

FINCA VIGIA, SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA, CUBA

November 7 1952

Caro Alberto

Dear Alberto :

Last night I received a copy of the MONDADORI magazine EPOCA which reached here via the S.S. Andrea Gritti . It contained a translation of the end of ACROSS THE RIVER AND INTO THE TREES a novel I had expressly forbidden you to publish .

Get an accurate translator to translate the rest of this letter for you so there will be no doubt in your mind as to what it says . I will commence it in Italian in a phrase you may remember :

NOTA BENE

A: You were expressly forbidden to publish this book in Italian translation until I gave you permission .

B: I expect an apology from you by return air-mail for this violation of confidence . As you know an apology means nothing unless it comes from a gentleman . ~~But nevertheless~~ I will expect this apology by return mail .

C: I know nothing about whether LIFE will grant you permission to use their illustrations for The Old Man and The Sea .

D: I expressly forbid you to use any letter I may have written to Daniel Longwell as Editor of LIFE as though it were a letter written to you .

E: FOR YOUR INFORMATION : The Old Man and The Sea is selling very well all across the U.S. Scribner's have written me that they are very satisfied with it's sale and that I should pay no attention to the Best Seller rankings as the three top , or four top , books are selling almost the same in the bookstores and the rankings mean no more than the positions of the horses in the first third of a race when they are closely bunched . They are starting a nation wide advertising campaign in November which, they write me , is fully justified by the sale of the book .

The book is selling in England at the steady rate of 2000 copies a week and Cape writes me that he anticipates a sale of 100,000 by the end of the year .

F: I have three more books completed that are from one and one ~~half~~ half to twice and three times the length of The Old Man and The Sea . You will publish no one of these books ever unless you keep your word to me in every way . I write you this directly , rather than through a lawyer , so you get it clear, hard and straight . Be sure your translator is competent so that there are no mis-understandings .

With best personal regards to you and to Virginia and best wishes for the Holiday season to all of your family and my respects to your father .

Yours very truly ,

E. W. Hemingway

Il libro si vende in Inghilterra a un ritmo continuato di 2000 copie alla settimana e Cape mi scrive che prevede una vendite di 100.000 copie per la fine dell'anno.

F: Ho ~~tre~~ altri tre libri finiti che sono lunghi da una volta e una volta ~~mezza~~ e mezza e due volte più del Vecchio e il mare . Non pubblicherai nessuno di questi tre libri se non mantieni la parola con me in ogni ~~aspetto~~ aspetto e circostanza . Ti scrivo direttamente piuttosto che attraverso un avvocato in modo che tu possa vedere chiaro, perentorio e