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Mann, Erika

o.O., 1963-03-09

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March 9, 1963

Miss Kay Brown
Ashley-Steiner Inc.
555 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Kay, -

thanks for your letter of March 5th just received. In replying I enclose both, a letter from Bill Koshland, Knopf's leading man, and my answer to him. In addition, my mother is about to drop Knopf a few personal lines urging him not to be difficult. Alfred, though a close friend of ours does indeed, as you say, always want his piece of the pie. Which is why I am a little anxious in this context. Even so, an effort wanted to be made. All the more so since Mrs. Vaughan's excellent adaptation is indeed based - mostly literally - on the Lowe-Porter translation. Well,- let's hope for the best.

You have never reacted to the part of my letter of February 19th which dealt with the proposed "DEATH IN VENICE" film. May I ask whether you have got in touch with José Ferrer's agent, Mr. Reiskind? It now becomes imperative for me to tell Mr. Robert Littman just where he stands and whether or not we consider a new deal with him to be feasible. Needless to say any such deal would have to be negotiated by you and I would have to inform Mr. Littman accordingly. On the other hand and as explained before, I am uncertain whether or not José Ferrer actually wants Littman for his producer,- provided that we want Ferrer to play the double role obviously envisaged by him. I am quite aware of the fact that it is a somewhat involved business I am offering to you. Nevertheless I'd think it unwise not to follow matters up and see what might result. As soon as I have heard from you in this context, I shall - provided your answer looks sufficiently positive - send you our original option contract with Littman and explain what we should like to have altered.

Please say thanks for me to Bridget Aschenberg for the trouble she took in finding out about "Gabriele". Let's hope that your Rome representative will be able to unearth the play.

As ever with kindest regards,

