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Mann, Erika

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June 13, 1960

Mr. Carlo Fiore
119 Larrabee Street
Los Angeles 46, California
U S A

Dear Mr. Fiore, -

I am extremely sorry for my tardiness in answering your letter of March 24. However, I have been rather ill in the meantime, had to undergo a tiresomely lengthy cure in Vienna and have only now been able to discuss your proposition both, with my family and with the German producers, "Filmaufbau", who have produced all Thomas Mann-films so far, - i.e. "Royal Highness", "Felix Krull", and "Buddenbrooks".

As for the "Filmaufbau's" own offer - made about half a year ago - it would provide us with a cash settlement of DM 80 000 (\$ 20 000) as well as with a 30 percent share in all proceeds from the Anglosaxon markets. Also, in dealing with "Filmaufbau" we should retain our remake rights. That is to say that the proposed German film might be shown in the English speaking world either in German with English subtitles or in a synchronised version, and we should be free - after a short intervall - to sell the English or American rights.

Our hesitation - so far - to conclude a contract with "Filmaufbau" has two reasons:

1.) Filmaufbau is most anxious concerning a German-English or German-American Co-Production of "The Magic Mountain", and it would seem unwise to have any one firm involved in two such projects simultaneously.

2.) No German firm would - according to my father's will - be permitted to produce a screen version of any of his books unless I were leadingly coresponsible for the screen play. And as "The Magic Mountain" is bound to consume most of my time, I could not possibly sign a contract which would oblige me to write the screen play for "Death in Venice" as well.

13 Jan 80
copy to HOK

I am, of course, completely ignorant as to your financial possibilities. However, I am afraid you would have to meet the German offer (copy of which I should present you with, as soon as you so desire) in order to acquire the rights. In other words, the rights would be available for \$ 30 000 (thirtythousand). You'll understand that the German cash offer of \$ 20 000 constitutes only a part of the actual offer which - including that 30 percent share in all proceeds from the Anglosaxon markets, as well as our continued remake rights - actually amounts to considerably more than the mentioned total amount.

8/1/80

Shortly after your second letter arrived, we had another urgent inquiry from the United States. It is for that reason that I must ask you to decide quickly. Unless you do, we should have to communicate with those "second American bidders".

I realise that having kept you waiting for so long it might seem somewhat unfair that we are now pressing you for time. But then, things are as they are - personally, I am only acting as the Estate's authorized agency ; and even more personally, I have come to the conclusion, that your approach to "Death in Venice" and its proposed screen version is the one that most appeals to me. Also, I should be very glad to cooperate with you regarding the screen play, should you feel able and willing to meet our financial requirements.

Please let me hear from you at your very earliest convenience.

With best regards

yours sincerely,

ERIKA MANN

