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Mann, Erika

Pacific Palisades, 1950-09-05

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Erika Mann
1550 San Remo Drive,
Pacific Palisades, California,
September 5th, 1950

Dear Mrs. Gedin,-

I am hurrying to reply to your letter which was just received. Of course, I should be very glad to try and cut the piece by four pages - or rather by three pages and two thirds of one - which would bring it down un length to exactly 12 pages. While waiting for you to answer the question I am about to ask, I shall already go to work. However - and here comes the question - I'd like to know whether "Vi" insists on its proposed elimination of the last four pages, or whether I'd be permitted to omit whatever I please (needless to say no cut actually pleases me at all). It would seem to me that, following a lot of analysis, criticism, and (well founded, richly documented) despair, there exists some need for some kind of constructive suggestion - some road sign pointing at a "way out" of the present mess, and that it is ~~then~~ precisely the last pages of my article which constitute that sort of thing. Were I to omit all of my closing remarks, the piece would be found wholly lacking in any "positive" attitude whatever. Thus, while I am planning to cut throughout the article, eliminating bit by bit what can be spared, and while consequently some of my final conclusions will have to go along with a number of sentences and paragraphs to be found elsewhere, I'd rather not sacrifice the entire end. In fact, I am not so sure, whether I'd like to see the piece appear without it. So please tell me with the utmost dispatch just what "Vi" expects me to do. I should be willing to present the end in more general terms but I'd hate to see it go completely.

My parents don't honestly know which of T.M.'s books are still free for Denmark. Can't you find out - say by advertising your inquiry in some Danish "Buchhaendler-Borsenblatt"?

Enclosed find signed authorisation for "Stoffel".

Kindest regards from

yours as ever cordially



BAUR AU LAC
ZURICH

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[September 5th
1950]

Re John Peel

