

FINCA VIGIA, SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA, CUBA

5/7/50

My Dear Alberto :  
Here are the presentations of the three books and the few words you requested . You do not have to pay me anything . Because it something of love . But I wish you would send ~~xxxxxxx~~ the money to Dom Francesco , the Priest of Torcello and tell him it is from me . He can use it any way he wants .

AFRICAN QUEEN " This is a strange lovely ~~book~~ ,disquieting book that you may believe or not . But it will take you to a country where you have never been ."

Ernest Hemingway

The Big Sky : There has never been a finer account of the days of the mountain men in the American West . ~~and~~ There probably never will be ."

Ernest Hemingway .

The Man Eating Leopard : This is the best book about hunting and being hunted that I have ever read . It is so beautifully written and so true that everything returns to you as though you had lived it yourself . It has beauty ,terror and truth ."

Ernest Hemingway .

Excuse being late . Had a bad delay on reception of proofs . Then an accident on the sea .

I hope you like the piece about Torcello . Please have Nanda translate it and Adriana illustrate it .Please tell them both how short you asked me to write it so no one will think I had the impudence to try to compress 1500 years into 150 words .

Best to you and Virginia and to your family ,

May sends her love  
Mister Papa.