

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Erika

o.O., 1963-12-08

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December 8, 1963

Dear Dr. Fago, -

many thanks for your letter of November 30th. However, unless I am very much mistaken, my sister, Elisabeth Mann-Borgese, told us about your project some time ago and neither my mother nor myself felt your suggestions to be acceptable. Above all you were planning to transplant "Disorder and Early Sorrow" to Italy and into the time immediately following World War II. This alone would suffice to remove the proposed film so thoroughly from Thomas Mann's story that we couldn't possibly wish for it to be produced. Besides, the terms of the contract, as reported by my sister, were quite unsatisfactory.

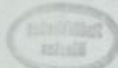
In the meantime - according to your letter - you have succeeded in finding a producer, and perhaps this has altered the whole thing. Just at present and throughout January I should not be able to see you here, as I am extremely busy with some work which has to be finished before February first. By that time I should be very glad to have you visit with us provided you have changed your ideas concerning the story and are ready with terms superior to those formerly mentioned.

From all you say I take it that you are an experienced scriptwriter and assistant-director, and I also believe that you are serious about the undertaking. Even so you will understand that we cannot permit any of T. M.'s works to be adapted for the film in a way so alien to his own conceptions.

With renewed thanks for your interest and best regards

yours sincerely,

PS. Mind you, I can easily understand that and why an ~~American~~ Italian screenwriter should shrink from adapting a story the action of which takes place in Germany and in the early twenties. But then, if you wish to do a Thomas Mann-film, why not approach "Mario and the Magician" which would be so much more suitable for your purposes ?



29/12/63