands on" - I hope you may be as ^{understanding} ~~comprehensive~~, intelligent and friendly as a reader, as you are in your quality as "Miss Audience".

With my best regards,

sincerely yours,

Klaus
Mann

Klaus Mann.