

## **Verbundkatalog Kalliope**

**Mann, Erika**

**Kilchberg/Zürich, 1955-09-21**

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Erika Mann  
Kilchberg/Zürich  
September 21st, 1955

Dear Mrs. Sharaf.

I am taking care of my late father's film interests and wish to thank you for your letter to him of May 24th. Unfortunately he never got around to answering that communication himself. When it arrived he'd only just returned from Lubeck, and his eightieth birthday with all its official celebrations was about to come. Subsequently he had to go to Holland where he fell ill - and, at any rate, his entire correspondence went bankrupt for the remaining time.

He has, however, mentioned your project to me and did not seem disinclined to enter into negotiations. You mention an "option" without, however, mentioning what you would be prepared to pay. Nor do you suggest at what price you'd expect to acquire the film rights if and when that option would be taken up. As a matter of principle, Thomas Mann never gave an option away. It was his opinion that any prospective buyer should be both willing and able to risk a comparatively minor investment if he aspired to the right to make one of his books into a film. Should he or she not want - or prove unable - to meet the initial cost, it would - according to him - appear to be too doubtful whether he or she commanded sufficient backing successfully to deal with the matter at all. Besides, it is the very essence of an option that the final price of the rights should be settled by it. So, if you remain interested, kindly say how much you'd be prepared to pay now and what, in your opinion, the film rights would yield. Perhaps your Indian prospects could be induced to carry the initial burden.

To my own mind, your project is sound, and as my father told me that both yourself and your husband were somehow involved in "Waterfront", I should think that you'd be just the people to tackle the project.

I am looking forward with interest to your reply.

With best wishes

yours very sincerely

ERIKA MANN

