

jacques chambrun
745 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

Hewitt H. Howland

October 22, 1935

Dear Mrs. Draper:

I was glad to read the new batch of stories which you sent me.

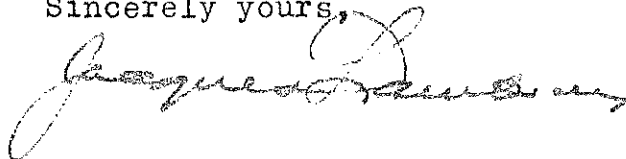
The most outstanding in the group is "Cordelia Klein-dienst's Coat" -- an excellent example of its type. The writing is vivid, perceptive, well balanced; and the grim tale is dramatically unfolded. You have a talent for atmospheric effect that is reminiscent of some of William Faulkner's work. The story, as told through the mother's thoughts, expresses her character finely, I think. I do not know whether you are aware, however, that there is no market for this type of story. It is too stark and tragic in theme and inspiration for the popular, high-paying publications. It would go with one of the new-type magazines who pay very little or nothing to contributors.

The same objection for non-marketability is applicable to all the other manuscripts. They all have a fine, real atmosphere, done with a certain arresting artistry, but the characters you have chosen to write about are drab and commonplace -- and therefore unsuitable to the general magazines. "Hands Hanging Down" is very powerful (though disagreeable; "Children of Liz" is cryptically arresting; the revision of "Quinine and Honey" is still not quite right, nor is "I Love the Frontier" written with the same skill as some of the others; "Laughter" is too horrible and somewhat unconvincing, though it has a Poe-like quality in effect.

Your particular technique in writing and story development is so commendable that I should be happy to see you turn to more cheerful and normal subject matter.

Mr. Howland has spoken to me of your novel, and I hope you will look it over with his criticisms in mind. If I am to judge from the stories you have sent me, your writing, in a farm novel, would arouse much critical acclaim.

Sincerely yours,



Mrs. Edythe Squier Draper

Encls. Six mss. as above