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Erika Mann
Klinik Hirslanden
Zürich

November 5, 1962

Dearest "Ag", -

as I can't be sure that your secretary is reading German, whilst I now realise that you won't be able to read at all for some little time to come, I am taking my heart into both hands in order at least to try and tell you what a relief it was to hear that the operation had succeeded and subsequently to receive your own letter. Congratulations to us all! Though you must be having a devilish time and though I think I am capable of imagining what you are going through, "The Coming Victory"... - nay, the battle already won is certain to give you all the strength that's needed and a substantial surplus. besides.

Something seems to tell me that I am writing exactly the same sort of English that we used to laugh tears about, when the good Japanese employed it in writing their letters. Tears may not be the right thing for you just now which is why I'll be very short. There is, of course, a great deal I should love to say about "Out of these Roots". I'd much rather say it in German, though and hence have to postpone that particular piece.

The edition of T. M.'s letters in which you are playing such an important and powerful part is coming along nicely. All I am afraid of, really, is the wrong sort of publicity, - any publicity for that matter, - regarding his letters to yourself. This "coup" has to be sprung upon the reading public, and even the faintest whispers which - through no fault of my own, I swear - may have reached the ears of a few busybodies and nonentities such as nosy old Neumeyer would certainly tend to ruin the surprise party. I am asking myself whether you might not possibly find a way to get the letters withdrawn from the curiosity of visiting firemen for the next half a year or so. Surely, the donator should have some right as to what he wants to be shown at a certain period of time, and what not. But then, I don't know all the rules and regulations and can only hope and beg you for the best.

I may have to be moved from my lovely room here to a fairly disgusting one at the "Kantons-Hospital" on account of a highly qualified bone specialist who is working there and only there. Well, - as long as there is a chance, I'll take it anyway, - room or no room. The one and only thing that angers me with regard to the roomless situation is, that I shan't be able to work. However, I should probably not have to stay at the Kantons-Hospital for more than a few weeks and hope to be able to make up for that time immediately afterwards.

With thousands of golden wishes and humble as well as tender compliments yours unkenptly,