

2215 Devonshire Drive
Cleveland Heights 6, Ohio
13 October 1948

Dear Mr. Stegner:

This letter may be unnecessary but it seemed to me desirable that it should be written and, in any case, it can do no harm.

In looking through the biographies in the current collection of O. Henry Prize stories (in which, by the way, I liked yours), I find to my horror that you have published a book entitled "On a Darkling Plain". It occurred to me that in reading the other stories (if you have not already done so), you will discover that I have used the title "As on a Darkling Plain" for an imaginary book of verse published by one of my characters. When you make this discovery you may think that it was done with the intention of ridiculing you. The fact is that at the time I wrote the story I had read several of your things and could have identified the titles of several others but that one I had never heard of at all. I selected the title because so many books are nowadays labelled with lines of verse and that seemed to me a likely one. How likely I have just learned! If this odd circumstance should earn you some kidding from your friends, I should not be particularly distressed, but I should be sorry to learn that it caused you any real embarrassment.

Sincerely yours,

James B. Gidney
James B. Gidney

*ack
10/16/48*

BLE ADDRESS
ASITE, NEW YORK

TELEPHONES
MURRAY HILL 3-5890-1-2-3-4

BRANDT & BRANDT

101 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK

December 14, 1949

airmail

Mr. Wallace Stegner
Box 860K
Route 2
Los Altos, California

Dear Wally:

The Heath office writes me that Hammond now wants to take up ON A DARKLING PLAIN at the same terms as for BIG ROCK CANDY MOUNTAIN. They had hoped to publish BIG ROCK CANDY MOUNTAIN this year, but manufacturing difficulties made it impossible. I know from my experience on other books that there is a pile-up at the printers in England. ON A DARKLING PLAIN then would come out presumably in the Spring of 1951.

Is this all right with you?

Yours,

Bernice

BB:SH

BRANDT & BRANDT

101 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK

December 14, 1949

Box 860K, Route 2
Los Altos, California
December 19, 1949

airmail

Mr. Wallace Stegner
Box 860K
Route Miss Bernice Baumgarten
Los Brandt & Brandt
101 Park Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Wally:
Dear Bernice:

I shrink a little at the notion of ON A DARKLING PLAIN in an English edition and yet I suppose having committed it, I had better take the consequences. The thing which I don't like is of course the postponing of THE BIG ROCK CANDY MOUNTAIN. Does this proposal mean that ON A DARKLING PLAIN would be published in the spring of 1951 and THE BIG ROCK CANDY MOUNTAIN after that? Or does it mean that THE BIG ROCK CANDY MOUNTAIN will be published this coming spring and ON A DARKLING PLAIN the year following? I hope the latter. Either way, I suppose it is all right with me. I'll leave it up to you.

Thanks for everything.

Yours,

Bernice

Yours,

BB:SH

Wallace Stegner

BRANDT & BRANDT

101 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 17

Telephone MUrray Hill 3-5890

December 22, 1949

airmail

Mr. Wallace Stegner
Box 860K, Route 2
Los Altos, California

Dea Wally:

I'm sorry I was not clearer
in my letter. THE BIG ROCK CANDY MOUNTAIN
will be published in 1950, and if Hammond
can get it out early enough they will
probably follow along with ON A DARKLING
PLAIN in the Fall of 1950, but if not it
will be out by the Spring of 1951. I will
tell Patience to go ahead because I think
it is just as well to have the English
publication schedule complete.

Yours,

Bernice

BB:SH

BRANDT & BRANDT

101 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 17

Telephone MUrray Hill 3-5890

March 6, 1950

Mr. Wallace Stegner
Box 860K
Route 2
Los Altos, California

Dear Wally:

I've just heard from London
that since Cape has announced a book by
Phoebe Fenwick Gaye called ON A DARKLING
PLAIN Hammond will have to change the
title of your book to CLASH BY NIGHT. Is
this all right?

Sincerely,

Bernice

BB:SH

Box 860K Route 2
Los Altos, California
March 15, 1950

nd for your services
with me if they
old title was pretty

ace Stegner

BRANDT & BRANDT
101 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 17
Telephone Murray Hill 3-5890

March 8, 1950

Mr. Wallace Stegner
Box 860K
Route 2
Los Altos, California

Box 860K Route 2
Los Altos, California
March 15, 1950

Dear Wally:

Dear Bernice:

Enclosed is the contract for Hammond & Hammond for your services on which many thanks. It is quite all right with me if they choose to call it CLASH BY NIGHT. That other old title was pretty threadbare anyway.

Best,

Sincerely,

Yours,

Wallace Stegner

Miss Bernice Baumgarten
Brandt & Brandt
101 Park Avenue
New York 17, New York

survey it to Hammond + Hammond

BRANDT & BRANDT

101 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 17

Telephone MUrray Hill 3-5890

airmail

August 7, 1952

Mr. Wallace Stegner
Box 860K
Route 2
Los Altos, California

Dear Wally:

If you don't want ON A DARKLING
PLAIN published in England, by all means
cancel the contract. The Heath office
will mind no more than we do. Then you
can decide for yourself whether you want
to repay Hammond's £75 or whether you
want to have it deducted from other
royalties due you on the other books.

Just tell me what you are going
to do and we will then, if you want
to cancel, instruct Heath to go through
the usual formalities.

Yours,

Berndt

BB:LB

P.S. Is that short story going to turn
into a novel?

BRANDT & BRANDT
101 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 17
Telephone MUrray Hill 3-1155

August 18, 1952

Miss Bernice Baumgarten:
BRANDT & BRANDT
101 Park Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Bernice:

I guess I really do want Hammond & Hammond
to junk ON A DARKLING PLAIN, and not bring it
out. If you will put the proper machinery in
motion so that Heath can convey this to Hammond
& Hammond, I will appreciate it. I believe it
will be all right with Mr. Guttman if the 75
pounds are deducted from royalties due or to
become due on other books.

The short story is in no danger of turning into
a novel. As a matter of fact, its principal danger
is paralysis at the moment.

WS:nk

Yours,

BB:LB

Is the short story going to turn
into a novel?