

CURTIS BROWN

162-168 Regent Street, London W1R 5TB

Telephone 071-872 0331, Fax 071-872 0332

2 March 1994

Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St Andrews
Jamaica
WEST INDIES

Dear Mr Abrahams

Faber have no plans to reprint A WREATH FOR UDOMO, and in their letter to us of 16 February 1994 they agreed to revert the rights to you forthwith.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Caroline Belgrave

CURTIS BROWN GROUP LTD. LONDON NEW YORK SYDNEY

Directors Robert Loder (Chairman), Peter Murphy (Managing Director), Diana Baring, Sebastian Born, Tim Curnow (Australia), Sue Freathy, Antony Harwood, Julia Kreitman, Diana Mackay, Anne McDermid, Anthea Morton-Saner, Peter Robinson, Leah Schmidt, Vivienne Schuster, Michael Shaw, Elizabeth Stevens

Incorporating John Farquharson

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Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

From the office of Emilie Jacobson, Senior Vice President

April 27, 1983

Mr. Peter Abrahams
P.O. Box 20, Red Hills
St. Andrew, Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I'm glad that you wrote. It turns out that in error our accounting department had deducted too much tax. We are required to withhold 10% tax for residents of Jamaica, but not the 30% that was deducted. Accordingly, I'm enclosing our check refunding \$14.12 Please accept our apologies.

I am also enclosing for your signature a copy of the form that entitles you to the reduced tax rate.

It has been a long time since the last book and I'm happy that a new novel will be coming along soon. Can I persuade you to include with it some up-to-date autobiographical notes? It would be helpful, since you and I have not worked together on a book before.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

EJ/lf
enc.

August 25,
1983

Miss Emilie Jacobson,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York 10022, N.Y.
U.S.A.

Dear Miss Jacobson,

I have not written till now because I have not yet finished the very last reading of the final draft of my new novel. However, Faber and Faber, whose Export Marketing Manager was here in Jamaica at the end of May and who took a copy of the draft as it then was with him, have just written me to express great excitement with what they have read. They want to publish. But because it is a very long book, running into well over 600 pages, there is a problem of putting out the book at a price that will not frighten readers away. To do this economically, they feel, they have to make the initial print run as high as possible. They have therefore asked me to afford them world rights in this instance, and it seems to me only fair that I should allow them this in light of the financial risk they are prepared to take. I will therefore not be offering this novel for sale to any American publishing house.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

cb

MW

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y. 10022



VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica
WEST INDIES



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

From the office of Maureen Walters

3 May 1982

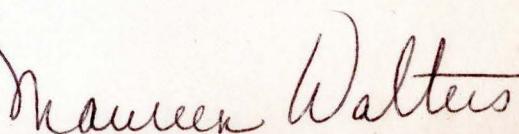
Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica
WEST INDIES

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Thank you for your letter of April 20th and the signed Hungarian contracts for A WREATH FOR UDOMO. Thank you also for the copyright renewal form--we will take care of the rest.

Concerning the South African request for paperback rights, we have had a further letter from the publisher clarifying that it is an English language reprint they want to do rather than an Afrikaans translation. As this is the case, the matter should definitely be referred to Faber & Faber, and we have already written the South African publisher to say so.

Sincerely,



MW/sj



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

21 November 1980

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Box 20, Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica BW1

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Enclosed please find five (5) copies of the agreement with John Lehman for his use of WILD CONQUEST, now signed by Mr. Lehman. If all appears satisfactory to you, please sign all five copies, retain one for your files, and return the other four to me. I will then see that Mr. Lehman has his fully executed copy, at which time the \$250.00 due on signing should be paid.

Thank you for your patience, and I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Philip S. Minges, III
Film/Dramatic Rights

enclosure

DRAMATIZATION AGREEMENT

Agreement made and entered into as of this 10th day of November, 1980, by and between Peter Abrahams c/o Curtis Brown, Ltd., 575 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022 (hereinafter referred to as the "Owner") and John Lehman (hereinafter referred to as the "Composer/Librettist").

FIRST: The Owner represents and warrants:

- a) That he is the sole owner and/or proprietor of the copyright and all stage performance rights in and to the book entitled WILD CONQUEST by Peter Abrahams (hereinafter referred to as the "Book").
- b) That the Book does not violate or infringe upon any copyright, property rights or civil rights of any nature of any person, firm, corporation or other entity, and that no claim has been made against Owner to such effect. The Owner makes no representation or warranty regarding the title of the Book, except that the Owner warrants and represents that the Composer/Librettist's right to use said title, should the Dramatist choose to do so, has not been affected by any act or omission of Owner and that to the best of the Owner's knowledge and belief, said title may be used in connection with the rights granted hereunder.
- c) The Owner will indemnify and hold harmless the Composer/Librettist and others claiming through him for any claim relative to the rights transferred hereunder. With respect to material original with the Composer/Librettist, the Composer/Librettist will indemnify and hold harmless the Owner, from and against any claims, demands, suits, losses, damages, judgements, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorney's fees) arising out of or by reason of any breach of any of the representations and warranties contained herein.

SECOND: The Owner hereby grants and assigns to the Composer/Librettist the following rights, all to be exercised in the Composer/Librettist's sole discretion, except as hereafter set forth:

- a) To dramatize or cause the Book to be dramatized and to cause an Opera to be prepared (hereinafter referred to as the "Opera") based upon and utilizing all or part or parts of the Book.
- b) The Owner agrees that in the preparation of the Opera, the Composer/Librettist may rearrange, change, transpose, interpolate into, add to and subtract from the Book, its language, plot, action, dialogue, characters or otherwise, all to such extent as the Composer/Librettist in his sole discretion may determine.
- c) To, in Composer/Librettist's sole discretion, use the title of the Book, or any simulations or variations thereof, as the title of the Opera or any adaptations thereof.
- d) To select and contract with any other composer/librettist and with any other author as may be determined by the Composer/Librettist in his sole discretion for the purpose of preparing, composing and/or writing the Play.
- e) To attempt to secure a publisher/licensor for the purposes of exploiting the life of the Opera by means of publication of a score of the Opera.

THIRD: In full consideration for the rights granted hereunder to the Composer/Librettist and the representations and warranties made hereunder the Composer/Librettist agrees to pay or cause to be paid to the Owner the sum of \$250.00 for a three year non-exclusive

option. This option is renewable for an additional two-year period for an additional \$250.00. PLUS the Composer/Librettist agrees to pay or cause to be paid to the Owner One-Half (1/2) of all monies including advances, royalties, and any other income received by the Composer-Librettist, from any performance, exploitation or use of the Opera. The second option payment of \$250.00 will apply against the royalties received from such use of the Opera.

FOURTH: The Composer/Librettist agrees to complete the Opera and submit the Opera to the Owner for Owner's approval, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld. If the Opera is disapproved by Owner, all rights hereunder shall revert to the Owner.

FIFTH: Nothing in this contract shall be deemed to obligate the Composer/Librettist to prepare or present or cause the Opera to be produced and presented. However, if the Composer/Librettist shall fail to complete the Opera within the option period, then all rights will revert to the Owner.

SIXTH: All agreements made by the Composer/Librettist relating to the production of the Opera and exercise of any rights therein shall provide that in all advertising and publicity issued by or under the control of the Composer/Librettist or any licensor/publisher or grantee of the Composer/Librettist, the author of the Book upon which the Opera is based shall be accorded substantially the following credit wherever the name of the Composer/Librettist shall appear, directly beneath the name of the Composer/Librettist:

"Based upon WILD CONQUEST by Peter Abrahams"

Such credit shall appear in size and type to be determined by the various producers thereof but shall be no less than one-half (1/2) the size of type accorded the Composer/Librettist.

SEVENTH: Any and all disputes, claims, or controversies arising out of, under, or in connection with this agreement or the breach thereof shall be submitted to arbitration to be held in New York City under the rules and regulations then obtaining of the American Arbitration Association governing three member panel. It is further agreed between all parties to this agreement that the decision of the majority of the panel shall be binding to all parties to this agreement. Judgement upon the award rendered may be entered in the highest court of the forum, State or Federal, having jurisdiction.

EIGHTH: All notices due the Owner under this agreement shall be sent care of and all sums of money due the Owner under this agreement shall be paid to and in the name of the Owner's agent, Curtis Brown, Ltd. at 575 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022 and the receipt of the said agent shall be a good and valid discharge of all such indebtedness; and the said agent is hereby empowered by the Owner to act as agent on his behalf in all matters arising from and pertaining to this agreement. For services rendered and to be rendered, the Owner does hereby irrevocably assign and transfer to said agent and said agent shall retain a sum equal to ten percent (10%), as an agency coupled with an interest, out of all gross monies accruing to the account of the Owner under this agreement prior to deductions from or charges against such monies for an reason whatsoever.

NINTH: All rights in and to the Book of every kind whatsoever which are not specifically granted herein to the Composer/Librettist are retained by the Owner for his sole use and disposition.

TENTH: This agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the parties hereto and may only be amended in writing by an instrument signed by both parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have set their hands the day and year first above written:

John Glenn Lehman
COMPOSER/LIBRETTIST

Pat Abraham
OWNER

UWI Libraries



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

April 18, 1978

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills PO
St. Andrew
Jamaica, WI

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the renewal form for WILD
CONQUEST.

Sincerely,

Amy M. Dennis
Ass't to Emilie Jacobson

Enc..

Certificate

Registration of a Claim to Renewal Copyright

FORM R

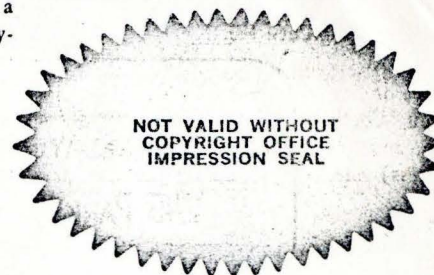
REGISTRATION NO.
R 663750

DO NOT WRITE HERE

This Is To Certify that the statements set forth on this certificate have been made a part of the records of the Copyright Office. In witness whereof the seal of the Copyright Office is hereto affixed.

Barbara Kiger

Register of Copyrights
United States of America



1. Renewal Claimant(s), Address(es), and Statement of Claim:

(a) Name **Peter Abrahams**

Address **P.O. Box 20, Red Hills, St. Andrew, Jamaica, West Indies**

Claiming as **author**

(b) Name

Address

Claiming as

(c) Name

Address

Claiming as

2. (a) Title:

WILD CONQUEST

(b) Renewable Matter:

(c) Contribution to Periodical or Other Composite Work:

(Title of periodical or composite work)

If a periodical, give: Vol.; No.; Issue Date

3. Authors of Renewable Matter:

Peter Abrahams

4. Facts of Original Registration:

Original registration number: Class **A** ; No. **43792**

If registered as published, give date of publication **4/26/50**
(Month) (Day) (Year)

If registered as unpublished, give date of registration
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Original copyright claimant **Peter Henry Abrahams**

Complete all applicable spaces on next page

EXAMINER

Hul



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

From the office of Emilie Jacobson, Senior Vice President

March 21, 1978

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills PO
St. Andrew
Jamaica, W1

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Thank you for your letter of the 9th. I've investigated the copyright situation with respect to WILD CONQUEST and am pleased to tell you that Doubleday had already taken care of the renewal in connection with their Anchor edition. As soon as I receive from them a photo-copy of the renewal papers I will ship it along to you.

I am asking our accounting department to take care of the Dramatists Guild dues.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

EJ/amd

March 9, 1978

Miss Emilie Jacobson,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Dear Miss Jacobson,

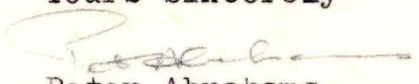
There are two comparatively minor but important matters on which I would be most grateful for your help.

First, there is the matter of the renewal of copyright on my novel WILD CONQUEST as indicated in the attached letter from Harper and Row. I am not quite sure of just how to go about it from this distance and I would be grateful if your office would file the necessary application on my behalf.

Second, this island now is so desperate for foreign exchange and is trying so hard to prevent any U.S. dollars from being spirited out of the country that even those of us who earn foreign exchange have an almost impossible time trying to get permission to get such small sums as would pay for my Dramatist Guild subscription, hence the attached Guild dues slip. I had meant to write you asking that you hold back from whatever receipts you got for me enough to cover this subscription on an ongoing basis; your latest remittances reminded me and so I am now asking you to pay the Dramatists Guild this sum on my behalf. In the event there is any difficulty over this I will write Innes Rose of John Farquharson Ltd. of London to arrange to repay you out of my British and European royalties which are in better shape than my U.S. earnings.

Thank you in advance.

Yours sincerely


Peter Abrahams



Cartis Brown, Ltd.

55 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Mr. [illegible]

Thanks for your note of 27 September regarding the situation with David Philip publisher. I just want to check that you were telling me merely as information, and that you would be contacting them yourself. I don't mean this in an officious way, but just to make sure our signals are straight. Please do let me know if I am misunderstanding, and thanks again.

Best wishes,
Eric Flaum

F48A



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022 [212] 755-4200

12 September 1984

Mr. Peter Abrahams
P.O. Box 20
Red Mills
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

We have received the attached letter from David Philip Publisher in South Africa. I had originally heard from them in March, asking about the American publisher for PATH OF THUNDER, at which time I told them that that was a work which we did not represent, and for which I could find no American publisher. I have spoken to Emilie Jacobson, who thinks that this might have been the "new novel" you had discussed with her, but for which you eventually sold world rights to Faber.

If such is the case, then I pass all of this information along to you to deal with David Philip as you wish. Of course if I am mistaken and this is a title for which we did represent you, please let me know, and let me know how you wish to proceed. Of course, if you have any questions, please let me know, and I'll certainly help in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Eric Flaum

encl.

P O Box 408, Claremont 7735, South Africa: phone Cape Town (021) 6

JOHANNESBURG OFFICE: P O BOX 32093, BRAAMFONTEIN, 2017: PHONE JOHANNESBURG (011) 646 2801

David Philip



Publisher
(Pty) Ltd

6 September 1984

Curtis Brown Ltd
(Mr Eric Flaum)
575 Madison Avenue
New York NY 10022
USA

Dear Mr Flaum

Many thanks for your reply on 29 March to my queries about an American publisher for Path of Thunder by Peter Abrahams.

We have now published our edition of this book in our Africasouth Paperbacks series under licence from Faber, with world rights excluding USA and Canada. We are arranging for a distributor in the USA for our own editions in this series, and expect to finalise arrangements at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

As there is no publisher with rights for this title in the USA, can we not arrange to market our edition? The sales may not be enormous but I imagine that it could only be to the author's advantage, and as he has already consented to our publishing under Faber, I cannot see that he would object to this. Our normal royalty terms for copies of our edition sold outside southern Africa start at 5 per cent of the South African published price.

I should be grateful to hear what you advise. If you would like me to send you a copy of the book I shall happily do so.

Our stand number at Frankfurt will be 4.2 D948, and if you will be there, we should be glad to show you the Africasouth series.

Yours sincerely

Marie Philip

P.O. Box 20
Red Hills,
St. Andrew

September 27 1984

Mr. Eric Flaum
Curtis Brown Ltd,
575 Madison Avenue
New York 10022

Dear Mr. Flaum

Thank you for your letter of September 12 with enclosure from the South African publisher David Philip.

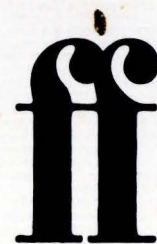
THE PATH OF THUNDER is a very early novel which was published nearly forty years ago; by Faber in Britain and Harper Brothers in the U.S. The U.S. rights have long since reverted to me. You are right, Curtis Brown did not represent me at the time.

As the Faber licence stipulated, I do not want to grant permission for the Philip edition to be sold in the U.S. and Canada, or anywhere in Europe. I wish to reserve these markets for possible new editions of most of my early works, perhaps a uniform edition, in the not too distant future.

Yours sincerely

Peter Abrahams

January 12 1984



Mr Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St Andrew
Jamaica

Faber and Faber Publishers

3 Queen Square
London WC1N 3AU
Telephone 01 278 6881
Telex 299633, Faber G
Telegrams
Fabbaf London WCI

Matthew Evans
TE Faber
ATG Pocock
George Taylor
Rosemary Goad
Giles de la Mare
Robert McCrum
Anthony Wagstaff

Secretary
JDF Nichols

Registered office as above
Registered in England
number 944703

Dear Mr Abrahams

Further to my letter of July 29, this is just to confirm that, after further discussion, we have decided to grant only Southern African paperback rights to David Philip for Path of Thunder.

This means that, by retaining for ourselves the paperback rights for the rest of the world (less North America of course), we can decide, nearer publication, whether or not to import copies of David Philip's edition in sufficient quantities to supply other markets ourselves from here.

In all other respects the contract is settled but of course I shall have to wait to see whether our retention of markets outside Southern Africa will make any difference to the terms offered. I don't think it will.

Incidentally, I have given instructions that your royalties should be retained here and from time to time you will doubtless instruct us to remit them to you in Jamaica or elsewhere or you may want to use them on periodic visits to Europe. Is that right? Please let me know if it is not.

With all good wishes for the New Year

Yours sincerely

A.T.G. Pocock
Vice Chairman

August 25, 1984

Mr. Henry Dunow,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.M. 10022

Dear Mr. Dunow,

The is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 30th with enclosures. To put you a little more fully in the picture than you now seem to be, I ceased using the Farquharson agency as my literary agents back in May of 1980 and wrote Miss Holt to this effect in a letter dated May 8, 1980. I told her in that letter that my British publishers, Faber & Faber would handle all agency business on my behalf. I sent a copy of that letter to Faber & Faber. So Miss Holt really knew where to go about the Rumanian business. If she cares to Miss Holt can tell you why I took away mys business.

It follows from this that I would not be happy to have Miss Holt try to renegotiate a new contract with Univers Publishing House. The July 1979 contract which Farquharson negotiated has lapsed and is now null and void and if any new contract is to be negotiated it must be done by Faber and Bafer on my behalf.

And just to keep the record straight, I, as author, have not agreed " to accept any lesser amount of royalty than he would ordinarily receive." And I have not agreed to accept approximately One Hundred Dollars. Whoever suggested any of these waw not speaking or writing on my behalf.

In answer to the last paragraph of your letter I am most definitely not will to waive the royalty payment, or accept payment from Mr Chambers in lieu of Univers or to accept payment in non-transferable Romanian currency.

I am sending a copy of this letter along with your letter and all its enclosures to Faber and Faber in London. They are the only people authorised to deal on my behalf in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Peter Abrahams

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022 [212] 755-4200

From the office of Emilie Jacobson, Senior Vice President

June 12, 1984

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba, Red Hill PO
St. Andrew
Jamaica BWI

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

We have received a letter from a small press, AMS Press, Inc., inquiring about the availability of your novel A WREATH FOR UDOMO for possible reprint. I would doubt that there is a great deal of money involved. Please let me know whether you would like us to deal with this for you or whether you would rather that I put AMS Press in direct touch with you.

Sincerely,



EJ/jwg

Coyaba
P.O. Box 20,
Red Hills
St. Andrew
Jamaica.

June 21, 1984.

Miss Emilie Jacobson
Curtis Brown Ltd.
575 Madison Avenue
New York

Dear Miss Jacobson,

Thank you for your letter concerning
AMS Press Inc. and A Wreath for Udomo.

I would of course wish you to handle
this matter on my behalf as usual, if you are
agreeable.

Yours sincerely

Coyaba
Box 20, Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

October 18, 1984

Mr. Eric Flaum
Curtis Brown Ltd
New York

Dear Mr. Flaum

Your card, undated but postmarked October 12, has just reached.

I have had no dealings with the David Philip publisher so I have no reason to and do not intend to contact them. They have dealt with Mr. A.T.G. Pocock of Faber & Faber and not with me.

I hope this clarifies the situation.

Sincerely

Peter Abrahams

"Coyaba"
Box 20
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.
Jamaica

July 5, 1983

Mr. David Kanter,
Curtis Brown Ltd.
575 Madison Avenue,
New York 10022, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Kanter,

Please forgive my oversight in not replying to your letter of May 5th. I was, and still am, deeply engrossed in the difficult final phases of a new manuscript.

Please go ahead with the Herb Martin deal along the lines indicated in your letter.

Yours sincerely

Peter Abrahams



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022 755-4200

From the office of Timothy Knowlton, Vice President

June 23, 1983

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrews
JAMAICA

Re: MINE BOY

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Please let us know your reaction to the terms offered by Herb Martin. I relayed them to you in a letter dated May 5th.

Again, please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Cordially,

David Kanter
Film Rights

DL/sh



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

From the office of Timothy Knowlton, Vice President

May 5, 1983

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrews
JAMAICA

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Please forgive the delay in writing to you. We've finally heard from Herb Martin's lawyer with a formal offer for the musical stage rights in MINE BOY, and I was holding off writing to you until we'd heard something from them.

They're offering \$500 as an advance to hold the rights for six months, and an additional \$1,000 for an additional year. They've also offered a royalty of 1½% of the gross weekly box office receipts. While the royalty seems fair, the advance payments seem to be too low. There is a chance that they'll improve their advance offer. Please let us know what you think.

In your letter to us, you requested that the Dramatists Guild take a look at the agreement that would be signed for this project. In this case, they don't have any jurisdiction over the agreement that you make with the purchaser of the stage rights in your book. Their authority extends to the agreements that playwrights make with producers. In any case, please don't hesitate to let us know what your questions or comments are.

We'll look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

David Kanter
Film Rights

DK/hs

Coyaba
P.O.Box 20
Red Hills
St. Andrew. Jamaica.

January 15, 1980.

Miss Emilie Jacobson,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
NEW York 10022.

Dear Miss Jacobson,

I think you would want to know that your letter to me, with enclosure, dated November 15, 1979, has only just reached me. It seems to have come by surface mail and the longest possible way around. Still it has finally reached and I thank you for it.

All's well that ends well.

Best wishes for 1980



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

From the desk of Emilie Jacobson, Senior Vice President

November 15, 1979

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
P.O. Box 20
Red Hills
St. Andrew
JAMAICA

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Your letter of the 8th sent me to the files in a state of puzzlement, as I'm sure you can imagine. I find that what started the confusion was a letter from Innes Rose to Perry Knowlton, a copy of which I enclose. (That letter itself is mis-addressed. Perry is owner and president of Curtis Brown, Ltd. of New York and has nothing to do with James Brown Associates which is now the American office of Curtis Brown, Ltd. of London.) When the letter reached him Perry turned it over to his assistant, Jean Porter, who is a relatively new member of the staff and, being unacquainted with past history, understandably assumed that we handled your American rights in behalf of Innes Rose of Farquharson. Accordingly, during the process of retrieving the rights for MINE BOY for which no sales had been reported by Knopf since 1970, she continued to correspond with Mr. Rose.

It was all a misunderstanding, but I'm sure you will realize how it happened, given the circumstances. I think I've got things back on the track now, and we thank you for the signed reversion letters which I've turned over to Ms. Porter to process. Be assured that we'll communicate direct with you about any such matters that may arise in the future.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

EJ/nk
encl.

The enclosed forms have reference to your tax exemption on American income. Our Government requires us to submit new forms for each three year period, and the ones now on file for you in Washington, D. C. will expire in a short time. Please type or print your name, legal address and sign as owner, trustee or agent. All copies are to be returned to us.

In accordance with the law, we must withhold the 30% non-resident alien tax until these forms are in our hands.

CURTIS BROWN, LTD.
575 Madison Ave.
New York 22, N. Y.

November 25,
1970

Dear Martha,

Herewith the copies of the Doubleday contract as well as a couple of photos for which no credits are necessary. All the biographical details they want are already public property and can be found on the dust jackets of both THIS ISLAND NOW and A NIGHT OF THEIR OWN and also on the first page of the Penguin edition of WILD CONQUEST from which I suspect they will be working.

Best regards

Miss Martha Winston,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
60 East 56 Street
NEW YORK 10022.
N.Y. U.S.A.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

From the office of Martha Winston, Senior Vice President

November 18, 1970

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica

Dear Peter:

Enclosed are four copies of the Doubleday contract for the Anchor edition of WILD CONQUEST. Please initial and sign all copies and return them to me.

Would you also fill in the Publicity Questionnaire and return it together with a photograph (put the photographer's credit on the back).

All best,



MW/mm

Encl. (4)

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

From the office of Martha Winston, Senior Vice President

September 17, 1970

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica

Dear Peter:

The enclosed is unexpected and nice -- shall I accept?

I trust the contract with Harper for WILD CONQUEST was cancelled at some time because if it wasn't you would have to split the monies with them. If you don't know the answer could I get it from the Paul Reynolds office?

All good wishes,



MW/mm
Enclosure

DOUBLEDAY & COMPANY, INC. *Publishers*



277 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017 TEL: 212 TA 6-2000

Anchor Books

September 8, 1970

Curtis Brown, Ltd.
60 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Sir,

Innes Rose of John Farquharson Ltd, London, has informed us that you are Peter Abrahams' agents in New York. We are therefore writing to express our interest in and to make you an offer for the U.S. reprint rights of his WILD CONQUEST, which we would like to add to our Anchor paperback line. The terms of our offer are as follows: an advance of \$1000, payable on signing of the contract, against a royalty of 7-1/2% on the full retail price of all copies of the Anchor paperback edition.

Do let us know as soon as possible if these terms are acceptable to you. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Chivuzo Ude
Editor

CU/bek

"Coyaba"
Box 20 Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew,
Jamaica.

September 24, 1970

Miss Martha Winston,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
60 East 56 Street,
NEW YORK 10022, N.Y.

Dear Martha,

Thank you for note of the 17th and the enclosure from Anchor Books. I suspect it is because Penguin Books in Britain have recently brought out an edition of Wild Conquest, and I would have thought that the U.S. branch of Penguin Books, if it still exists, might have wanted to follow suit. But since it is Anchor Books I certainly have no objection to a sale.

I'm afraid I don't know what the score is about the contract with Harper. I did nothing about it and I don't suppose anybody else did so please check with the Paul Reynolds office.

Finally, a small favour please. I returned from some travelling to find a three months old letter from a Miss Helene Silver of Africana Publishing Corporation, 101 Fifth Avenue, Phone 691-5253, telling me about a Bibliographic Guide to Creative Writing by Black African Authors and asking for a picture and any 'help you would give us'. I am not really very keen on this kind of special African stuff and I don't have a picture to send the lady. I don't know anything about these people and I don't know whether it is worth it, if you know and you think it is, you might get a picture from Knopf for them.

I am now finishing the building of two cottages and as soon as I am a bloated capitalistic landlord I will quit everything else and go back to writing once more! My first tenant hopes to move in by the end of this month.

Yours

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022

March 2, 1970

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P. O. S
St. Andrew, Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

We received the enclosed request from Scott,
Foresman & Company to reprint "Episode in Malay
Camp" from Mine Boy.

Is it agreeable to you to grant this permission
with the deletion they specify? We would of
course charge a suitable fee.

Sincerely,

Marjory Martin

Marjory Martin
Permissions Department

Enclosure

SCOTT, FORESMAN
and Company

Editorial Department

February 23, 1970

Permissions Department
Curtis Brown, Ltd.
60 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Gentlemen:

As part of our high school literature program, we are preparing an anthology entitled MAN IN LITERATURE. It is designed for grades 10-12, hardbound, 640 pages, text edition. We anticipate publication in 1970, with a selling price of \$5.80, and a first printing of 15,000.

We request permission, covering rights outside the United States and Canada in the English language to reprint; along with right to quote in guidebook, workbook, and/or test booklet the following:

"Episode in Malay Camp" by Peter Abrahams, reprinted from MINE BOY. (We would like to delete the sentence, "Why, some of their women even did business sleeping with black men" on page 164, ll. 41-42)

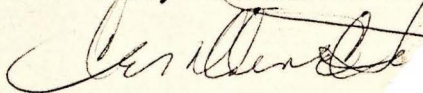
We, of course, are prepared to pay a suitable fee for the use of this material. Proper acknowledgment will be given as a footnote on the page on which the selection begins.

We, also, ask that your permission include the right for us to license non-profit organizations to make braille, large type, and/or soundsciber editions of our text for use by the handicapped.

We trust that you will consider our request and look forward to your reply.

Very truly yours,

SCOTT, FORESMAN AND COMPANY



(Mrs.) Geraldine C.
Permissions Departm

GCS: ss

P.S. We have received permission from Alfred A
1900 East Lake Avenue Glenview, Illinois 60025 312 729-3000 • In Chicago

March 21, 1970

Miss Marjorie Martin,
Permissions Department,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
60 East 56 Street
New York 10022

Dear Miss Martin,

Thanks for your letter of March 2nd enclosing the
Scott, Foresman request about an excerpt from
MINE BOY.

I was not sure whether I alone control the
permissions rights outside the U.S. for the
English language rights so I had to search for
my Faber & Faber contract. This says that I
granted to Faber "the sole and exclusive licence
to print publish and sell the said Novel in volume
form in the English throughout the British
Commonwealth....." etc. There is nothing about
any other rights so it seems all right for you
to go ahead and grant the permission they request.

Yours sincerely

Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.

September 5, 1969.

Miss Marjory Martin,
Permissions Dept.,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
60 East 56 Street,
NEW YORK 10022. N.Y.

Dear Miss Martin,

Thank you for your letter and enclosure which seems to
have been held up in the post.

I think it is allright to go ahead and permit reprinting of
'The Blacks' with the deletions if you are satisfied with
the fee.

Yours sincerely



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

August 21, 1969

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

We have received a request from Scott, Foresman and Company for world rights in the English language to reprint "The Blacks" which appeared in Holiday Magazine in 1959. They want to use it in a textbook for grades 10 - 12 entitled AFRICAN LITERATURE.

However, they added the following note:

P. 50, lines 10-11: we would like to delete the words "into which young boys and old men piddled when they needed to relieve themselves," and replace it with three liters, P. 51, lines 30-38: we would like to delete the section beginning, "He had been astounded" and ending "... disturbed the puritan in him."

Are you agreeable to these deletions and granting the permission? We would of course charge them a suitable fee.

Sincerely,

Marjory Martin
Permissions Department

The Blacks

PETER ABRAHAM

South Africa

© Holiday 1959
Curtis Bull
Co.

It was a hot, humid, oppressive August day in Accra, capital of the Gold Coast that was to become Ghana. The air had the stillness of death. I walked down toward the sea front. Perhaps there would be the hint of a breeze there. As I neared the sea front I was assailed by a potent stench of the sea with strong overtones of rotting fish.

The houses were drab, run-down wooden structures or made of corrugated iron, put together any way you please. The streets were wide and tarred, and each street had an open drainage system into which young boys and old men piddled when they needed to relieve themselves. I have seen women empty chamber pots into these drains in the early morning. The fierce sun takes care of the germs, but God help you if smells make you sick.

In about eight minutes of walking, some fifteen "taxis" pulled up beside me: "Hi, massa! Taxi, massa! Me go anywhere you go cheap!" They are all private taxis with no meters and driven by strapping young men with flashing teeth. The place is full of taxi drivers willing to go anywhere and do anything cheap.

The street traders here are women. "Mammy traders," they are called. They trade in everything. They sell cigarettes, one at a time; round loaves of bread and hunks of cooked meat on which the big West African flies make sport. They love bargaining and haggling. They are a powerful economic factor in the life of the country. The more prosperous ones own their own trucks, some own fleets of trucks. These "mammy trucks" are the principal carriers of the country. They carry passengers as well as produce and go hurtling across the countryside with little regard for life or limb. Each truck has its own distinctive slogan, such as: Repent for Death is Round the Corner, or Enter Without Hope, or The Last Ride or If it Must it Will. My own favorite—and I traveled in this particular truck—pleaded Not Today O Lord Not Today.

I passed many mammy traders, many mammy trucks, before I reached the sea front. I crossed a street, jumped over an open drain, and there was the sea. But there was no breeze,

and no shade from the terrible sun. In the end I gave in to the idea of "taxi, massa, taxi" and looked about for one. But now there was no taxi in sight. Instead, I saw suddenly a long procession of many women and a few men. The procession swung round a corner and came into full view, twenty or thirty yards long. The women wore white flowing robes and white kerchiefs on their heads. Their faces were painted into grotesque masks made with thick streaks of black, red, white and yellow paints. The heavy thud of bare feet rose above the hum of the sea.

Then, all at once, the drums burst forth and there was no other sound about me. The marching women began to jig, then dance. As the tail of the procession passed me the drums reached a frenzy. A thin, pure note from a reed rose above the drums. The whole procession became a shivering, shaking mass. The reed note held longer than seemed human. And then, dramatically, there was silence. The thudding feet faded away out of sight and sound. There was silence and a slight racing of my heartbeat and the hum of the sea, and, of course, the overpowering fishy stench.

I thought of Richard Wright, with whom I had had breakfast that morning. This was his first visit to any part of Africa and he seemed to find it bewildering. Countee Cullen, the late American Negro poet, had speculated:

One three centuries removed
From the scenes his fathers loved,
Spicy grove, cinnamon tree,
What is Africa to me?

Wright was finding the answers and finding them disconcerting. He had been astounded by the casual attitude to sex. There was, he had said, too much sex, too casually given and taken; so that it worked out as no sex, with none of the emotional involvement associated with sex in the western mind. He shook his head with a slight disgust. The open drains into which young boys and old men piddled had led him to conclude that Africans piddled rather more than other people. The sight of young men dancing together, holding hands, disturbed the puritan in him. He expressed to me that morning what he later summed up in his book on the Gold Coast: "I was black and they were black but it did not help me."

What Wright did not understand, what his whole background and training had made difficult for him to understand, was that being black did not of itself qualify one for accept-

ance in tribal Africa. But how could he, when there are thousands of urban-bred Africans up and down the vast continent who do not themselves understand this? The more perceptive of the urban Africans are only now beginning to comprehend, but slowly.

Being black is a small matter in tribal Africa because the attitude toward color is healthy and normal. Color does not matter. Color is an act of God that neither confers privileges nor imposes handicaps on a man. A man's skin is like the day: the day is either clear or dark. There is nothing more to it until external agencies come in and invest it with special meaning and importance.

What does matter to the tribal African, what is important, is the complex pattern of his position within his own group and his relations with the other members of the group. He is no Pan-African dreaming of a greater African glory when the white man is driven into the sea. The acute race consciousness of the American Negro, or of the black South African at the receiving end of apartheid, is alien to him. The important things in his life are anything but race and color—until they are forced on him. And "Mother Africa" is much too vast to inspire big continental dreams in him. She is a land of huge mountains, dark jungles and vast deserts. In her rivers and in her jungles and in her grasslands lurk creatures that are the enemies of man: the leopard and the lion, the snake and crocodile. All this makes travel, by the old African methods, extremely difficult and makes for isolation between one group of people and another. The African who is in Britain is likely to be a deal better informed on what is happening all over the continent than would be his fellow African in any of the main centers of both tribal and nontribal Africa. In terms of communications the man in the tribe lives in the Dark Ages.

Richard Wright was surprised that even educated Africans, racially conscious literate people, had not heard of him and were skeptical of a grown man earning his living by writing. They could not understand what kind of writing brought a man enough money to support a family. Wright really wanted to understand the African, but—"I found the African an oblique, a hard-to-know man."

My sympathies were all with Wright.

The heat and salty rancid fish smell had made me desperately thirsty. Across the way a mammy trader squatted beside her pile of merchandise: cooked meats, sweet potatoes—a whole host of edibles—and some bottles of opaque white

liquid that could be either coconut milk or palm juice as well as the inevitable little pile of cigarettes priced at a penny apiece. I had been warned of the risks involved in eating anything sold by the street traders. But to hell with it, I was thirsty and not exactly a stranger to African germs. I crossed the street, felt the bottles and chose the one that seemed coolest and looked the least opaque.

"How much?"

"One shilling." The carved ebony face looked at me with dead eyes.

I pulled the screwed-up newspaper stopper from the bottle, wiped its mouth and took a swig. I could not decide whether it was coconut milk or palm juice. It had been heavily watered down and sweetened. But it was wet and thirst-quenching. I drank half the bottle, firmly ignoring the little foreign bodies that floated in the liquid. Then I paid her and drank the rest. I put down the empty and began to move away.

"You African?" she asked in her harsh, cold, masculine voice.

I stopped, turned and looked at her face. It was as deadly cold and impersonal as before: not a flicker of feeling in her eyes. Like an African mask, I thought. But unlike Wright, I did not try to penetrate it; I knew the futility of trying. She would show feeling if and when she decided, not before.

"Yes," I said, and added, "from the south. Far, far south."

She paused for so long that I began to move again.

"You like here?" Nationalism had obviously touched her.

I turned back to her. "No," I said.

"Why you don't like?"

"I don't say I don't like."

"But you don't like?"

I showed her my teeth, African-wise, which is neither smile nor grimace but a blending of the two. "You like Africa?" I asked.

Now it was her turn to show me her teeth. There was a flicker of feeling in her eyes, then they went dead again. She nodded. I had established my claim. Only outsiders—white people or the Richard Wrights—liked or disliked Africa.

I left the mammy trader and carried on up the smelly and hot street. Much and little had passed between us. Out to sea some fishing boats appeared on the sky line. About me were the citizens of Accra. Some wore the cloth of the country—the men looking like pint-sized citizens of ancient Rome painted black and the women looking extraordinarily masculine—and others wore western dress.

My thoughts shifted to my forthcoming meeting with

Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first prime minister. It was over seven years since I had last seen him, in London. Then he was a poor struggling student; now he was the head of state and the spokesman for the great Pan-African dream of freedom and independence.

I remembered our past friendship and wondered what changes I would find in him. Anyway, it was now 9 A.M. and my date with him was for 9:30. I would soon know.

A few minutes later I flagged a taxi and simply said, "Kwame's office."

A pale-brown West Indian miss was the prime minister's secretary. She welcomed me as though I was a V.I.P. The prime minister had not come back from a conference yet. The tribal business was taking up a lot of his attention. She told me with indignation how members of the Ashanti tribe had to crawl on their bellies for some twenty yards into the presence of their king, the Asantehene, and how tribalism had to give way or there would be no progress. If she was any indication, then Nkrumah was very worried about the opposition the tribesmen were offering his western-style Convention People's Party.

A number of officials came in. The lady stopped assailing the tribes. Then there was some bustle and the prime minister arrived. In something just over five minutes he had seen and dealt with these officials and I was ushered into his office. It was a big, pleasant, cool room.

Nkrumah came round his big official desk, took my hand and led me to a settee near the window. The now famous smile lit up his face. As we exchanged greetings, felt each other out with small talk in an attempt to bridge the gap of years, my mind went back to our London days. This poised, relaxed man, with the hint of guarded reserve about him, was a far cry from the friend I had last seen nearly eight years earlier.

For me, the most striking change of all was in his eyes. They reflected an inner tranquillity which was the one thing the Nkrumah in Europe never had.

Even his name had been subtly different then. He had been our friend Francis Nkrumah, an African student recently arrived from the United States, and he had not seen Africa for a decade and more. He had quickly become a part of our African colony in London and had joined our little group, the Pan-African Federation, in our protests against colonialism.

He was much less relaxed than most of us. His eyes mirrored a burning inner conflict and tension. He seemed con-

sumed by a restlessness that led him to evolve some of the most fantastic schemes.

The president of our federation was an East African named Johnstone Kenyatta, the most relaxed, sophisticated and "westernized" of the lot of us. Kenyatta enjoyed the personal friendship of some of the most distinguished people in English political and intellectual society. He was subtle, subtle enough to attack one's principles bitterly and retain one's friendship. He fought the British as imperialists but was affectionate toward them as friends.

It was to this balanced and extremely cultured man that Francis Nkrumah proposed that we form a secret society called The Circle, and that each of us spill a few drops of our blood into a bowl and so take a blood oath of secrecy and dedication to the emancipation of Africa.

Johnstone Kenyatta laughed at the idea; he scoffed at it as childish juju. He conceived our struggle in modern, twentieth-century terms with no ritualistic blood nonsense. In the end Francis Nkrumah drifted away from us and started his own little West African group in London. We were too tame and slow for him. He was an angry man in a hurry.

Then he went back to his part of Africa, and Francis Nkrumah became Kwame Nkrumah. He set himself at the head of the largely tribal populace and dabbled in blood ritual. There was some violence, a spell in prison, and finally Nkrumah emerged as the first African prime minister in a self-governing British African territory.

Tribal myths grew up around him. He could make himself invisible at will. He could go without food and sleep and drink longer than ordinary mortals. He was, in fact, the reincarnation of some of the most powerful ancestral spirits. He allowed his feet to be bathed in blood.

By the time I visited the Gold Coast the uneasy alliance between Nkrumah and the tribal chiefs had begun to crack. A week or so before my arrival he had threatened that, unless they co-operated with his government in turning the Gold Coast into an efficient twentieth-century state, he would make them run so hard that they would leave their sandals behind them. This was a calculated insult to the tribal concept that a chief's bare feet must never touch the earth.

That was the beginning of the secret war. Nkrumah thought he would win it easily. He was wrong.

And the chiefs have, negatively, scored their victories too. They have pushed him to a point where his regime is, today, intolerant of opposition. The tribal society brooks no opposition. Nkrumah's government banishes its most active

opponents. As a modern socialist leading a western-style government, he justifies this as a temporary expedient. But his less sophisticated ministers frankly talk the tribal language of strength, frankly express the tribal impulse to destroy those who are out of step.

There was an air of delicacy about our conversation and we were both aware of this. We touched on local politics. He let off at full blast against the tribalism. I told him I had heard that the Accra Club was still exclusively European. His eyes lit up. "You wait and see," he said. Then, in relation to nothing either of us had said, he leaned toward me and exclaimed, "This place is rich! God, man, there's so much riches here!"—as though the revelation had just been made to him.

But always, throughout our talk, I sensed a new reserve, a new caution that had not been there in the young student I had known in Europe.

As we talked in Nkrumah's cool office that hot August day in Accra, my mind kept slipping back to our mutual friend Jomo or Johnstone Kenyatta, now imprisoned in his native Kenya for leading the Mau-Mau movement. Significantly, though we mentioned many friends, both Nkrumah and I avoided Kenyatta. I had decided not to mention him first. I had hoped Nkrumah would. He did not.

A year earlier, I had flown up to Kenya from South Africa and visited Kenyatta. I felt terribly depressed as I got off the plane. Things had grown so much uglier in the Union. The barricades were up in the ugly war of color. When I had left South Africa in the dim-and-distant past, there were isolated islands where black and white could meet in neutral territory. When I went back in 1952, the islands were submerged under the rising tide of color hatreds, and I was glad to quit that dark, unhappy land which yet compelled my love.

It was in this mood that I got off the plane. I had not seen my friend Jomo for years. Now there he was, just outside the airport terminal building, leaning on a heavy cane, bigger than I remembered him in Europe, paunchy, his face looking puffy. And behind him was a huge crowd of Africans.

I began to move toward him when a lean-faced, lean-hipped white colonial-administrator type suddenly appeared beside me and said: "Mr. Abrahams."

I stopped and thought, "Oh, Lord."

Kenyatta also came forward. The two men ignored each other. Lean-face introduced himself and said the Colonial Office had alerted them that I was coming to do some writing for the London Observer and they had drawn up a provisional

schedule for me. Had I done anything about accommodations?

Before I could answer, Kenyatta said, "You are staying with me, of course." The old detachment was back in his eyes. They seemed to say, "You've got to choose, pal. Let's see how you choose."

Lean-face said, "We've got something set up for you for tomorrow and—"

"I live in the bush," Kenyatta added.

It dawned on me that I had become, for the moment, the battlefield of that horrible animal, the racial struggle. I made up my mind, resenting both sides and yet conscious of the crowd of Africans in the background. A question of face was involved.

"I've promised to spend this week end with Mr. Kenyatta," I said.

Lean-face was graceful about it. I promised to call the Secretariat first thing on Monday morning. He gave me a copy of the schedule that had been prepared for me and wondered, sotto voce, whether I knew what I was letting myself in for. Kenyatta assured me that I would be perfectly safe, that nobody was going to cut my throat. I was aware that they were talking to each other through me. I was aware that they knew I was aware, and that made me bad-tempered.

"Then I'll say good night, Mr. Abrahams," Lean-face said pointedly.

As soon as he was out of hearing Kenyatta began to curse. "It's good to see you again, Johnstone," I gripped his hand.

"Jomo," he replied. The hint of ironic speculation was back in his eyes. A slightly sardonic, slightly bitter smile played on his lips.

"Welcome to Kenya, Peter," he said. Then, abruptly: "Come meet the leaders of my people. They've been waiting long."

We moved forward and the crowd gathered about us. Jomo made a little speech in Kikuyu, then translated it for my benefit. A little old man, ancient as the hills, with huge holes in his ears, then welcomed me on behalf of the land and its people. Again Jomo translated.

After this we all bundled into the fleet of rattling old cars and set off for the Kikuyu reserve in the heart of the African bush. Kenyatta became silent and strangely remote during the journey.

We stopped at the old chief's compound, where other members of the tribe waited to welcome me. By this time the reception committee had grown to a few hundred. About me, pervading the air, was the stench of burning flesh; a young

cow was being roasted in my honor. Before I entered the house a drink was handed to me. Another was handed to the old chief and a third to Kenyatta. The old man muttered a brief incantation and spilled half his drink on the earth as a libation. Jomo and I followed suit. Then the three of us downed our drinks and entered the house.

A general feasting and drinking then commenced, both inside and outside the house. I was getting a full ceremonial tribal welcome. The important dignitaries of the tribe slipped into the room in twos and threes, spoke to me through Kenyatta for a few moments, and then went away, making room for others.

"Africa doesn't seem to change," Kenyatta murmured between dignitaries. There was a terrible undercurrent of bitterness behind the softly murmured words. I was startled by it and looked at his face. For a fleeting moment he looked like a trapped, caged animal.

He saw me looking at him and quickly composed his face into a slightly sardonic, humorous mask. "Don't look too closely," he said.

And still the dignitaries filed in, had a drink, spoke their welcome and went out.

The ceremonial welcome reached its high point about midnight. Huge chunks of the roasted cow were brought in to us, and we gnawed at the almost raw meat between swigs of liquor. Outside, there was muted drumming. Voices were growing louder and louder.

Suddenly, in the midst of a long-winded speech by an immensely dignified Masai chief from a neighboring and friendly tribe, Kenyatta jumped up, grabbed his heavy cane and half staggered through the door.

"Come, Peter," he called.

Everybody was startled. I hesitated. He raised his cane and beckoned to me with it. I knew that this would be a dreadful breach of tribal etiquette.

"Come, man!" he snapped.

I got up, aware of the sudden silence that had descended on the huge gathering. By some strange magic everybody seemed to know that something had gone wrong.

"Jomo," I said.

"I can't stand any more," he snapped. "Come!"

I followed him to the door. I knew the discourtesy we were inflicting on the tribe. I also knew that my friend was at the breaking point. We walked through the crowd of people, got into Kenyatta's car and drove off into the night. The African

moon was big and yellow, bathing the land in a soft light that almost achieved the clarity of daylight.

He took me to his home. It was a big, sprawling, empty place on the brow of a hill. Inside, it had nothing to make for comfort. There were hard wooden chairs, a few tables and only the bed in the bedroom. There were no books, none of the normal amenities of western civilization. When we arrived two women emerged from somewhere in the back and hovered about in the shadows. They brought in liquor, but I never got a clear glimpse of either of them. My friend's anguish of spirit was such that I did not want to ask questions. We sat on the veranda and drank steadily and in silence until we were both miserably, depressingly drunk.

And then Kenyatta began to speak in a low, bitter voice of his frustration and of the isolated position in which he found himself. He had no friends. There was no one in the tribe who could give him the intellectual companionship that had become so important to him in his years in Europe. The things that were important to him—consequential conversation, the drink that represented a social activity rather than the intention to get drunk, the concept of individualism, the inviolability of privacy—all these were alien to the tribesmen in whose midst he lived. So Kenyatta, the western man, was driven in on himself and was forced to assert himself in tribal terms. Only thus would the tribesmen follow him and so give him his position of power and importance as a leader.

To live without roots is to live in hell, and no man chooses voluntarily to live in hell. The people who could answer his needs as a western man had erected a barrier of color against him in spite of the fact that the taproots of their culture had become the taproots of his culture too. By denying him access to those things which complete the life of western man, they had forced him back into the tribalism from which he had so painfully freed himself over the years.

None of this was stated explicitly by either Kenyatta or myself. But it was there in his brooding bitter commentary on both the tribes and the white settlers of the land. For me, Kenyatta became that night a man who in his own life personified the terrible tragedy of Africa and the terrible secret war that rages in it. He was the victim both of tribalism and of westernism gone sick. His heart and mind and body were the battlefield of the ugly violence known as the Mau Mau revolt long before it broke out in that beautiful land. The tragedy is that he was so rarely gifted, that he could have made such a magnificent contribution in other circumstances.

What then is tribal man? Perhaps his most important single characteristic is that he is not an individual in the western sense. Psychologically and emotionally he is the present living personification of a number of forces, among the most important of which are the ancestral dead. The dead have a powerful hold on the living. They control and regulate the lives and activities of the living from the grave. They hand out the rules and codes by which the living conduct their daily affairs. If there is a drought, if there is a famine, it is a sign that the ancestors are angry because someone has broken a rule of the tribe, a law laid down by the dead. There will be no peace, no order, no prosperity in the tribe until the ancestors are appeased.

So the chief calls the whole tribe to a meeting in which the guilty ones will be "smelled out." The procedure begins with the drums—a key factor in African life. Their insistent throbs call the people to the gathering on a placid, almost monotonous key at first, but working on the emotions. Everyone in the village will be present; no man, woman or child would think of not obeying the summons. They form a circle, with the witch doctor or medicine man and the drummers to the fore. When all the people are assembled the throbbing of the drums increases. They beat in tune to the heartbeats of the human circle.

The witch doctor is dressed in lion or leopard skin, sometimes in monkey skin. His face is painted in bold streaks of color: white, black, red. There are crisscrossing lines on his body too. He wanders about the center of the circle, almost idly at first. Every now and then he pauses and looks straight into someone's eyes and keeps on looking. For the person looked at, this is an encounter with fate. Few stare back. Their eyes slide past his face or go glazed. They fear but are not supposed to fear. They know the ancestors are just, that the innocent are never punished. To experience fear, therefore, is an acknowledgment of guilt. It is not necessary to know the nature of your guilt; if you were not guilty, there would be no fear in your mind.

The tempo of the drums increases. The witch doctor begins to dance, slowly at first. He begins to talk in a high-pitched nasal voice; spirits always talk through their noses. The drums and the incantations go on and on, getting faster and wilder, dominating the hearts and minds of all the circle. People begin to tremble and shiver. Some drop down in a trance and lie moaning on the ground. Everyone is possessed by the frenzy of the drums. The spirits of the ancestors are abroad.

Suddenly the drums stop. The witch doctor stands fixed

for a dreadful moment that seems without end. Then he pounces. He grabs his victim and drags him or her into the center of the circle. The victim does not resist, does not protest. The ancestors are always just.

There may be one, there may be many victims. But once the victim or victims are "smelled out," the hypnotic spell of the drums is broken. People relax. Their hearts beat normally once more. Now the ancestors will be propitiated and the living freed of the evil which beset them. Now the famine or the drought or the plague or whatever had beset the land will depart from it. And so, while the victim or victims are put to death, the rest of the tribe celebrates the passing of the great evil.

Another key characteristic of tribal man is that his society is exclusive and not, like western society, inclusive. The lines are drawn very clearly, very sharply. Anybody not an "insider" is an enemy, actually or potentially—someone to distrust, someone to fear, someone to keep at bay. There is no choice, no volition about this. It is something ordained by the ancestral dead. The tribal society is therefore possibly the most exclusive society in the twentieth-century world. If you are not in the tribe, there is no way into it. If you are in it, there is no way out of it except death. Dissent is not recognized. To break the rules of the tribe is to court death.

Even the family, the foundation of the tribal in-group, is no simple affair. It is often a cluster of four generations. A man's family can be made up of his father, his father's first, second and third wives—there may be more—and the children of these. A man inherits the wives and children of his brothers who die before him. The wives then become his wives, the children of his brother become brothers and sisters to his own children by his own wife. Then there are the children's children. These and the old people, the grandparents, make up the immediate family, the heart of the in-group. Then there are the families related to one's family by blood ties—the families of uncles and cousins. These have the same complex structure of many wives and brothers and sisters, many of whom are inherited. A group of such blood-related families makes the clan. Clans have been known to be big enough to fill whole villages.

Another and most vital factor in the life of tribal man is his attitude to life and death. Neither life nor death is ever wholly accidental. Disease is never natural. These are brought about by the good and evil spirits all around us. The evil spirits are preoccupied with bringing disaster on the tribe, the good with protecting the tribe. To achieve their malign ends, evil spirits enter the bodies of ordinary human beings. To

fight the evil spirits, good spirits enter the bodies of witch doctors. Life and death are thus out of the hands of mortal men.

The world of tribal man is so dominated by the spirits that some tribes will not eat birds because of the spirits that dwell in them, some will not eat fish, some are vegetarians and some eat meat only.

Tribal man is hemmed in, imprisoned by his ancestors. His horizons are only as wide as they permit. He is also protected by them. The rules are such that there are no orphans in the tribe, no misfits, no neurotics. And of course, the ancestral dead are hostile to change.

This, then, is the "oblique, the hard-to-know man" whom Richard Wright encountered on his first visit to Africa. He is the man who raised Nkrumah to power. He is the man whose pressures led Jomo Kenyatta to the Mau Mau and then to his lonely prison-exile in a barren and isolated spot. He, tribal man, will have a crucial say in the future of Africa.

The ancestral dead notwithstanding, change is being imposed on him. How he reacts to the change will have a powerful bearing on tomorrow's Africa.

If the men inaugurating the new ways have the sense and the patience to preserve the finer qualities of the old ways and fuse these with the new, then we can expect something magnificently new out of Africa.

Renascent Africa

FREDERICK S. ARKHURST

Ghana

It is, perhaps, inevitable that Africa is today a center of world attention and interest. With Asia rid of colonialism, Africa has become the last continent over which western European nations still seek to perpetuate their control. Yet even in Africa dramatic changes are taking place which are rolling back the frontiers of imperialism. After tolerating European colonization and the arrogance of white settlers for scores of years, Africa is now reawakening and demanding those rights to which all men are heir.

The reawakening of Africa has found expression particularly at the level of political and constitutional advancement. But this will only come to fruition with the redefinition by the African of his real place in his continent—his role in the political, economic and social life of Africa. This redefinition is already taking place and it is quite clear today that the African knows that his destiny can only be decided by himself in Africa and not by foreigners in other countries. The Africa of today symbolizes hope; it is the continent of optimism and change. Indeed, not since the period which followed the signing of the Berlin Agreement of 1884 has the continent of Africa experienced such swift and dramatic changes as it has since the Second World War. The important problem now facing the African is to define his own political, economic and social objectives in these conditions of rapid change.

The Decline of Colonial Power in Africa

The "scramble for Africa" which followed the Berlin Agreement resulted in the establishment of western European domination over most of the continent. But while that period was characterized by the carving of the continent into a mosaic of meaningless enclaves, protectorates and spheres of influence, the upsurge of African nationalism and independence movements after the Second World War has marked the beginning of a rapid process of disintegration of European power on the continent, and the beginning of the

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Perry H. Knowlton, President

February 16, 1968

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba, Red Hill P. O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

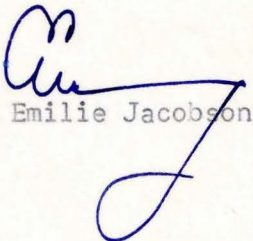
Dear Peter:

Bill Wright left Holiday to join the staff of Venture. (At the same time, Arnold Ehrlich left Venture to re-join the staff of Holiday, this time as Editorial Director.) Bill wonders if you'll do a piece for the Caribbean issue Venture is planning for the autumn. I'm enclosing a Xerox copy of his letter, which would have gone off to you sooner if I hadn't been way-laid by a touch of 'flu. Please tell me whether you'd like to accept the assignment.

Meanwhile, amid various editorial changes, Holiday underwent a giant inventory cleaning and, regrettably, have decided that they will not use the article on KENYA which they bought from you toward the end of '65. They have returned the manuscript to me for resale with the understanding that they will receive fifty per cent of the resale price if we succeed in placing it elsewhere. I'm sorry about this, but these things do happen occasionally and one can but be philosophical. I'm showing it to Bill Wright at Venture. Meanwhile, you might take a look at your carbon if you still have it around and let me know how much updating you think it might need.

We seem to have been out of touch for an appallingly long time. I hope all is well with you.

Best,


Emilie Jacobson

EJ/pbw
Enc.

VENTURE

THE TRAVELER'S WORLD / TRAVELVENTURES, INC. / 488 MADISON AVE. / N. Y. 10022 / (212) MU 8-0300

January 30, 1968

Miss Emilie Jacobson
Curtis Brown
60 East 56th St.
New York, New York

Dear Emmy:

As you probably know, we are planning an all Caribbean issue for the fall. For this, we would very much like to have Pater Abrahams do a short piece on Voodoo and the other religions throughout the islands, bringing in a bit about the history of Christianity and its success with the islanders.

We were thinking of something short, in the area of 2000 words, but this is loose; we would pay \$750 and would need the manuscript by the beginning of May. Could you let me know if this is possible and satisfactory?

Sincerely,



William C. Wright
Senior Editor

WW:sb

March 5, 1968

Miss Emilie Jacobson,
Curtis Brown.
New York.

Dear Emilie,

Sorry about the delay in replying to your letter of February 16: I've been away from home these past few weeks and just got back.

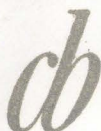
The Venture idea for a piece on Voodoo etc. is not really up my street at all, and I do not think I can work up sufficient interest to come up with anything worthwhile on it.

I have taken a very quick look at my copy of the Kenya piece and in terms of sheer typing errors it seems in an awful mess to me. I can't remember to what extent either I or the people who did the typing cleaned up the copy that went to you but what I have here will need considerable cleaning up before being fit to print. In terms of the actual content the recent developments leading to the mass exodus of Indians from Kenya has made the piece more immediate than when I wrote it. I think the necessary updating - not so much in the content as in the dating of the narrative - can be done at the same time as the typing is cleaned up. Naturally, I would prefer not to undertake this additional chore until I know someone is interested. If, on the other hand you want me to let you have a cleaned-up updated thing to shop around with I will go to work on it. I shall, of course, use all this material for a book later when the time is ripe, probably when there are the inevitable political 'disturbances' following the death of Kenyatta or some such other event. Meanwhile I do hope things settle down at Holiday for which I have a soft spot. It seems not yet to have recovered from the death of Ted Patrick.

Congratulations to both you and Martha Winston on becoming vice-presidents! And please ask Miss Sukerman to pay my annual \$10 Dramatists Guild fee and debit me.

I have been working on our land these past few months; planting trees, clearing bush and it has been wonderful; but I shall, sooner or later, give it up reluctantly and turn back to writing.

All the best.



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022

From the office of Martha Winston

October 26, 1967

Peter Abrams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica

Dear Peter:

This letter from Knopf is self-explanatory, and I am sending you a copy of the abridgement of TELL FREEDOM for your approval under separate cover.

Let me know if the terms are all right and if it is o.k. for me to go ahead.

Yours,

MW/ts
Encl.

"STORIES FROM THE CARIBBEAN". Andrew Salkey. Elek Books Ltd., 2, All Saints Street, London, N.1. 236 pp. Cloth boards. 30s.

This is a collection of West Indian stories. The author, a young West Indian novelist, has collected together a diverse and representative anthology of short stories from a number of West Indian writers, including V. S. Naipaul, Samuel Selvon and John Hearne, with those of a number of newer writers some as yet unpublished. Wit and humour, melancholy and resentment, fantasy and superstition, all reflect the different sensibilities of the Islanders and combine to make a unique volume containing one of the richest and most appealing anthologies published.

"ONE TRAVELLER'S AFRICA". Cynthia Nolan. Methuen & Co. Ltd., 11, New Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4. 254 pp. with coloured photographs and end-plates. Cloth boards. 42s.

Cynthia Nolan and her husband have recently completed what amounted almost to a Grand Tour of Africa, covering tens of thousands of miles through a number of countries. Between them, in word and in picture, they have recorded the sights, sounds and smells of one traveller's Africa — describing with a sense of precision and with wonder the wild animals, the natural landscapes of Abyssinia and the beauty of the Murchison Falls, and outstanding memories of every country included on her visit. The paintings are of a rare quality, as is the descriptive writing throughout. This is a book on which authors and publishers are to be highly congratulated, and one that will bring back again the delights of Africa to all who have lived there or visited its countries at any time.

"INTRODUCTION TO THE FLOWERING PLANTS OF WEST AFRICA". Margaret Steentoft Neilsen. University of London Press, Ltd., Amen House, Warwick Square, London, E.C.4. Cloth boards. 246 pp. with maps and line-drawings. 42s. net.

This book fills a long-felt need by students and teachers of botany in West Africa, describing the morphology and systematics of more than 600 species of West African flowering plants with notes on their recognition, ecology and distribution. There are notes on field recognition of more important genera. Excellent for students at Advanced Level and in their first year at Universities in tropical Africa. Excellently produced and informatively illustrated.

"A NIGHT OF THEIR OWN". Peter Abrahams. Faber & Faber, 24, Russell Square, London, W.C.1. 270 pp. Cloth boards. 21s.

The author has written several popular works, the last one published by Faber's, *"A Wreath for Udomo"*, being issued nine years ago. This is a thrilling and authentic account of the work of the South African Resistance — and as important today as when it was written.

"THE CIVIL SERVICE IN THE NEW AFRICAN STATES". A. L. Adu. George Allen & Unwin Ltd., Ruskin House, Museum Street, London, W.C.1. 242 pp. Cloth boards. 25s.

The author is the regional representative of United Nations Technical Assistance Board, East Africa. He examines the development of policy and the changing role of the civil service in the newly developing states in Africa, and their machinery of government. Such problems in Africa have their own special peculiarities, and Mr. Adu is singularly qualified to consider them. This is a scholarly and most informative volume that should be in the hands of all concerned in government and administration in the countries of the African Continent.

"HOW NOT TO KILL YOUR WIFE". By a Family Doctor. George Allen and Unwin Ltd., 40, Museum Street, London, W.C.1. 234 pp. Cloth boards. 25s.

A book by a family doctor — required by medical etiquette to remain anonymous. It deals clearly and at times amusingly with the problems of health which every married woman must at some time encounter, and is in addition a very useful handbook for the woman, whether a housewife or not. A great deal of common sense is included in its pages, and the volume is recommended with confidence.

"BLACK EROS". Boris de Rachewiltz. George Allen & Unwin Ltd., Ruskin House, Museum Street, London, W.C.1. 330 pp. with photographs in colour and monochrome. Cloth boards. 63s.

This is a review of the sexual customs of Africa from prehistoric times to the present day, objectively written and illustrated in colour and monochrome with photographs of striking reality. An excellently produced volume, it will be of great value to the anthropologist and the student of Africa, her people, and their religious and tribal beliefs and customs from the earliest times to the present day.

"THEURGY". Mouni Sadhu. George Allen & Unwin Ltd., Ruskin House, Museum Street, London, W.C.1. 263 pp. Cloth boards. 30s.

The art of effective worship and the practice of religion are dealt with in this volume, based primarily on the Christian faith, but which treats of many philosophies and religions within that category. The actual application of prayer is dealt with in several chapters — its practical side being stressed. Prayer for many occasions is prescribed, as are such matters as exorcism and the blessing of persons and objects for religious purposes. A most interesting work, not far from the idea now being advocated by a Church of England Bishop for home religious ceremonies and observances. Will be of great interest to all students of religion and philosophy.



RANDOM HOUSE, INC. ALFRED A. KNOPF, INC.

501 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022 • PLAZA 1-2600

October 26, 1967

Dear Miss Winston:

In accordance with our telephone conversation this morning, I am enclosing herewith the abridgment of TELL FREEDOM by Peter Abrahams.

We have agreed to its use in a high school text entitled MODERN LITERATURE: Four Representative Types. The four representative types are a novel, a play, a narrative and this biography. We have asked for \$400 advance against a royalty of 1 1/4% or 1 2/3% of the annual income. (The royalty will be adjusted in accordance with the length of Mr. Abrahams book to the other selections in the volume.)

Thank you for getting this abridgment to the author for approval.

Yours faithfully
for Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.

Barbara Kenealy
Barbara Kenealy
Permissions

Miss Martha Winston
Curtis Brown, Ltd.
60 East 56 St.
New York, N.Y.

'Coyaba3
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.
Jamaica.

November 3, 1967

MISS Martha Winston,
Curtis Brown, Ltd.,
60 East 56 Street
New York 10022

Dear Martha,

I am returning to you under separate cover the copy of
Tell Freedom with the proposed abridgement.

Both it and the proposed terms seem allright to me so
do go ahead.

As ever

Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.

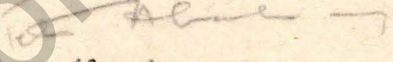
October 5, 1966.

Miss Maureen Walters,
Permissions Department,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
60 East 56 Street,
New York 10022.

Dear Miss Walters,

This is to thank you for your letter of September 16
and enclosure and to say that the abridgement seems all
right to me and for you to go ahead with the deal.

Yours sincerely


Peter Abrahams

cb
Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022

September 16th, 1966

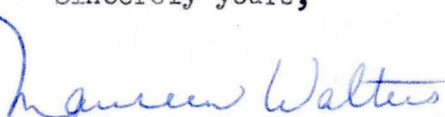
Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hill's P. O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I have had a request from a Miss Barbara Nolen who is compiling an anthology for young people tentatively entitled AFRICA IS PEOPLE, to be published next fall by E. P. Dutton. She has asked for permission to use an abridged version of the enclosed story in her anthology. She has agreed to a fee of \$75 for the use of this story.

If the abridged version is agreeable to you, please let me know and I shall proceed with the deal.

Sincerely yours,



Maureen Walters
Permissions Department

Enc.

Reflections on Leadership
Interview in Accra
by Peter Abrahams

(from AN AFRICAN TREASURY, ed. Langston Hughes, pp. 42-44) approx. 1600 words

Crown. 1960

It was a hot, humid, oppressive August day in Accra, capital of the Gold Coast that was to become Ghana. The air had the stillness of death. I walked down toward the sea front. Perhaps there would be the hint of a breeze there. As I neared the sea front I was assailed by a potent stench of the sea with strong overtones of rotting fish.

In about eight minutes of walking, some fifteen "taxis" pulled up beside me: "Hi, massa! Taxi, massa! Me go anywhere you go cheap!" They are all private taxis with no meters and driven by strapping young men with flashing teeth. The place is full of taxi drivers willing to go anywhere and do anything cheap.

The street traders here are women. "Mammy traders," they are called. They trade in everything. They sell cigarettes, one at a time; round loaves of bread and hunks of cooked meat on which the big West African flies make sport. They love bargaining and haggling. They are a powerful economic factor in the life of the country. The more prosperous ones own their own trucks, some own fleets of trucks. These "mammy trucks" are the principal carriers of the country. They carry passengers as well as produce and go hurtling across the countryside with little regard for life or limb. Each truck has its own distinctive slogan, such as: Repent for Death is Round the Corner, or Enter Without Hope, or The Last Ride or If it Must it Will. My own favorite--and I traveled in this particular truck--pleaded Not Today O Lord Not Today.

I passed many mammy traders, many mammy trucks, before I

reached the sea front. I crossed a street, jumped over an open drain, and there was the sea. But there was no breeze, and no shade from the terrible sun. In the end I gave in to the idea of "taxi, massa, taxi" and looked about for one. But now there was no taxi in sight. Instead, I saw suddenly a long procession of many women and a few men. The procession swung round a corner and came into full view, twenty or thirty yards long. The women wore white flowing robes and white kerchiefs on their heads. Their faces were painted into grotesque masks made with thick streaks of black, red, white and yellow paints. The heavy thud of bare feet rose above the hum of the sea.

Then, all at once, the drums burst forth and there was no other sound about me. The marching women began to jig, then dance. As the tail of the procession passed me the drums reached a frenzy. A thin, pure note from a reed rose above the drums. The whole procession became a shivering, shaking mass. The reed note held longer than seemed human. And then, dramatically, there was silence. The thudding feet faded away out of sight and sound. There was silence and a slight racing of my heartbeat and the hum of the sea, and, of course, the overpowering fishy stench.

(3 pages omitted)

My thoughts shifted to my forthcoming meeting with Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first prime minister. It was well over seven years since I had last seen him, in London. Then he was a poor struggling student; now he was the head of a state and the spokesman for the great Pan-African dream of freedom and independence.

I remembered our past friendship and wondered what changes I

would find in him. Anyway, it was now 9 a.m. and my date with him was for 9:30. I would soon know.

A few minutes later I flagged a taxi and simply said, "Kwame's office."

A pale-brown West Indian miss was the prime minister's secretary. She welcomed me as though I was a V.I.P. The prime minister had not come back from a conference yet. This tribal business was taking up a lot of his attention. She told me with indignation how members of the Ashanti tribe had to crawl on their bellies for some twenty yards into the presence of their king, the Asantehene, and how tribalism had to give way or there would be no progress. If she was any indication, then Nkrumah was very worried about the opposition the tribesmen were offering his western-style Convention People's Party.

A number of officials came in. The lady stopped assailing the tribes. Then there was some bustle and the prime minister arrived. In something just over five minutes he had seen and dealt with these officials and I was ushered into his office. It was a big, pleasant, cool room.

Nkrumah came round his big official desk, took my hand and led me to a settee near the window. The now famous smile lit up his face. As we exchanged greetings, felt each other out with small talk in an attempt to bridge the gap of years, my mind went back to our London days. This poised, relaxed man, with the hint of guarded reserve about him, was a far cry from the friend I had last seen nearly eight years earlier.

For me, the most striking change of all was in his eyes. They reflected an inner tranquillity which was the one thing the Nkrumah in Europe never had.

Even his name had been subtly different then. He had been our friend Francis Nkrumah, an African student recently arrived from the United States, and he had not seen Africa for a decade and more. He had quickly become a part of our African colony in London and had joined our little group, the Pan-African Federation, in our protests against colonialism.

He was much less relaxed than most of us. His eyes mirrored a burning inner conflict and tension. He seemed consumed by a restlessness that led him to evolve some of the most fantastic schemes.

The president of our federation was an East African named Johnstone Kenyatta, the most relaxed, sophisticated and "westernized" of the lot of us. Kenyatta enjoyed the personal friendship of some of the most distinguished people in English political and intellectual society. He was subtle, subtle enough to attack one's principles bitterly and retain one's friendship. He fought the British as imperialists but was affectionate toward them as friends.

It was to this balanced and extremely cultured man that Francis Nkrumah proposed that we form a secret society called The Circle, and that each of us spill a few drops of our blood into a bowl and so take a blood oath of secrecy and dedication to the emancipation of Africa.

Johnstone Kenyatta laughed at the idea; he scoffed at it as childish juju. He conceived our struggle in modern, twentieth-century terms with no ritualistic blood nonsense. In the end Francis Nkrumah drifted away from us and started his own little West African group in London. We were too tame and slow for him.

He was an angry man in a hurry.

Then he went back to his part of Africa, and Francis Nkrumah became Kwame Nkrumah. He set himself at the head of the largely tribal populace and dabbled in blood ritual. There was some violence, a spell in prison, and finally Nkrumah emerged as the first African prime minister in a self-governing British African territory.

Tribal myths grew up around him. He could make himself invisible at will. He could go without food and sleep and drink longer than ordinary mortals. He was, in fact, the reincarnation of some of the most powerful ancestral spirits. He allowed his feet to be bathed in blood.

By the time I visited the Gold Coast the uneasy alliance between Nkrumah and the tribal chiefs had begun to crack. A week or so before my arrival he had threatened that, unless they cooperated with his government in turning the Gold Coast into an efficient twentieth-century state, he would make them run so hard that they would leave their sandals behind them. This was a calculated insult to the tribal concept that a chief's bare feet must never touch the earth.

That was the beginning of the secret war. Nkrumah thought he would win it easily. He was wrong.

And the chiefs have, negatively, scored their victories too. They have pushed him to a point where his regime is, today, intolerant of opposition. The tribal society brooks no opposition. Nkrumah's government banishes its most active opponents. As a modern socialist leading a western-style government, he justifies this as a temporary expedient. But his less sophisticated

ministers frankly talk the tribal language of strength, frankly express the tribal impulse to destroy those who are out of step.

There was an air of delicacy about our conversation and we were both aware of this. We touched on local politics. He let off at full blast against the tribalist. I told him I had heard that the Accra Club was still exclusively European. His eyes lit up. "You wait and see," he said. Then, in relation to nothing either of us had said, he leaned toward me and exclaimed, "This place is rich! God, man, there's so much riches here!"--as though the revelation had just been made to him.

But always, throughout our talk, I sensed a new reserve, a new caution that had not been there in the young student I had known in Europe.

Kenyatta

As we talked in Nkrumah's cool office that hot August day in Accra, my mind kept slipping back to our mutual friend Jomo or Johnstone Kenyatta, now imprisoned in his native Kenya for leading the Mau-Mau movement. Significantly, though we mentioned many friends, both Nkrumah and I avoided mentioning Kenyatta. I had decided not to mention him first. I had hoped Nkrumah would. He did not.

A year earlier, I had flown up to Kenya from South Africa and visited Kenyatta. I felt terribly depressed as I got off the plane. Things had grown so much uglier in the Union. The barricades were up in the ugly war of color. When I had left South Africa in the dim-and-distant past, there were isolated islands where black and white could meet in neutral territory. When I went back in 1952, the islands were submerged under the rising

and
|
cut
resh
to
interviews

tide of color hatreds, and I was glad to quit that dark, unhappy land which yet compelled my love.

It was in this mood that I got off the plane. I had not seen my friend Jomo for years. Now there he was, just outside the airport terminal building, leaning on a heavy cane, bigger than I remembered him in Europe, paunchy, his face looking puffy. And behind him was a huge crowd of Africans.

I began to move toward him when a lean-faced, lean-hipped white colonial-administrator type suddenly appeared beside me and said: "Mr. Abrahams."

I stopped and thought, "Oh, Lord."

Kenyatta also came forward. The two men ignored each other. Lean-face introduced himself and said the Colonial Office had alerted them that I was coming to do some writing for the London Observer and they had drawn up a provisional schedule for me. Had I done anything about accommodations?

Before I could answer, Kenyatta said, "You are staying with me, of course." The old detachment was back in his eyes. They seemed to say, "You've got to choose, pal. Let's see how you choose."

Lean-face said, "We've got something set up for you for tomorrow and--"

"I live in the bush," Kenyatta added.

It dawned on me that I had become, for the moment, the battlefield of that horrible animal, the racial struggle. I made up my mind, resenting both sides and yet conscious of the crowd of Africans in the background. A question of face was involved.

"I've promised to spend this week end with Mr. Kenyatta," I said.

Lean-face was graceful about it. I promised to call the Secretariat first thing on Monday morning. He gave me a copy of the schedule that had been prepared for me and wondered, sotto voce, whether I knew what I was letting myself in for. Kenyatta assured me that I would be perfectly safe, that nobody was going to cut my throat. I was aware that they were talking to each other through me. I was aware that they knew I was aware, and that made me bad-tempered.

"Then I'll say good night, Mr. Abrahams," Lean-face said pointedly.

As soon as he was out of hearing Kenyatta began to curse.

"It's good to see you again, Johnstone." I gripped his hand.

"Jomo," he replied. The hint of ironic speculation was back in his eyes. A slightly sardonic, slightly bitter smile played on his lips.

"Welcome to Kenya, Peter," he said. Then, abruptly: "Come meet the leaders of my people. They've been waiting long."

We moved forward and the crowd gathered about us. Jomo made a little speech in Kikuyu, then translated it for my benefit. A little old man, ancient as the hills, with huge holes in his ears, then welcomed me on behalf of the land and its people. Again Jomo translated.

After this we all bundled into the fleet of rattling old cars and set off for the Kikuyu reserve in the heart of the African bush. Kenyatta became silent and strangely remote during the journey.

We stopped at the old chief's compound, where other members

of the tribe waited to welcome me. By this time the reception committee had grown to a few hundred. About me, pervading the air, was the stench of burning flesh; a young cow was being roasted in my honor. Before I entered the house a drink was handed to me. Another was handed to the old chief and a third to Kenyatta. The old man muttered a brief incantation and spilled half his drink on the earth as a libation. Jomo and I followed suit. Then the three of us downed our drinks and entered the house.

A general feasting and drinking then commenced, both inside and outside the house. I was getting a full ceremonial tribal welcome. The important dignitaries of the tribe slipped into the room in twos and threes, spoke to me through Kenyatta for a few moments, and then went away, making room for others.

"Africa doesn't seem to change," Kenyatta murmured between dignitaries. There was a terrible undercurrent of bitterness behind the softly murmured words. I was startled by it and looked at his face. For a fleeting moment he looked like a trapped, caged animal.

He saw me looking at him and quickly composed his face into a slightly sardonic, humorous mask. "Don't look too closely," he said.

And still the dignitaries filed in, had a drink, spoke their welcome and went out.

The ceremonial welcome reached its high point about midnight. Huge chunks of the roasted cow were brought in to us, and we gnawed at the almost raw meat between swigs of liquor. Outside, there was muted drumming. Voices were growing louder and louder.

Suddenly, in the midst of a long-winded speech by an immensely dignified Masai chief from a neighboring and friendly tribe, Kenyatta jumped up, grabbed his heavy cane and half staggered through the door.

"Come, Peter," he called.

Everybody was startled. I hesitated. He raised his cane and beckoned to me with it. I knew that this would be a dreadful breach of tribal etiquette.

"Come, man!" he snapped.

I got up, aware of the sudden silence that had descended on the huge gathering. By some strange magic everybody seemed to know that something had gone wrong.

"Jomo," I said.

"I can't stand any more," he snapped. "Come!"

I followed him to the door. I knew the discourtesy we were inflicting on the tribe. I also knew that my friend was at the breaking point. We walked through the crowd of people, got into Kenyatta's car and drove off into the night. The African moon was big and yellow, bathing the land in a soft light that almost achieved the clarity of daylight.

He took me to his home. It was a big, sprawling, empty place on the brow of a hill. Inside, it had nothing to make for comfort. There were hard wooden chairs, a few tables and only the bed in the bedroom. There were no books, none of the normal amenities of western civilization. When we arrived two women emerged from somewhere in the back and hovered about in the shadows. They brought in liquor, but I never got a clear glimpse of either of them. My friend's anguish of spirit was such that I did not want

to ask questions. We sat on the veranda and drank steadily and in silence until we were both miserably, depressingly drunk.

And then Kenyatta began to speak in a low, bitter voice of his frustration and of the isolated position in which he found himself. He had no friends. There was no one in the tribe who could give him the intellectual companionship that had become so important to him in his years in Europe. The things that were important to him--consequential conversation, the drink that represented a social activity rather than the intention to get drunk, the concept of individualism, the inviolability of privacy--all these were alien to the tribesmen in whose midst he lived. So Kenyatta, the western man, was driven in on himself and was forced to assert himself in tribal terms. Only thus would the tribesmen follow him and so give him his position of power and importance as a leader.

To live without roots is to live in hell, and no man chooses voluntarily to live in hell. The people who could answer his needs as a western man had erected a barrier of color against him in spite of the fact that the taproots of their culture had become the taproots of his culture too. By denying him access to those things which complete the life of western man, they had forced him back into the tribalism from which he had so painfully freed himself over the years.

None of this was stated explicitly by either Kenyatta or myself. But it was there in his brooding bitter commentary on both the tribes and the white settlers of the land. For me, Kenyatta became that night a man who in his own life personified the terrible tragedy of Africa and the terrible secret war that rages in it. He was the victim both of tribalism and of westernism

gone sick. His heart and mind and body were the battlefield of the ugly violence known as the Mau Mau revolt long before it broke out in that beautiful land. The tragedy is that he was so rarely gifted, that he could have made such a magnificent contribution in other circumstances.

Tribalism

What then is tribal man? Perhaps his most important single characteristic is that he is not an individual in the western sense. Psychologically and emotionally he is the present living personification of a number of forces, among the most important of which are the ancestral dead. The dead have a powerful hold on the living. They control and regulate the lives and activities of the living from the grave. They hand out the rules and codes by which the living conduct their daily affairs. If there is a drought, if there is a famine, it is a sign that the ancestors are angry because someone has broken a rule of the tribe, a law laid down by the dead. There will be no peace, no order, no prosperity in the tribe until the ancestors are appeased.

So the chief calls the whole tribe to a meeting in which the guilty ones will be "smelled out." The procedure begins with the drums--a key factor in African life. Their insistent throbs call the people to the gathering on a placid, almost momentous key at first, but working on the emotions. Everyone in the village will be present; no man, woman or child would think of not obeying the summons. They form a circle, with the witch doctor or medicine man and the drummers to the fore. When all the people are assembled the throbbing of the drums increases. They beat in tune to the heartbeats of the human circle.

The witch doctor is dressed in lion or leopard skin, some-

times in monkey skin. His face is painted in bold streaks of color: white, black, red. There are crisscrossing lines on his body too. He wanders about the center of the circle, almost idly at first. Every now and then he pauses and looks straight into someone's eyes and keeps on looking. For the person looked at, this is an encounter with fate. Few stare back. Their eyes slide past his face or go glazed. They fear but are not supposed to fear. They know the ancestors are just, that the innocent are never punished. To experience fear, therefore, is an acknowledgment of guilt. It is not necessary to know the nature of your guilt; if you were not guilty, there would be no fear in your mind.

The tempo of the drums increases. The witch doctor begins to dance, slowly at first. He begins to talk in a high-pitched nasal voice; spirits always talk through their noses. The drums and the incantations go on and on, getting faster and wilder, dominating the hearts and minds of all the circle. People begin to tremble and shiver. Some drop down in a trance and lie moaning on the ground. Everyone is possessed by the frenzy of the drums. The spirits of the ancestors are abroad.

Suddenly the drums stop. The witch doctor stands fixed for a dreadful moment that seems without end. Then he pounces. He grabs his victim and drags him or her into the center of the circle. The victim does not resist, does not protest. The ancestors are always just.

There may be one, there may be many victims. But once the victim or victims are "smelled out," the hypnotic spell of the drums is broken. People relax. Their hearts beat normally once more. Now the ancestors will be propitiated and the living

freed of the evil which beset them. Now the famine or the drought or the plague or whatever had beset the land will depart from it. And so, while the victim or victims are put to death, the rest of the tribe celebrates the passing of the great evil.

Another key characteristic of tribal man is that his society is exclusive and not, like western society, inclusive. The lines are drawn very clearly, very sharply. Anybody not an "insider" is an enemy, actually or potentially--someone to distrust, someone to fear, someone to keep at bay. There is no choice, no volition about this. It is something ordained by the ancestral dead. The tribal society is therefore possibly the most exclusive society in the twentieth-century world. If you are not in the tribe, there is no way into it. If you are in it, there is no way out of it except death. Dissent is not recognized. To break the rules of the tribe is to court death.

Even the family, the foundation of the tribal in-group, is no simple affair. It is often a cluster of four generations. A man's family can be made up of his father, his father's first, second and third wives--there may be more--and the children of these. A man inherits the wives and children of his brothers who die before him. The wives then become his wives, the children of his brother become brothers and sisters to his own children by his own wife. Then there are the children's children. These and the old people, the grandparents, make up the immediate family, the heart of the in-group. Then there are the families related to one's family by blood ties--the families of uncles and cousins. These have the same complex structure of many wives and brothers and sisters, many of whom are inherited. A group of such

blood-related families makes the clan. Clans have been known to be big enough to fill whole villages.

Another and most vital factor in the life of tribal man is his attitude to life and death. Neither life nor death is ever wholly accidental. Disease is never natural. These are brought about by the good and evil spirits all around us. The evil spirits are preoccupied with bringing disaster on the tribe, the good with protecting the tribe. To achieve their malign ends, evil spirits enter the bodies of ordinary human beings. To fight the evil spirits, good spirits enter the bodies of witch doctors. Life and death are thus out of the hands of mortal men.

The world of tribal man is so dominated by the spirits that some tribes will not eat birds because of the spirits that dwell in them, some will not eat fish, some are vegetarians and some eat meat only.

Tribal man is hemmed in, imprisoned by his ancestors. His horizons are only as wide as they permit. He is also protected by them. The rules are such that there are no orphans in the tribe, no misfits, no neurotics. And of course, the ancestral dead are hostile to change.

This, then, is the "oblique, the hard-to-know man." He is the man who raised Nkrumah to power. He is the man whose pressures led Jomo Kenyatta to the Mau Mau and then to his lonely prison-exile in a barren and isolated spot. He, tribal man, will have a crucial say in the future of Africa.

The ancestral dead notwithstanding, change is being imposed on him. How he reacts to the change will have a powerful bearing on tomorrow's Africa.

If the men inaugurating the new ways have the sense and the

patience to preserve the finer qualities of the old ways and fuse these with the new, then we can expect something magnificently new out of Africa.

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(INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND)

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The indication LT inserted between the double hyphens before the Address of this Telegram is charged for as one word.

Please write the NAME AND ADDRESS in CAPITAL LETTERS.

TO=LT= DEGENER CURTIS BROWN 575 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK

BRANCH AFFAIR ENTIRELY YOUR HANDS

ABRAHAMS

I hereby declare that the text of the above Telegram is entirely in plain language (the language or languages used being *
(Not to be Telegraphed.) that it is written in accordance with the general usage of the language or languages, and that it does not bear any meaning other than that which appears on the face of it. I request that the Telegram may be forwarded on the faith of the foregoing declaration and subject to the conditions printed on back hereof by which I agree to be bound.

SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS OF SENDER

Peter Abrahams, The West Indian Econ.,
164 Harbour Street, Kgn.

* State here the language used.

P.T.O.



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CABLE AND WIRELESS (WEST INDIES) LIMITED

(INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND)

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Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

June 2, 1966

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica

Dear Peter:

Am much relieved the delay was caused only by a postal strike. New York has suffered from all sorts of crises but so far not from the mailmen.

Harold Strauss is happy that you are going to try to make the changes he suggested and the contract is in the works now. I am puzzled by Innes Rose's concern over the Canadian market. Your last Knopf contract did stipulate Canada as an open market and the same arrangement will be followed in the new one. Actually, Faber will be so far ahead of Knopf that it's rather academic, but it is an open market.

Harold rather likes THIS ISLAND, NOW but wants to give it more thought.

Yours,

Harold Strauss

MW/ml

Curtis Brown, Ltd.

60 East 56 Street,

New York, N. Y. 10022



11C AIR MAIL



Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

SECOND FOLD

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

March 30, 1966

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

Dear Peter Abrahams:

I've been home with the flu or would have answered more promptly.

I am well aware that Knopf have reservations about A PASSAGE IN TIME, but I've had a good talk with Harold Straus and there is no doubt in my mind but that they do want to publish the book as it is, if that is the way you want it. Harold now understands this is the way you want it. He is writing you and I want to hear what you think after you've had his letter.

Yours,

Heather

MW/ml

Curtis Brown, Ltd.

575 Madison Avenue,

New York 10022



11¢ AIR MAIL

GRAND



JOHN F. KENNEDY

U.S.A

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.
Jamaica.

December 9, 1966.

Miss Ann Torrago,
Accounts Department,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
60 East 56 Street,
New York 10022, N.Y.

Dear Miss Torrago,

I am sorry you had to write twice about my annual
subscription to the Dramatists Guild. I have been travelling.

Will you please pay this bill for me.

Yours sincerely,


Peter Abrahams



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022

November 28, 1966

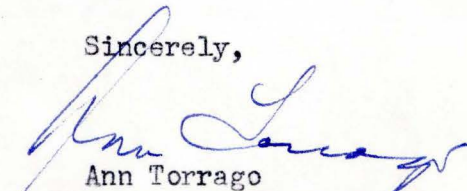
Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba, Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I have not heard from you in answer to my letter of October 27th, in reference to your bill for membership to the Dramatists Guild for the fiscal year of October 1, 1966 to September 30, 1967.

The dues are \$10. May I hear from you as to your decision.

Sincerely,



Ann Torrago
Accounting Department

AT:rs

120-1112

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022

October 27, 1966

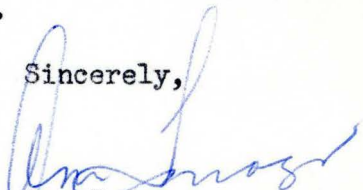
Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba, Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

The bill for the \$10 dues for membership to the Dramatists Guild for the fiscal year of October 1, 1966 to September 30, 1967 is now due. Do you wish to renew your membership?

The \$10 dues which were paid August 19th, covered your membership to the Guild for 1965.

Sincerely,



Ann Torrago
Accounting Department

AT:rs

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

December 9, 1966

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica

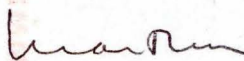
Dear Peter:

Harold Strauss has kept me informed about the changes you have made in THIS ISLAND, NOW and I am happy to see that all seems to be going well.

^{want}
We had no word about the British publication plans. When do Fabers plan to publish? Have you alerted John Farquharson to send me two copies of the British edition to register for ad interim copyright here, in the event they are publishing before Knopf.

Hope you are well and happy and that the new year will be a great one for you.

Yours,



MW/ml

P.S. I just thought to check with Harold Strauss re British publication and he tells me that it will probably be next spring. Since it is likely to precede Knopf's, will you please alert John Farquharson at that time to provide us with two copies for the ad interim copyright.

Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.,
St. Andrew,
Jamaica.

October 6, 1966

Miss Nellie Sukerman,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
60 East 56 Street,
New York 10022, N.Y.

Dear Miss Sukerman,

Literary earnings here are averaged out over a four year period for tax purposes here so once every four year I have an argument with our tax people. I am in one such now and I should like your help with information on two points for which I seem to be unable to find records.

There are U.S. Treasury forms for 1962 showing a payment from you to me of \$1,000, and one for 1963 showing a payment of \$222. I should be very grateful if you could tell me what these were for and whether these are in fact the figures I received.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Abrahams

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

August 9, 1966

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica

Dear Peter:

I'm completely in sympathy with your trip to the wilds of Guyana -- these things are difficult to resist! I'll explain to Harold. Many thanks for the signed agreement.

Yours,

Curtis Brown

MW/ml

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022 PLaza 5-4200

August 1, 1966

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica

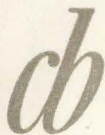
Dear Peter:

I'm beginning to worry about the Knopf agreement;
I mailed it to you on June 16th. Let me know
please if you haven't received it.

Yours,

W. M. W.

MW/ml



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022

From the office of Martha Winston

June 16, 1966

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica

Dear Peter:

I'm enclosing two copies of the letter agreement for THIS ISLAND, NOW. Keep one for your records, sign and return the other to me (not to Knopf).

Many thanks.

Yours,

MW/ml
Encl. (2)

Alfred A. Knopf *Incorporated*

P U B L I S H E R O F



B O R Z O I B O O K S

Cables: KNOPF NEW YORK

Telephone: PLAZA 1-2600

501 Madison Avenue

New York (22), N.Y.

June 13, 1966

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

We formally accept *THIS ISLAND, NOW* as the option work under our agreement dated September 18, 1964, and all terms and conditions shall be exactly as stated in that agreement, except that the Author agrees to grant the Publisher an additional option on his next work of fiction following *THIS ISLAND, NOW*.

This letter goes to you in duplicate. If, as we believe, it correctly expresses the understanding between us, please sign one copy where indicated and return it to us, and file the other with your copy of the agreement. Our check in payment of the advance will be mailed to your agent, Curtis Brown, Ltd., upon our receipt of the countersigned letter.

Yours faithfully,

for Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.

William A. Koshland
Secretary

AGREED: _____

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, West Indies

WAK:sr
(in duplicate)

August 3, 1966

Miss Martha Winston,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
60 East 56 Street,
New York 22, N.Y.

Dear Martha,

I'm sure you and Harold Strauss think I'm a stinker - and you're right. I have been having a wonderful time in the wilds of what used to be British Guiana and is now Guyana over the past month. Two explorers passing through here invited me to come along and since this was one of the things I'd always wanted to do, I left everything and went. I have only just returned and will now buckle to on the much delayed revision I let myself in for. Be an angel and make peace with Harold for me. I do not know precisely what changes or additions I will make or just when it would be done but I will do it as quickly as possible (all this is by way of response to his letter of July 7th which just missed me as I flew out).

I also return herewith the letter of agreement for the book.

Finally, I enclose a long overdue bill from the Dramatists Guild. Please pass it on to Miss Sukerman and ask her to pay it for me.

Now I must write to Innes Rose who, I'm sure, also thinks me a lousy lazy stinker. But the trip was worth it and I feel all the richer and happier for it.

As ever

Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.
Jamaica.
May 25, 1966

Miss Martha Winston,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
60 East 56 Street,
New York 10022. N.Y.

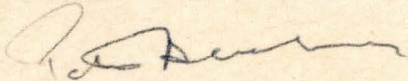
Dear Martha,

Sorry about it but I have only just received your letter of March 30th (as well that that of Harold Strauss and at least fifty others, including the English page proofs of the book). We had a month long postal strike which ended about three weeks ago but there is still great confusion and an awful backlog of mail.

I think you should now go ahead with the contract with Knopf and please tell Harold Strauss that I shall now go over the manuscript and try to meet his points of criticism which he itemises on page three of his letter of March 1st. As soon as this is done I will write him, and you. Incidentally, Fabers who say they are publishing this autumn are not too happy about the title. They wanted THE VOICE OF THE ISLAND about which I am not very happy; and I think we are now settling on THIS ISLAND, NOW. This is from W.H. Auden's "Look stranger at this island now/ The leaping light for your delight discover" etc. But since it looks as though we shall be publishing relatively different versions this may not be of interest to Knopf.

Finally, Innes Rose writes rather pressingly over the question of access to the Canadian market. He naturally wants to give Faber an entry there. I was under the impression that Canada had been treated as an 'open market' for both publishers. To the best of my knowledge this was the original arrangement worked out by the publishers and agents. But he say the British were excluded from Canada with the last book. Do you think you could sort this out with him?

Yours



XERO COPY XERO COPY XERO COPY XERO COPY

March 30, 1966

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

Dear Peter Abrahams:

I've been home with the flu or would have answered more promptly.

I am well aware that Knopf have reservations about A PASSAGE IN TIME, but I've had a good talk with Harold Straus and there is no doubt in my mind but that they do want to publish the book as it is, if that is the way you want it. Harold now understands this is the way you want it. He is writing you and I want to hear what you think after you've had his letter.

Yours,

MW/ml

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 60 East 56 Street, New York, N. Y. 10022

From the office of Martha Winston

May 13, 1966

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

Dear Peter:

I'm beginning to wonder if you ever received my letter of March 30th or Harold Strauss' letter of about the same date. I'm enclosing a copy of my letter. Do let me hear from you and please note our new address.

Yours,

Martha Winston

MW/ml
Encl.

Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.,
St. Andrew.
Jamaica.

March 9, 1966

Dear Miss Winston,

I have just received Harold Strauss' letter of March 1st. It seems to me that over and above the criticism of points of detail there is a basic unhappiness at Knopf about the structure of the book itself. Knopf is unhappy about first one set, then another set of characters dominating the story in different sections. This is how I intended it to be and to do anything else is to write another story.

It seems to me that if they publish, unless it is a completely rewritten story that overcomes this basic objection, they are not likely to do so with any real enthusiasm. And I know this is not the sort of book that will sell itself; I know it is neither easy nor popular but it is something I really wanted to do.

In these circumstances I wonder whether it is not unfair to insist on their publishing because of the option business? My relations with them have been cordial over such a long period of time that I would hate them to have to publish anything of mine ~~unwillingly~~ unwillingly.

Anyway, the point of this note is to ask for your advice to help make up my mind. You're on the spot; you know the business; and I'm sure there's a line of action you would like to see taken. I shall defer answering Harold Strauss until I have heard from you.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Martha Winston,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York 10022.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

January 18, 1966

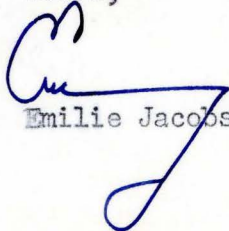
Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba, Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Peter:

A PASSAGE IN TIME seems to me a skillfully and absorbingly written book, and one which dissects interestingly and sympathetically a frightening phenomenon of our times. As a magazine prospect I feel its chances are slim. The individual lives with which the writer gets involved at the start become in the end, secondary to the burgeoning political situation. I am sure this is precisely what you intended, and I think that in terms of the book it works. But in magazine terms the tone is more contemplative and analytical than what most of the editors are seeking at present. I will, however, show it to the Saturday Evening Post and we'll see what they say.

I have, of course, given the ribbon copy to Martha for the book publisher.

Yours,



Emilie Jacobson

EJ/emm

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

November 30, 1965

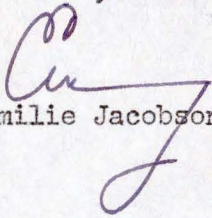
Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrews, Jamaica
B.W.I.

Dear Peter:

I am very glad to tell you that the Holiday editors find KENYA acceptable and they are putting through payment.

Harry Nickles has asked me to tell you that they'll do the necessary cutting in the shop and will, of course, show you proofs for your approval. Also, he says not to worry about pictures because their Art Department likes to plan its own photographic coverage. And he sends you his warmest regards.

So do I, as ever,


Emilie Jacobson

EJ/blk

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

November 17, 1965

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrews, Jamaica

Dear Peter:

This is just to let you know that KENYA has arrived safely and is on its way to Harry Nickles at Holiday. It doesn't seem to me as polished a piece as it could be, but I know you were pressed for time and I'm sure the editors at Holiday will understand.

Yours,

Emilie

Emilie Jacobson

EJ/blk

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

September 21, 1965

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

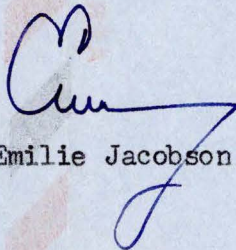
Dear Peter:

This is in reply to yours of August 9th which was held for my return from vacation and I, in turn, had to hold it until Harry Nickles of Holiday returned just now from his vacation. Since you are traveling in Africa as I write, I expect the delay won't matter a great deal and this will greet you on your return home.

The point is that Holiday says to take a little more time with the article if the mid-October deadline makes you feel pressed. They would hope to have the manuscript by November 1st. If you find it absolutely necessary I think they would stretch it to November 15th. All of which I hope will take some of the pressure off in the writing of the piece.

I hope, too, that your journey was an exciting and rewarding one.

My best to you,



Emilie Jacobson

EJ/evs

'Coyaba'
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew,
Jamaica.

August 9, 1965

Miss Emilie Jacobson,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York.

Dear Emilie,

This is just to keep you in the picture. I fly out of here in about an hour's time, which was the first plane seat I could get. I spend four days in London and reach Nairobi on the 17th. I return on the 30th September, which makes the mid-October deadline a little on the tight side but I'll see how much of the story I can write on the spot.

The book is done; I like it but this, I know, is subjective and I will not feel certain about it until I've looked at it when I get back. Paul of Tarsus has given it a title - THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY - which is how most of us see the reality of this world of ours.

For Miss Blossom Kahn please: I have just received her letter and will not have time to reply before I go, but I really do not like Mr. Thomas' idea.

Yours sincerely



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary
August 6, 1965

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Due from A. A. Knopf Inc.
for royalties to March 31, 1965.

\$36.02

Less: 15% Commission
Merchandise

\$5.40
9.27

14.67

By check herewith.....

\$21.35

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

July 30, 1965

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Allow me to introduce myself. I am head of the motion picture department at Curtis Brown.

For the past few months I have been trying to interest several producers in A NIGHT OF THEIR OWN, as I think it's a very exciting book and could lend itself very well to a motion picture. Peter Thomas in California is co-representing the book with us as I felt it would be a difficult sale and one which needed co-representation on the Coast.

The resistance to the book has been, of course, the African situation, and no one knows just how to get around it. I pass the following suggestion on for what it's worth, and I have absolutely no comment about it because it is just an idea that Mr. Thomas proposed. What do you think about taking the book and making it a World War II story about a European underground?

I felt I should pass this along to you for your reaction as we must get your feelings on everything, and I would be interested in hearing your thoughts on the matter.

Sincerely,

BK:jm

Blossom Kahn

Blossom Kahn

Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew,
Jamaica.
July 22, 1965

Miss Emilie Jacobson,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
NEW YORK 10022. N.W.
U.S.A.

Dear Emilie,

I am all set to book passage and getting a little anxious about the Holiday advance money. If it is not yet on the way will you please expedite?

I am on the last twenty pages of the book and should be done with it sometime in the coming week. Faber will contract for the East Africa trip.

The new novel will be typed during my absence and should be ready on my return in early September. I should like to look it over before sending it out to you and Innes Rose in London. It is still too close for me to try an objective assessment.

Best regards.

Sincerely

Peter Abrahams



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

May 25, 1965

Peter Abrahams,
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica

Dear Peter Abrahams:

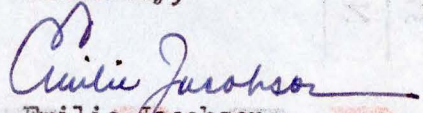
Thank you for yours of the 18th. The editors at Holiday are quite willing to go along with the schedule you propose, and unless you notify me of a change in your timetable they will plan to get a check for one thousand dollars into my hands by about the middle of July. I trust this will fit in with your plans but if not, don't hesitate to let me know.

If you could deliver the completed article by October 15th, the editors would be well pleased.

I will sell Holiday only North American serial rights when the time comes (this traditionally implies right of first publication) which means that book rights will be clear for Faber and, hopefully, Knopf once Holiday has published. You might also be able to arrange for a magazine or newspaper sale in England or elsewhere following Holiday's publication.

Harry Nickles sends his regards, as do I.

Sincerely,


Emilie Jacobson

EJ/blk



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

April 27, 1965

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

Dear Peter Abrahams:

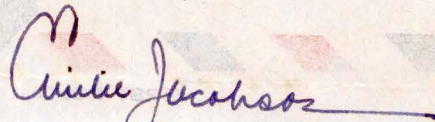
This is a belated answer to yours of March 23rd, belated because the Holiday situation remained in abeyance until the Editor in Chief Don Schanche returned a few days ago from a trip to the Orient.

The editors at Holiday were disappointed to learn that because of financial considerations you've had to postpone your African trip indefinitely. They are really anxious for your RETURN TO AFRICA article and have, accordingly, made the following proposition: If it would enable you to make the trip earlier, they are willing to advance you one thousand dollars, five hundred dollars of which would be considered expenses. The other five hundred would be against the final price of two thousand dollars they will pay for the finished article.

I realize that inasmuch as you're well along with the first draft of a new book you may not now wish to alter your present schedule even with this additional financial backing. But will you think it over, please, and let me know at your earliest possible convenience?

Knopf ran a fine ad for NIGHT OF THEIR OWN in yesterday's New York Times. I hope it will sell many copies.

Best wishes,


Emilie Jacobson

EJ/evs

P.S. When you come to the final typing of the new book, I hope you will be able to make two carbons so that I can get an early start on serial offer with the first carbon which should, preferably, be on opaque paper.

Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew,
Jamaica.

May 18, 1965.

Dear Emilie Jacobson,

Belatedly again, I like the Holiday proposition and will happily accept it as a way provided they agree that I finish the book in hand first. The way it is shaping at present I should be finally done with it not later than July (it could be earlier but it is safer to allow reasonable elbow room) which would mean that I could undertake the trip in the month of August and be back here to begin the writing of the piece by September, which would mean that Holiday would have to extend their September deadline a little.

In the above context I am writing to Peter du Sautoy my editor at Faber in London suggesting that he contracts for a book on the trip and puts a little spending money (as advance) into the kitty. Faber did this on my last trip there in the early fifties out of which came (for them) RETURN TO GOLLI. For this reason I know they will be interested in a revisited book. I should like you to make sure that there will be no objection from Holiday if I use some or most of the material of their article in a book for Faber, later.

I am restricting the book aspect to Faber at this stage because East Africa, which used to be 'White' settler Africa, has a special interest for the British (and therefore a British publisher) which it may not have for the American people (and therefore Knopf). I shall of course let Knopf see the ms when it is done but I do not think it would be fair to exact an advance commitment out of them.

Your comments on carbons of the new book duly noted, and Knopf have sent me copies of both ads and reviews.

Sincerely

"Coyaba",
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.
Jamaica.

March 23, 1965.

Dear Emilie Jacobson,

Thank you for yours of the 16th which still finds me in Jamaica. For one thing I am too far gone on the first draft of a new book to be able to do anything else until I have done this first writing which I expect to complete within the next 4-6 weeks. And which is also the reason for my laxness about answering letters just now.

For a second thing when I enquired about passage I found the cost of making the trip to Africa much higher than I expected. The cheapest return ticket I can get runs into £452 plus or, in dollar terms, well in excess of \$1,200 by rough calculation. To this should be added about \$500 for living and moving about. All of which would call for an initial outlay in the region of \$1,700-\$2,000, which I cannot at this moment in time take out of the family exchequer. So I am afraid the trip would have to be deferred until such time as I can afford to lay out this kind of money. Please pass this information on to Harry Nickles and tell him I'm sorry both because I would have liked to do the trip immediately I finish my present piece of writing and because I would have liked to meet Holiday's September 1 deadline. Of course, we may be lucky and book sales may be such as to change this picture and still make it possible for me to make the trip in a couple of months' time, in which case I will still try to meet their deadline. But I'm much too old a hand at this business to bank on chickens that may never hatch out.

Thank you for your earlier letters which I did not answer and the nice things you said about the book.

Please tell Miss Mowat of translations that Innes Rose in London handles all European translation rights; and Miss Winston that Harold Strauss at Knopf is the man with a wide selection of photos and negatives.

Sincerely

Miss Emilie Jacobson,
Curtis Brown
Curtis Brown Ltd.
575 Madison Ave, New York

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

March 16, 1965

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hill P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

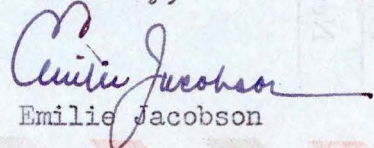
Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Following the recent editorial upheaval the Holiday people have been sorting out their assignment list and have confirmed to me the piece they have assigned to you provisionally entitled RETURN TO AFRICA. The letter from Harry Nickles goes on to say:

"We will look for a sweeping yet personalized piece running to 10,000 words, and would like to set the deadline at September 1. Peter's fee will be \$2,000 this time, in consideration of the unusual length we are calling for. We will pay nominal expenses of about \$300 but may go beyond that figure if it hampers him in his work for Holiday. Please advise him to submit whatever receipts he acquires. And wish him godspeed from me."

I realize that you may have already left for Africa and, if so, this will greet you upon your return.

Sincerely,


Emilie Jacobson

EJ/blk



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

March 1, 1965

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew,
Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Do you have a photograph of yourself that you could send me? We would very much like to have one for our office "gallery", with your inscription. I hope this isn't too much of a bother.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

MW/jmc

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

February 4, 1965

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hill P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Peter Abrahams:

I am sorry to say that the Saturday Evening Post declined A NIGHT OF THEIR OWN. They say they have done so much non-fiction on the subject of race relations that they prefer not to deal with that particular theme in fiction. I also, on the off-chance, tried McCall's since they are wide open for fiction at present, but it was too complex and political in orientation for them. Both magazines commented on the book's excellence, which I hope will be some small comfort.

We are now too close to Knopf's publication date for me to continue offering serial rights. I'm praying that the book will have the success it deserves. It is one of the most interesting and impressive novels I've had the pleasure of reading in many a long day.

Yours sincerely,

Emilie Jacobson
Emilie Jacobson

EJ/blk

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

December 29, 1964

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hill P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Just a note to say that I've now got hold of a set of bound galleys of A NIGHT OF THEIR OWN and have read the book with immense absorption and admiration. I congratulate you on a very fine job, and if it doesn't do well as a book I shall be bitterly disappointed.

The serial markets here are few and far between these days, and we have very little time in which to work -- I never was able to pry loose a manuscript copy -- but I am showing it to the Saturday Evening Post and we must hope for the best.

With every good wish for a fine New Year,

Sincerely,

Emilie Jacobson
Emilie Jacobson

EJ/blk

Sept 30th
1964
October 2, 1964.

Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.
Jamaica.

Dear Miss Winston,

Thank you for your letter enclosing the copy of the Knopf contract. I have a thing about not entering into any commitment with a publisher for a book until I have at least a first draft in hand. The shorter, journalistic pieces are an entirely different thing again, so I would prefer it if you do not talk the people at Knopf as yet.

Perhaps you will be good enough to:

1) Tell Miss Jacobson that I hope to start my African trip about February or March of next year and that I am thinking in terms of being there for about six to eight weeks.

2) Tell Miss Sukerman that it is now alright to mail me a check (cheque) for the money she is now holding for me.

Yours sincerely

Miss Martha Winston,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
NEW YORK 10022.



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

October 7, 1964

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Many thanks for yours of October 2nd. You can be sure I'll say nothing to Knopf about the non-fiction idea until you tell me to.

Your messages have been passed on to Miss Jacobson and Miss Sukerman. Have a good trip and keep in touch.

All good wishes,

MW/jmc



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

October 29, 1964

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

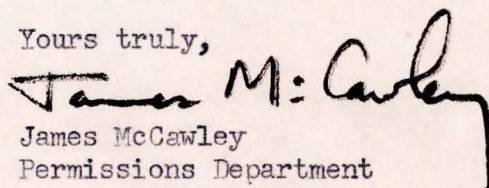
I have had a request from D. Van Nostrand Company for permission to include an excerpt from your article THE BLACKS in a paperback college textbook. They have asked for world rights and the book would sell for \$1.45.

I told them that I would have to check with you, but when I quoted a fee, provided you approved, of \$100 their reaction was one of near outrage. After exclamations of "exorbitant" and "everyone else has granted permission for free" and "dessimation of knowledge" I explained that this was the rate of payment you had received before on three occasions and if anything, it was more than fair.

Well, they came back with an offer of \$25. As everyone knows, the textbook end of publishing is by far the most steadily lucrative and their expectation that an author should work for them for nothing frankly burns me up. They asked that I transmit the offer to you, however, and so here it is.

Should you be willing to allow them to use the piece in the first place, I can only recommend that you authorize me to accept nothing less than \$100 for world rights ~~and~~ \$60 for U.S. and Canadian rights. If you feel otherwise, I shall of course accede to your wishes.

Yours truly,


James McCawley
Permissions Department

Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.
Jamaica.

November 4, 1964

Dear Mr McCawley,

Thank you for your letter of October 29 setting out the position in the negotiation with the Van Nostrand Company over reproduction rights of an excerpt from THE BLACKS.

As far as I am concerned once I have confidence in the agency with which I work I invariably go along with whatever that agency recommends, unless there is some very compelling reason to make me vary this rule.

I think you feel rather strongly about this particular matter so I should like you to feel free to do whatever you think best, even to the point of making no sale.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Abrahams

Mr. James McCawley,
Permissions Dept.,
Curtis Brown Ltd.



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

September 25, 1964

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Due from Alfred A. Knopf Inc. \$1500.00
for advance on signature of A NIGHT OF THEIR OWN.

Less: 10% Commission \$150.00
Dramatists Guild dues 48.00 198.00

Holding..... \$1302.00



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

September 22, 1964

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew Jamaica
B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I am enclosing your copy of the contract for A NIGHT OF THEIR OWN, signed by Knopf. The check for the advance will be going out to you on Friday the 25th.

Knopf has assured me that they will return your manuscript when their production department finishes with it, although they routinely hold on to manuscripts for a period in case there are problems with alterations and such.

Sincerely,

Martha Winston

MW/jmc
enc.

P.S. Emilie Jacobson showed me your letter about your plans to travel in Africa. The mention of a possible book is intriguing. Is it too soon to sound out interest at Knopf? If you would write me more fully about the project I'd be delighted to do so.

Martha Winston

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

September 17, 1964

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Many thanks for yours of the 14th. I am conveying the gist of it to Holiday and will let you know as soon as I hear from them about terms. It may take a little while since Harry Sions is away at present. Meanwhile, have you any idea about when, approximately, you will be making the trip to Africa?

Best wishes,

Emilie Jacobson
Emilie Jacobson,

EJ/blk

Cayaba,
Red Hills P.O.,
St. Andrew.
Jamaica.

September 14, 1964

Miss Emilie Jacobsen,
Curtis Brown, Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York 10022, N.Y.

Dear Miss Jacobsen,

I'm sorry about the delay in answering your letter of August 18. Harold Strauss wanted a little more work on the manuscript and I thought that should be got out of the way first.

Yes, I shall be delighted to do the kind of broad "Return to Africa" piece Harry Siena wants. I think I have a pretty good idea of precisely what he wants.

I doubt whether the South Africans will let me in. The last time I went they made it very clear that I would not be welcome next time; but if I can get in I certainly will. What I intend to do is to make Kenya my base for a four to six week trip through Tanganyika, Uganda, Malawi (Nyasaland) Northern Rhodesia. These territories, as well as South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, were once all known as 'White Africa'. I remember vividly what it was like in 'White Africa'. I want to see what it is like now, what the end of white rule and white dominance has meant to the Asians (East Indians), the Africans, the Arabs, the women, the children, the leaders and the people at street level. I shall of course want to visit Ethiopia and find out how real all the talk about Pan-African unity is and I shall want to talk to many of the leaders, but basically I shall be looking to see what the changes have meant for the unpublicised, unknown African in the bush. For Holiday I think I should write a piece of straight travel and rediscovery with as little politics as possible. There will of course be the inevitable book later.

I should like to know what Harry will pay since I must try to arrange in advance to at least try and cover in cost of the trip by taking on a number of assignments/ necessary for this purpose.

Yours sincerely

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

September 3, 1964

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

With great pleasure I am sending you herewith the Knopf contract for A NIGHT OF THEIR OWN. Would you be good enough to sign and have the copy witnessed and return it to me, at which time I shall have a copy signed by Knopf sent to you together with a check for the advance.

It would be helpful too if you would fill out the enclosed author's questionnaire and return it to me at the same time.

Sincerely,

Martha Winston

MW/jmc
enc.

com
14/9/64

Martha Winston



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

August 18, 1964

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I was delighted to learn, upon my return from vacation, that a letter had come from you in my absence and that, subsequently, Martha Winston has sold your novel to Knopf. I have arranged with them to let me borrow a copy to see what the serial possibilities may be, but it will be several weeks before they will have one available. I'll report to you in due course on that score.

Meanwhile, Harry Sions of Holiday has asked whether you would like to write a sweeping "Return-to-Africa" article with your impressions of Africa today contrasted to the Africa you remember. Space limitations would necessitate your confining it to two or three specific places, certainly South Africa if possible, and Ghana, or others of your choosing, all woven into one journey. The outside limit of length for the article would be approximately ten thousand words.

Harry says he does not need any personality portraits at this time, though perhaps he may later on.

Will you let me know, please, how you feel about the assignment he suggests?

Sincerely,

Emilie Jacobson
(mlb)

Emilie Jacobson

EJ/mlb



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

August 14, 1964

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I am most grateful for the copies of your letters to Harold Strauss. He has had an extra photocopy made of the manuscript and in a few weeks will lend it to Emilie Jacobson for magazine offer.

Thank you too for the information about the Canadian market. I am going ahead with the contract. Actually 10% of the retail, 12½% and 15% is the equivalent of 17½%, 21% and 25% of publishers charges. The present scale is a bit better in that it rises after 5,000 copies rather than after 6,000 in your earlier contracts.

Sincerely,

MW/jmc

Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.
Jamaica.

August 6, 1964

Miss Martha Winston,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York.

Dear Miss Winston,

When I received your note of July 31, setting out the proposed contract terms, I looked up the terms of the contract under which Knopf had published my three previous books. These were covered by an agreement dated the 12th of June 1953. The basic terms of that contract were: a royalty of 17½% of the publishers charges to its customers on copies up to and including 6,000; twenty-one percent (21%) on additional copies up to and including 10,000 copies; and twenty-five percent (25%) thereafter. Now, it may well be that the terms proposed in your note are exactly the same, or even better: the truth is that I do not know and it is for help and guidance ^{what} that I look to my agent. So will you kindly tell me whether the present proposed terms are as good, or better or worse than the terms of my previous contract with Knopf. If you want to look at that contract I am sure Harold Strauss would let you. I think I would be in a much better position to make a decision after getting your guidance and advice.

Faber are definitely publishing in Britain and all I can say about Canada is that Innes Rose has a letter on his files dated September 6, 1955, from the Sydney ~~Anderson~~ Literary Agency, in which it seems to have been agreed between Faber and Knopf that Canada should stand as an open market. For myself I am quite prepared to let the two publishers work out what is mutually satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Abrahams



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

July 31, 1964

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I've discussed contract terms with Harold Strauss and the offer is \$1500 on signature of contract on account of 10% of the retail (list) price on the first 5,000 copies; 12½% on the next 5,000 and 15% thereafter. If this is acceptable please let me know and I'll go ahead with the contract. Would you also please tell me if Faber has taken the book and if they have Canada, or can it be included in the Knopf contract?

Sincerely,

MW/jmc
dictated, but not signed.

Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

July 30, 1964.

Dear Miss Winston,

Herewith copies of the letters I sent to Harold Strauss, which should put you into the picture on all that has passed between us this far.

From one of these you will see there is a bit of a problem about your request for a carbon of the manuscript. If you feel this is very important I will have a copy especially made for you.

Yours sincerely



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

July 23, 1964

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Further to my note of yesterday, I talked to Harold Strauss this morning and know of his suggestions for changes. He is sending the manuscript to me and I'm looking forward to reading it with pleasure after listening to Mr. Strauss's enthusiastic comments. I am sure they want to do the book but may I suggest that you send me carbons of your letters to him -- they would be most helpful in my contract negotiations.

Sincerely,

MW/jmc

P.S. I am sure Emilie Jacobson will want a carbon of the novel to consider for magazine possibilities.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

July 22, 1964

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

As Edith Van Slyke has written you, I'll be most happy to work with you on THE PASSING NIGHT. It would be enormously helpful if I could read the novel and if you have a carbon I would much appreciate having it. I have been in touch with Harold Strauss and hope to have a word for you before too long.

Sincerely,

Martha Winston

MW/jmc



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

July 17, 1964

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B. W. I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Mrs. Haggard retired from the agency business over a year ago, but she is in New York and I have read her your letter over the phone. She was delighted to hear from you after such a long silence and has asked me to send you her very best wishes. She, incidentally, is the same as ever, if not prettier. She has an informal scouting job with Doubleday, but it involves no office work and she's blooming in her new-found leisure. Her address, should you wish to write her a note, is 212 East 48th Street, New York City 17.

Emilie Jacobson, who has replaced Mrs. Haggard as manager of our magazine department and would ordinarily be handling your work, is on vacation so I am taking care of the matters mentioned in your letter.

I read Harry Sions the pertinent parts of your letter. He, too, was delighted to hear from you and he deeply appreciates your kind words about Ted Patrick. He is looking into the African assignments and I'll let you know what he says.

Martha Winston of our book department will handle THIS PASSING NIGHT and you will be hearing from her about it.

Yours sincerely,

Edith Van Slyck

Edith Van Slyck

EVS/mlb

HOLIDAY

A Curtis Publication • Independence Square, Philadelphia 5 Penna.

HARRY SIONS, *Editorial Director*

May 1, 1963

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica

Dear Peter:

I'm enclosing lists of restaurants for your friends, Mr. and Mrs. Potorowski. I hope they find them useful.

I'm delighted that you're working on a novel again, and look forward most eagerly to reading it.

It would be wonderful if you would come to visit us in Philadelphia. Let me know when you expect to be this way.

Yours,



HS/gg

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary
April 5, 1963

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Due from Jacob Drachler
for anthology use of excerpt THE BLACKS
to appear in African Heritage Reader.

\$100.00

Less: 10% Commission

10.00

By check herewith.....

\$90.00

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

AIR MAIL

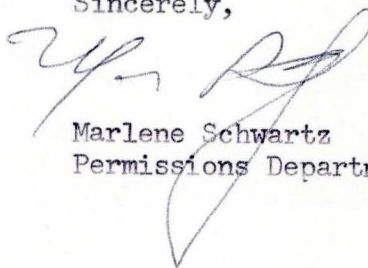
March 20, 1963

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I'm enclosing a copy of our February 12th letter in case it never reached you. I do hope you'll let us hear from you about this as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Marlene Schwartz
Permissions Department

enc.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Perry H. Knowlton, Vice President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

February 12, 1963

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Langston Hughes has been commissioned to do an anthology for Indiana University Press called POEMS FROM BLACK AFRICA, and he has asked that we appeal to you so that he can include your "Me, Colored; Lonely Road" in it. Mr. Hughes' permissions deadline is fairly pressing, so I'd like to ask for as quick a decision from you as possible.

If your reply is positive, would you be good enough to send on the source of this poem and the copyright line as I have not been able to locate in our files any information about it which would enlighten me? Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Carl E. Stepney
Permissions Department

EX:
/ces

PLS. Mr. Hughes is offering a fee of \$20.00.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

December 17, 1962

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyoba
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica
B.W.I.

Dear Peter Abrahams:

Many thanks for yours of December 12th. Of course, I understand your wishes, and your decision to say no to Charles Sachs' offer is wise in view of the fact that you appear anxious to get on with another novel. We'll look forward to that book.

I am passing your decision on to Charles Sachs through his agents.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Yours sincerely,

Warren B.

Warren Bayless

WB/jl

1. NAME OF INDIVIDUAL, PARTNERSHIP, OR CORPORATION TO WHOM PAID

Peter Abrahams

2. STREET ADDRESS

Coyaba Red Hills

CITY

P.O. St. Andrews,

3. COUNTRY

Jamaica, B.W.I.

4. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PAYER SHOULD BE ENTERED HERE IF DIFFERENT FROM WITHHOLDING AGENT'S

5. NATURE OF INCOME (SUCH AS INTEREST, DIVIDENDS, ETC.)

Royalties

6. GROSS AMOUNT OF INCOME PAID

\$ **1111.40**

7. RATE OF TAX

8. AMOUNT OF TAX WITHHELD

\$

9. AMOUNT OF TAX RELEASED OR REFUNDED, IF ANY

\$

10. NAME AND ADDRESS OF WITHHOLDING AGENT

**Curtis Brown, Ltd.
575 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N.Y.**

11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF AGENT FOR WITHHOLDING AGENT

Form 1042SU.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**U.S. ANNUAL INFORMATION STATEMENT OF INCOME PAID TO
NONRESIDENT ALIENS, ETC. (Under Chapter 3, Internal Revenue Code)****(COPY FOR PAYEE)****1962**

U.S. INCOME TAX FILING REQUIREMENTS

Every nonresident alien individual, nonresident alien fiduciary and nonresident foreign corporation must file a United States income tax return unless the tax on his entire income from sources within the United States has been fully satisfied by withholding at the

Toute personne étrangère nonrésidente, tout dépositaire ou fiduciaire étranger nonrésident, et toute société anonyme étrangère nonrésidente des États-Unis d'Amérique doit déposer une déclaration d'impôt sur les revenus aux États-Unis si l'impôt sur les revenus entiers reçus de sources aux États-Unis n'a pas été entièrement

Todo individuo extranjero no residente, todo fiduciario extranjero no residente y toda corporación extranjera no residente tienen que radicar una declaración (U.S.A.) de contribución sobre ingresos a menos que la contribución sobre sus ingresos totales de procedencias dentro de los Estados Unidos fuere totalmente satisfecha completa-

Alle nicht am Platze wohnende auslaendische Einzelpersonen, Treuhaender und Aktiengesellschaften muessen Einkommensteuer-Erklaerungen fuer die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika abgeben, es sei denn, dass die Steuer auf das gesamte aus Quellen innerhalb der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika bezogene Einkommen in voller Hoehe an der Quelle einbehalten wurde. Die Formulare fuer

source. Return forms and instructions may be obtained at any United States Embassy or Consulate or you may write for information to the Director of International Operations, Internal Revenue Service, Washington 25, D.C., U.S.A.

perçu par voie de retenue à la source. Des déclarations d'impôt sur les revenus et les renseignements peuvent être obtenus à l'Ambassade ou aux Consulats des États-Unis d'Amérique, ou vous pouvez écrire pour renseignements au Director of International Operations, Internal Revenue Service, Washington 25, D.C., U.S.A.

mente mediante retención en su origen. Las formas de declaración y las instrucciones pueden obtenerse en cualquier Embajada o Consulado de los Estados Unidos, o la información necesaria puede obtenerse del Director of International Operations, Internal Revenue Service, Washington 25, D.C., U.S.A.

Einkommensteuer-Erklaerungen sowie Vorschriften koennen von jeder beliebigen Botschaft oder Konsulat der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika bezogen werden oder es kann schriftlich beim: Director of International Operations, Internal Revenue Service, Washington 25, D.C., U.S.A., um Auskunft gebeten werden.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

December 12, 1962

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyoba
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Peter Abrahams:

Will you please give me your answer to my letter of November 8th concerning the screenwriting request from Charles Sachs re THE AFRICAN by William Conton. The producer is prodding me for an answer through his agents.

I will be eager to have some word that the material arrived and that you have reached a decision.

Sincerely,

Warren Bayless
Warren Bayless

WB/jl

6th November, 1962.

Mr. Carl E. Stepney,
Permissions Department,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York 22,
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Stepney,

Sorry about the delay in answering your letter of the 26th October. I am inclined not to grant permission for "The Blacks" to be reproduced by Miss Rhoda de Terra. It is not the price that bothers me but rather the fact that this thing has been reproduced a number of times already and I myself have certain ideas about using it a little later. For this reason I want to avoid over exposing it.

Best regards.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Abrahams.

PA/ul.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

October 26, 1962

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Miss Rhoda de Terra for Henry Z. Walck, Inc. is putting together a projected book AFRICA ADVENTURES IN EYE-WITNESS HISTORY. This anthology, when realized, will comprise the works of some fifty authors, and it is Miss de Terra's hope that you will grant permission to her to include your THE BLACKS in it.

She thinks this piece is very worthwhile, and hopes that her being able to pay as tops a fee of \$20.00 will not be the weighing factor to go against her. I had asked for much more, but she says she simply cannot pay it, and therefor this letter to you. Should I accept or decline on your behalf? Please let me know.

TELL FREEDOM was a provocative experience for me, and whenever I see "poetry with dirt on its face" I mentally go back to you. It was a pleasure meeting you last year.

Sincerely,

Carl E. Stepney
Carl E. Stepney
Permissions Department

/ces

6th March, 1962

Mr. Warren D. Bayless,
Messrs Curtis Brown Ltd,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York 22,
New York.

Dear Mr. Bayless,

Thank you for your letter of February 23rd, 1962. I am quite happy to go along with your strong recommendation to change Clause 10 of the Agreement with Branch if you think that is the best thing to do, so please go ahead and arrange it.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Abrahams

PA/mph

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

February 23, 1962

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyoba
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew,
Jamaica,
B. W. I.

Dear Peter Abrahams:

Dramatic
Under the agreement dated September 27, 1961 between you and William Branch for the collaboration of your novel A WREATH FOR UDOMO, which was subsequently presented last November in London, Clause Ten states that all compensation due you and Branch (as authors) on the sale of subsidiary rights (stock, amateur publication and performance royalty, etc.) shall be equally shared providing the play runs twenty-one performances. As the play ran only about four performances this share is to be 75% to you and 25% to Branch.

William Branch's agent at MCA called me yesterday to tell me that he has a slim nibble on amateur publication rights and also there is a possibility he can come up with a German stage offer of A WREATH FOR UDOMO, but he also told me that William Branch, whose permission is necessary, does not feel it worthwhile considering that his share is so little. Frankly, I don't either, as these subsidiary rights seldom amount to a great deal of money. However, I told the agent I would ask if you would be willing to forgo this Clause Ten as it now stands and agree to a 50/50 split right down the line on all future productions, publication, and perhaps even the motion picture royalties (providing, of course, the latter can be accomplished).

I strongly recommend that you give this careful consideration and that we accept the offer. The MCA agent has excellent contacts and can perhaps be in a position to aid and abet all of our activities in placing this play elsewhere. If you will agree to this change we will send along a letter for your signature which we can attach to the Basic Agreement, and activities to bring you some income can then be initiated. I do hope you will agree to this 50/50 split.

Yours,

Warren Bayless
Warren D. Bayless

WDB/jl

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

October 19, 1961

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew,
Jamaica,
British West Indies

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Mrs. Haggard is out of the office on a combined business and vacation trip to London, and I will be at her desk until her return in November.

By now you will have received Harry Sions' letter, so this is just to confirm that, although they would like a few revisions in your piece about the Ghana Embassy, they are putting through payment immediately.

Sincerely,

Emilie Jacobson
Emilie Jacobson

EJ:rm

al

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

September 28, 1961.

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,
Coyoba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.

Dear Peter:

I hasten to get the attached contract with amendment off to you. I do hope that you will sign it and return it to me by air mail. At long last Chambers has gotten up the money for a production at the Lyric Hammersmith in London. Bill Branch and I have kept the terms as tough as we could, and I of course am so anxious that the play get a hearing, which now it will starting October 29th at the Lyric Hammersmith. All the advances to date you keep which pleases me, but of course there are no advances for this British production. While you are signing this copy Bill Chambers is signing his, and we will finally co-ordinate all copies, but there is a kind of desperate urgency because Branch is already in London, he went last night, and the scenic designer goes to London on Monday, and I guess you can see our predicament.

I of course will keep you up to date on it all. I am so pleased that due to your wonderful help and perserverance through all this we will finally see this on the stage.

Please be sure and initial the amendatory letter dated September 27 as well as sign the last page of the basic contract.

Cordially,

Cindy

HOLIDAY

A Curtis Publication • Independence Square, Philadelphia 5, Penna.

HARRY SIONS, *Editorial Director*

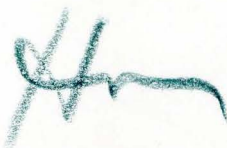
September 13, 1961

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Peter:

I wrote you last week reminding you about your story for our Washington Issue. Naturally, you didn't answer. But we are very anxious to illustrate it and to see what it's like. Do you think there's a chance we might get it very, very soon.

Sincerely,



HS:sdd

13th September, 1961

Miss Marlene Schwartz,
Permissions Department,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York 22,
U.S.A.

Dear Miss Schwartz,

Thank you for your letter of
September 8 concerning a 4000 word
quote from THE BLACKS. As far as
I am concerned you can go ahead and
give permission and perhaps you will
let me know who the people are who
are doing this anthology.

Yours sincerely,

PA

PA/ul.

Peter Abrahams.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

AIR MAIL

September 8, 1961

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba, Red Hill P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

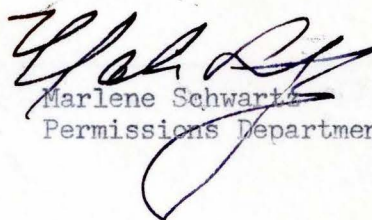
Dear Mr. Abrahams:

We have received a request for permission to quote about 4000 words of THE BLACKS in an anthology of African life and literature. They have agreed to a fee of \$75.00, which I hope is satisfactory.

They would like, however, to change the title to MODERN LEADERS AND TRIBAL MASSES, and I wanted to know if this has your approval. There would be, of course, acknowledgement of the original title.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Marlene Schwartz
Permissions Department

8th May, 1961.

Mrs. Claire S. Degener,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York 22,
U.S.A.

Dear Cindy,

As far as I am concerned Mr. Chambers is definitely entitled to such extension as he needs to raise the money. So please go ahead with the extension with all my blessings and good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

PA

PA/us.

Peter Abrahams.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

May 1, 1961.

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyoba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrews,
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Peter:

Bill Chambers has run into a bit of trouble raising the full capitilisation for A WREATH FOR UDOMO. Branch's agent and I are very hopeful that by October 15, 1961, Chambers will be able to raise the full capitilisation. I do hope that you will permit me to process an extension for Mr. Chambers which both Mr. Branch and I think is fair to Mr. Chambers in view of the tremendous effort he has made in trying to get this play on. Of course you will be paid \$187.50 on the 15th of each month as has been the case for the past year.

I would never permit an extension of this nature in the theatre as it was constituted 10 years ago. However, today the raising of money for a straight play is fantastically difficult and I do think Chambers deserves another 5 months, that is until October 15, 1961. May I have your views on this so that I can talk to the Dramatists' Guild and Bill Branch.

Cordially,

Cindy
(Mrs) Claire S. Degener.

CSD/dr

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

April 14, 1961

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hill P.O.
St. Andrew,
Jamaica,
British West Indies

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Harry Sions has not received the letter you told him you had written, and I think it would be wise to send him a copy as quickly as possible.

He told me that you said on the telephone that you would be glad to do a piece on the Ghana Embassy later on. The price would be one thousand dollars plus expenses.

I should be so grateful if you would confirm this to me.

With all good wishes.

Yours very sincerely,

Smith Haggard

EH:rm
am

April 4, 1961

Mr. William Chambers
Suite 3B
40 West 55th Street
New York 19, New York

Dear Mr. Chambers:

Re: A WREATH FOR UDOMO

This will serve as a reminder that a further payment of \$167.67 is due Peter Abrahams under your contract with him for the above-captioned play, dated May 15, 1960.

We would appreciate it if you would send us a check, made payable to The Authors League of America, Inc., for Mr. Abrahams' account, so that it reaches us on April 15th, the day the payment is due.

Sincerely,

DELeV/eap David E. Levine
For THE DRAMATISTS GUILD

cc: Peter Abrahams ✓
Curtis Brown, Ltd.

C
O
P
Y

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

March 13, 1961

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Harry Sions is most eager for word from you, and asked me to add my own plea to his dated March 9th that you write and tell how you are progressing.

I hope your silence does not mean you are sick.

All good wishes.

Yours very sincerely,

Edith Haggard

EH:rm
am

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

March 10, 1961

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Due from Alfred A. Knopf
for royalties to October 31, 1960.

\$85.77

Less: 15% Commission

12.87

By check herewith.....

\$72.90

THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY

INDEPENDENCE SQUARE
PHILADELPHIA 5, PA., U.S.A.

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST
LADIES' HOME JOURNAL
JACK and JILL
HOLIDAY



CALVIN A. NICHOLS
COMPTROLLER

March 7, 19~~5~~ 61

Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O. St. Andrew
Jamaica, B. W. I.

Dear Sir:

We enclose herewith Form 1042S which is a duplicate
of the statement of 1960 royalty income paid as reported
to the U. S. Treasury Department by this Company.

Very truly yours,

Canichols

CAN:JSM:g

Comptroller

1. NAME OF INDIVIDUAL, PARTNERSHIP, OR CORPORATION TO WHOM PAID Peter Abrahams		2. STREET ADDRESS Coyaba CITY Red Hills P.O. St. Andrew		3. COUNTRY JAMAICA (B.W.I.)
4. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PAYER SHOULD BE ENTERED HERE IF DIFFERENT FROM WITHHOLDING AGENT'S		5. NATURE OF INCOME (SUCH AS INTEREST, DIVIDENDS, ETC.) Royalty	6. GROSS AMOUNT OF INCOME PAID \$ 1,000.00	7. RATE OF TAX 30%
			8. AMOUNT OF TAX WITHHELD \$ None	
		9. AMOUNT OF TAX RELEASED OR REFUNDED, IF ANY \$ 300.00		
10. NAME AND ADDRESS OF WITHHOLDING AGENT THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY INDEPENDENCE SQUARE PHILADELPHIA 5, PENNSYLVANIA		11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF AGENT FOR WITHHOLDING AGENT Holiday Operation Serenity 7/6/60		

Form 1042S

U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

**U.S. ANNUAL INFORMATION STATEMENT OF INCOME PAID TO
NONRESIDENT ALIENS, ETC. (Under Chapter 3, Internal Revenue Code)**
(COPY FOR PAYEE)

1960

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

February 20, 1961.

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hill P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Peter:

I wanted to tell you that we are all hard at work on getting up the production of A WREATH FOR UDOMO. I enclose herewith a thermofax of the Herald Tribune story this week. About half the money has been raised and the script is certainly 100% better. I am really so anxious to get it on and we are all struggling with all our might, so I shall keep you in touch.

Cordially,

Cindy
Claire S. Degener.

CSD.dr
Enc.

Saturday Review

25 West 45th Street
New York 36, N. Y.

February 10, 1961

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Miss Girson has asked me to thank you for your review of "The Goddam White Man," which we hope to publish in an early issue of SR.

We are grateful to you for accepting the assignment.

Sincerely,

Roberta Silman

Roberta Silman
Book Review Department

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrews, Jamaica
West Indies

HOLIDAY

A Curtis Publication • Independence Square, Philadelphia 5, Penna.

EDITORIAL OFFICES

November 14, 1960

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

This clipping from the New York Times should have been attached to the copy of your Puerto Rico article which was airmailed to you on November 10.

Sincerely,



Ruth Graves

VATICAN WILL GET PROTEST BY MUNOZ

Puerto Rico Governor Will Appeal Letter of Bishops After Election Day

SAN JUAN, P. R., Oct. 22 (AP)—Gov. Luis Muñoz Marín said today he would protest to the Vatican immediately after the election Nov. 8 over a pastoral letter by three Roman Catholic bishops here. The letter forbade church members from voting for the Governor's Popular Democratic party.

"I do not wish to involve the Vatican in Puerto Rico's political campaign," Governor Muñoz Marín said in a statement in explaining why he would wait until after the election. He is a communicant of the Catholic church.

The Governor declared in a statement approved by his party's central committee following at seven-and-a-half-hour meeting at Ponce:

"This grave problem for religion and democracy in Puerto Rico and the United States arising from the evident errors of the three Bishops will be made known to the Vatican.

"I feel sure that thousands of prominent Catholics in Puerto Rico and the United States will address similar statements to the Vatican." a

Attacks 2 Laws

The pastoral letter was signed by Archbishop James P. Davis of San Juan, Bishop James E. McManus of Ponce and Bishop Luis Aponte Martínez, titular Bishop of Lares.

It attacked two laws passed by the ruling Popular Demo-

crats that permit the teaching of birth control and allow sterilization to deal with the island's overpopulation problem. It also protested the defeat of a bill to give school children time off for religious instruction.

The office of Archbishop Davis said the letter would be read in all the Catholic churches tomorrow in Puerto Rico, which is predominantly Catholic. The Archbishop himself is not available for comment.

The Governor said "the simple and basic principle involved in all this is that no Puerto Rican should obey political orders, even by the clergy."

"The function of the clergy, the prelates, priests and Bishops in our life as people is not to give coercive political orders, but to render religious services and guidance to their parishioners," the Governor declared.

As a United States commonwealth, Puerto Rico elects its Governor and Legislature but does not vote for the President of the United States.

No Vatican Comment

Special to The New York Times.

ROME, Oct. 22—The Vatican declared itself unaware today that Puerto Rican Bishops had issued a pastoral letter forbidding Catholics to vote for the party of Governor Muñoz Marín. No comment was consequently forthcoming nor would anyone hazard an opinion on the reason for the Bishops' action.

It was pointed out that giving guidance to the faithful at election time forms part of the autonomous rights and duties of the episcopate, which is in touch with local situations to a degree that the Vatican could never hope to be. Such matters are therefore never referred to

Rome but decided locally by Bishops acting jointly.

In San Juan, Archbishop Davis said that the church would not penalize Roman Catholics who disregarded the pastoral letter.

"It is a matter between a Catholic and his conscience," the Archbishop commented.

A Catholic ecclesiastical authority in Boston explained that this interpretation was completely in keeping with Canon Law. The Puerto Rican Bishops, he pointed out, were saying that their pastoral letter was a directive, but that no penalty was attached for ignoring it after giving it due consideration.

Ecclesiastical penalties are very rare, he pointed out. In the case of those who vote specifically for a Communist, he said, there is a penalty—excommunication—imposed by papal directive.

But where no direct penalty is attached to a pastoral directive, no sin is involved in disregarding the directive as a matter of individual conscience, he said.

Therefore, after considering the pastoral letter carefully, a Catholic could choose to disregard it and vote for Governor Muñoz Marín's party if he thought best.

In that case, since no sin would be involved, he said, such a Catholic would not have to report his action in the confessional, and so, no penalty would be involved and no penance required, he added.

Britons Open Sea Water Plant

SAINT PETER PORT, Channel Islands, England, Oct. 22 (Reuters)—A sea water distillation plant to provide 500,000 gallons of fresh water daily was opened here today by Home Secretary R. A. Butler

HOLIDAY

A Curtis Publication • Independence Square, Philadelphia 5, Penna.

EDITORIAL OFFICES

November 10, 1960

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Here is a copy of your Puerto Rico article, with the copy checkers' queries and some requests from our editors for additional material. In order to save time, we are sending you a carbon copy instead of waiting for galley proofs.

We'd be grateful if you would check the queries and return the copy to us by airmail as soon as possible -- so that it reaches us before the 23d of November.

Many thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Ruth Graves
Ruth Graves

HEINZ F. NIXDORF 21125 THOROFARE GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN

pro tempore: 1129 Calle Seaview
Condado-San Juan, PR

DEAR Messrs. Abrahams and Hollyman:

On Page 23 of February Holiday it says:

Where in the wide, wide world
can you beat a Florida vacation?

Boy would I be tempted to counter-ad this assanine question with:

in POOERTO RRICO !

Your storey fixes their wagon. Magnificient work by both of you !
And your entire team! Remember that Saturday night Dinner at la
Paguera by candlelight and the German efficiency of the manager?
Even though I sadly missed la Paguera and more the San German visit
at the John Hines ~~represented~~ ^{in the story} - that start of the story touches
me closely being married to an English-American wife. Of course I'd
like to give you an argument that you could not find any color-
consciousnesseve among the dark-skinned Puerto Ricans! I pulled
one out of the water right opposite of that wonderful shot of Tom
Hollymans of La Concha (I live only 1000 feet down the shore -
opposite the Atlantic Beach Hotel) and boy was he and many others
color conscious and keep out of the sun at all costs.....

However, your successful evolution of the Operation Serenity definition
is superb , Mr. Abrahams - we read it yesterday while sailing over
to the Palominos island (shown in the back ground) from Las Croabas
with Eduardo Suarez old sailboat (remember the full page in Life
last May with the Sarah Lawrence kids?). We all let out howls of
of joy and appriation in between rums-con-agaus and lechon and
langusta sandwiches.

Do come back Mr. Abrahams - and cover the other end of the island -
still more supprises installed for you.

And Tom Hollyman - let me know when again come to our shores -
I believe I have 3 vistas which might be tempting even to your
discriminating camera.....

The waves a frente de La Concha were 9 foot high at points - today -
bwe feel worn out , but could still magage to imitate that puckish
proud smile of Jaqueline Mercedes , because you did so well by us.

Thank you, thank you, thank you

cordially

Heinz Nixdorf

30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, N.Y.

Room 5125

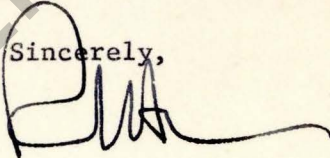
April 6, 1960

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Enclosed is a fact sheet on the Dorado Beach project which we thought you might like to have at hand. Our friends at HOLIDAY told us you were working on an article about Puerto Rico. I hope you will let us know if we can be of assistance.

If you have not been there as yet, do try to save time to see Dorado the next time you are on the island. I would very much like to have our people there show you what has been done as well as tell you of some of our thoughts for the future.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Hoke

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hills Post Office
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B. W. I.

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TELL FREEDOM DOMESTIC	4 50		126	17 1/2 OF		316 24	5534 ✓			
FOREIGN	4 50		14	11 2/3 OF		2387	278 ✓			5812 ✓
A WREATH FOR UDOMO DOMESTIC	3 95		19	17 1/2 OF		4719	826 ✓			
FOREIGN	3 95	31	1	11 2/3 OF		138	16 ✓	5111	4269 ✓	
										8577 *

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Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

October 21, 1960

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P. O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B. W. I.

Due from Crown Publishers
Anthology use in AN AFRICAN TREASURY
of THE BLACKS

\$50.00

Less: 10% Commission

5.00

By check herewith

\$45.00

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

September 2, 1960

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P. O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B. W. I.

Due from Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.
Royalties to April 30, 1960

\$30.37

Less: 15% Commission
Merchandise

4.56
7.11

11.67

By check herewith

\$18.70

HOME ADDRESS: "Coyaba"
Red Hills P.O.

August 29, 1960.

Mr. William H. Chambers
137 East 66 Street
New York City 21
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Chambers:

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of August 9th and the two clippings. I am sorry that our meeting has to be by correspondence but I am sure that it is only a matter of time before we meet face to face and I look forward to that day. It was very nice of you to sketch in your personal background for me though Cindy Degener has spoken so well for you that it was not really necessary.

I am happy to hear that Bill Branch is hard at the job of re-writing as I myself had a few reservations about the draft of the script that I saw a year or so back. But I am sure that Bill can come up with a really satisfactory script. I am glad that you feel unhappy about the opening scene. If Cindy had shown you the letter I wrote about it you will see that I too was not happy. I am not sure at what stage of the writing you and Bill are at the moment so I find it a little difficult to make any useful suggestions. If you feel that you have not licked this problem by the time you get this letter, and if you feel it worth your while, do let me have a copy of the present version and I will try to mull over it and see if I can come up with any worthwhile ideas for an acceptable opening.

I am of course, extremely happy that you are putting on "Udomo" and since you are taking the biggest risk of all, I hope that it will pay off and be worth all the effort. If there is any way in which you feel I can be of help (always remembering that I am just a simple story teller) I will do everything I can.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,


Peter Abrahams.

WILLIAM H. CHAMBERS
137 EAST 66 STREET
NEW YORK CITY 21

9 August 1960

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba,
Red Hill Post Office,
St. Andrew,
Jamaica, British West Indies.

Dear Mr. Abrahams;

This moment of meeting, so to speak, has been a long time in coming. And I have been looking forward to it ever since turning the last page of your wonderful novel, A WREATH FOR UDOMO.

Through talks with Bill Branch and my very good friend, Cindy Degener and, through reading your other work, including the marvelous article in a recent Holiday, you are more familiar to me than I to you. So I send along the enclosed clippings to give you an idea of the interest we are starting to generate, as well as some indication of who and what I am.

My personal background - very briefly - a New Yorker, son of an architect, nephew of a novelist (Robert W. Chambers), and graduate of Colgate University. Worked on a tramp ship for 3 years after college, then newspaper reporter, since then in the theatre as "mopper-upper", actor, production stage manager, director, and what have you, with 4 years out for the No. 2 unpleasantness.

Bill Branch is hard at work on some rewrites

WILLIAM H. CHAMBERS
137 EAST 66 STREET
NEW YORK CITY 21

we both feel necessary for the script. The biggest stumbling block is the opening of the play. I feel very strongly that the present scene doesn't measure up to the theatrical potential of the book or the rest of the stage version. To my mind, it must be fresh and colorful, a springboard creating excited interest in things to come. An event, perhaps, in Udomo's life motivating his being sent to London. Or something which will help us, as the audience, leap from the raw Udomo of primitive surroundings to the Udomo in Adebhoy's London apartment. Bill has been wrestling with this problem and, I am sure, would welcome any suggestions you might have on the matter.

There's little more to say at the moment, excepting I know we have an important play, with important subject matter, by an important novelist. I am honored to be in such distinguished company.

I wish the circumstances of your being there and my being here were different. But I anticipate meeting you 'en personne' with the greatest of pleasure. Perhaps your work schedule will permit you to pay us a visit in the near future.

Very sincerely yours,



William Chambers.

Africa Play Set for Spring

By JIM O'CONNOR

MODERN AFRICA'S TURMOIL and transition—very much in the newspaper headlines right now—will reach the Broadway stage in a new drama next Spring, producer William Chambers revealed today.

The play will be William Branch's dramatization of the late Abrahams' novel, "A Wreath for Udomo." Plot focuses on the rise and fall of an idealistic organizer named Udomo in an African nation in the process of receiving independent status.

"A Wreath for Udomo" was written by Mr. Abrahams in 1956, following a series of articles written for the London Observer on conditions in Kenya and South Africa. The novelist was born in South Africa and has lived in England and Jamaica.

Mr. Branch, the dramatist, a winner of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Robert Sherwood TV award.

While making his bow as a

producer, Mr. Chambers has had considerable theatre experience as production stage manager for Alfred de Liagre on such plays as "The Voice of the Turtle" and "The Madwoman of Chaillot"; and for "Ondine."

Presently Mr. Chambers is associated with the firm of Durgom and Katz in the production of films, plays and television shows, although Durgom and Katz will not be affiliated with "A Wreath for Udomo."

The New York Times.

SUNDAY, JULY 31, 1960.

By LEWIS FUNKE

HOW close can the theatre get to the news? As close as "A Wreath for Udomo," a play that William Chambers is promising for the season ahead. Fashioned by William B. Branch, a Guggenheim fellowship winner, from the novel by the widely hailed writer Peter Abrahams, "A Wreath for Udomo" is as pertinent as the morning's headlines.

Indeed, the parallels are striking, even though Mr. Abrahams published his novel in 1956. (Knopf). The subject matter is modern Africa in turmoil and transition. Specifically, the story tells of Udomo, a born leader who seeks to guide Pan-africa, a coastal state nearing self-government. He is supported by the tribal leaders with whom the real power lies, and, to gain strength, he seems to accept the old customs, some of them merely superstitions, some of them horrible. His problems become intensified when he is made Prime Minister and he attempts to eliminate both tribalism and colonialism.

Mr. Abrahams knows his material. He was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. Among his works, besides "A Wreath for Udomo," are "Tell Freedom," the story of his early years in Africa (he now lives in England), "Mine Boy" and "Song of the City." Mr. Branch, also a Negro, was born in the United States. He is the author of two off-Broadway plays, "A Medal for Willie" and "In Splendid Error." In 1958, he received the Robert Sherwood prize in television. He has been working on "A Wreath for Udomo" for some time. An early draft was tried with success last March by Cleveland's semi-professional Karamu Theatre.

Timely Play Planned
For New Season—

August 10, 1960

Mrs. Claire Degener
Curtis Brown, Ltd.
575 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

Dear Mrs. Degener:

Re: A WREATH FOR UDOMO

The Dramatists Guild has countersigned and herewith returns one copy of the Minimum Basic Production Contract, dated May 15, 1960, between Peter Abrahams and William Branch, as "Author", and William Chambers, as "Producer". We have done so after reinstating Peter Abrahams to membership in the League. In accordance with your request, we have forwarded the second copy to Gilbert Parker at M.C.A. Artists, Ltd., the third copy to the "Producer", and have retained the fourth copy for our files.

A copy of this letter, being sent to the "Producer", will serve as a reminder that in accordance with Clause THIRD (a) a payment of \$150 to William Branch is due on August 15th to cover the next three months, and a payment of \$250 to Peter Abrahams is due on August 15th to cover the next month under the contract.

Sincerely,

DELeV/eap

David E. Levine

Enc.

For THE DRAMATISTS GUILD

cc: Peter Abrahams ✓
William Branch
William Chambers
M.C.A. Artists, Ltd.

COPY

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

August 8, 1960

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba, Red Hill P.O.
St. Andrew,
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Harry Sions has asked about the revision of the Puerto Rico article. Can you give me a date when it will be completed.

Yours,

Sions

EH/az
al



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

July 25, 1960

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
Red Hill P. O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Peter:

I have sent off today under separate cover by air mail 4 copies of the Dramatic Production Contract on A WREATH FOR UDOMO. The producer is working very hard with Branch on the adaptation and I think we may see something very interesting from all this effort.

You will note that your advances are much higher than Bill's which I think is only fair because Bill had the use of your novel for so many months without any payment. All other clauses are, I feel, in very good order and I think the deal is an exceptionally strong one for you which is, of course, what I wanted.

Your advances are outlined on page 7 the very first paragraph of Tenth Additional Clauses.

Please initial every single page where the producer and Branch have initialled. This is an awful lot of initialing but please be sure and do it. Also initial every single box which is empty. You will note that the producer and Branch have also initialled these boxes. Please do be very careful that you don't miss any of the initialing or boxes for initialing because we now have to put these dramatic production contracts through the Dramatists Guild and I would hate to delay and have to send

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

Page 2.

Mr. Peter Abrahams

July 25, 1960

them back to you in Jamaica.

Most important of all will you please air mail all copies of this contract back to me as soon as possible so that I may process your first \$500 payment and get it down to you. You will note that the contract is dated May 15th so that although they owe you \$500 now they will owe you on August 15th another \$250 and so on.

I am so delighted this has all come to a new beginning.
All best wishes.

Cordially,

CSD:df

Cindy
Claire S. Degener

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

July 15, 1960

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P. O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B. W. I.

Due from Holiday
for All American Canadian Serial Rights
on OPERATION SERENITY

1,000.00

Less: 10% Commission

100.00

By check herewith

\$ 900.00

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

June 17, 1960

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba, Red Hill P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica,
B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

The Puerto Rico article arrived safely and is on its way to Philadelphia.

Thank you for your cable. By the way, you can save a word in the future if you use simply Browncurt. You don't need "Haggard."

Yours very sincerely

EH/az
al

Sid Haggard

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

June 2, 1960

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba, Red Hill P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica
B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Harry Sions has asked when he may expect the Puerto Rico article.
I'd be so grateful if you would tell me.

All good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Sewell Haggard

EH/az
al

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

May 20, 1960

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Due from William Branch \$41.70
for dramatic royalties on WREATH FOR UDOMO.

Less: 10% Commission 4.17

By check herewith..... \$37.53



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

May 13, 1960

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Due from Thomas Y. Crowell Co.
for anthology use in Sociology on excerpt-
THE BLACKS.

\$50.00

Less: 10% Commission

5.00

By check herewith.....

\$45.00

With the compliments of

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22



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TELL FREEDOM DOMESTIC	4 50		56	17½ OF		14 52 9	25 43 ✓			
FOREIGN	4 50		16	11⅔ OF		2 52 3	29 4 ✓			28 37 ✓
A WREATH FOR UDOMO DOMESTIC	3 95		8	17½ OF		2 07 7	3 63 ✓	5 47 4	5 11 1 ✓	
		31								
		23								
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Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

April 26, 1960

Mr. Peter Abrahams
The West Indian Economist
164-6 Harbour Street
Kingston, Jamaica, W. I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I am delighted to report to you that after several meetings William Chambers, a man I have known and respected for some time in the New York theater, wishes to take a Broadway option on your book and Bill Branch's adaptation of it. I refer, of course, to A WREATH FOR UDOMO. I have achieved very good terms for you, I feel, most of which I will not outline here as I have noted from our discussions in the past you prefer to look at the final contract.

Briefly, we would make an arrangement which would not tie your book to Branch unless it achieved an opening night on Broadway and yet you would get very good advances. In brief, you would get \$500 for May 15 to August 15 and if Chambers proceeded from August 15 to November 15 \$750 and for the period November 15 to May 16, 1961 \$1,000. This would be advances solely to you against 50% of the gross weekly box office receipts which are 5% of the first \$5,000, 7½% of the next \$2,000 and 10% of all money above \$7,000.

It is extremely urgent that I proceed to draw the other clauses of this contract and if this preliminary information meets with your approval may I please hear from you by cable that I may proceed. Of course, the final contract will be sent to you for your signature.

Cordially,

Best Wishes Cindy
Claire S. Degener

CSD:df

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

April 2, 1960

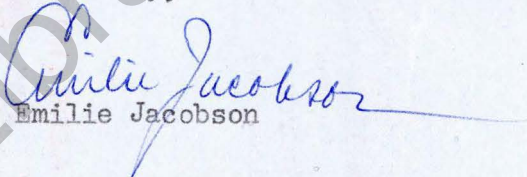
airletter

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Red Hills
P. O. Coyaba
St. Andrew
Jamaica, BWI

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

We have received word that your article THE CORE OF THE APPLE
Harlem 1959 is scheduled for publication in the June, 1960
issue of Holiday.

Sincerely,


Emilie Jacobson

ej

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

air mail

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

March 31, 1960

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba, Red Hill P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the signed permission form for THE BLACKS which will appear in AN AFRICAN TREASURY edited by Langston Hughes. I do hope you will be pleased.

Sincerely,

Lois Sprey

Lois Sprey

ls/
enc. (1)

Curtis Brown, Ltd.

LONDON

NEW YORK

ALAN C. COLLINS, PRESIDENT

~~347 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17~~
575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22

~~MURRAY HILL 6-6170~~
PLAZA 5-4200

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Author..... Peter Abrahams

Published in..... Holiday Magazine..... April 1959
(magazine or book) (date of issue or publication date)

Published by..... the following:

article to be out to about six thousand words

(Please supply in above space specific and accurate details of material desired, with pages, chapter heads, opening and closing lines, in short, whatever data may be necessary to identify exactly the material to be used.)

This material is to be published in a ☐ book
☒ ~~periodic~~

Entitled..... AN AFRICAN TREASURY edited by Langston Hughes

To be published by..... Crown Publishers

Proposed publication date..... June, 1960..... Tentative publication price..... \$3.00

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And, the undersigned further agrees that:

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2. the right to reprint the material above described shall apply only to the issue or edition named in the application, which issue or edition shall be completely manufactured within the United States;
3. when the specific issue or edition goes off sale or out of print, all rights herein granted shall revert automatically to the author and the permission is thereby cancelled;
4. the permission herein granted does not extend to publication in a reprint, cheap, or separate edition of any sort whatsoever, (such as, for instance, a book club edition); and further any such use must be subject to further payment on terms which shall supplement the fee above-mentioned and which shall be mutually agreed upon in writing;
5. the publication of the material in the form approved herein does not permit quotations therefrom in any other work;
6. in the event payment is not made as specified, or in the event copyright and acknowledgment notices are not printed as specified, then all rights herein granted shall immediately determine without further notice and without prejudice to any monies that may be due the author under the terms hereof;
7. two copies of the work containing the above-licensed material will be sent free of charge to Curtis Brown, Ltd., on or before publication date;
8. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Approved:

CURTIS BROWN, LTD., Agent for the Proprietor

By..... Frederick Spiller

Dated:..... 23rd March 1960

Langston Hughes
(Applicant's Signature)
(for Crown)
Crown Publishers, Inc.,
(Address)

419 Park Avenue, South,
New York 16, N. Y.

Dated..... March 29, 1960

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

March 17, 1960

Mr. Peter Abrahams
The West Indian Economist
164-6 Harbour Street
Kingston, Jamaica, W. I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Here are two reproductions of reviews of
the Karamu House Productions of WREATH FOR
UDOMO.

All best.

It is a wonderful book -

Cordially,

Pamela Jones

Pamela Jones
Assistant to Mrs. Degener

PJ:df
Enc.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

March 14, 1960

Mr. Peter Abrahams
The West Indian Economist
164-6 Harbour Street
Kingston, Jamaica, W. I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Many thanks for the contracts which arrived safely this morning. We hope you had a successful time in Puerto Rico for Holiday.

The play has evidently been well received in Cleveland, and I will send copies of the reviews to you when we have them later this week.

Cordially,

Pamela Jones

Pamela Jones
Assistant to Mrs. Degener

PJ:df

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

March 2, 1960

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba, Red Hill P.O.
St. Andrew,
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Langston Hughes has asked if he may cut your Holiday article "The Blacks" to six thousand words for use in the book, AFRICAN TREASURY. You know that an excerpt from NINE BOY will also be used, but permission to do that was granted by the Knopf office.

They are paying twenty-five dollars for most of the material, but Mr. Hughes agreed to pay fifty dollars for THE BLACKS.

We would both appreciate a quick answer, and while you decide, please know that Mr. Hughes will cut mostly ~~the~~ the tribal customs in THE BLACKS, because other articles in the book cover similar ground, and your article is far over-length for the book.

Yours sincerely,

Suit Haggard

EH/az
am



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

Feb. 26, 1960

Mr. Peter Abrahams
The West Indian Economist
164-6 Harbour Street
Kingston, Jamaica, W. I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

We are looking forward to receiving *the*
WREATH FOR UDCMO contracts as soon as it
is possible for you to get them off to us.
Many thanks.

Cordially,

Pamela Jones

Pamela Jones
Assistant to Mrs. Degener

PJ:df

*P.S. Hope that you did
receive them safely?
All best —*



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

February 19, 1960

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrews, Jamaica, B.W.I.

Due from Holiday Magazine \$300.00
for refund of tax on CORE OF THE APPLE.

By check herewith..... \$300.00

THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY
INDEPENDENCE SQUARE
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19106
THE SATURDAY EVENING POST
LADIES' HOME JOURNAL
JACK & JILL
HOLIDAY

February 8, 1960

Miss Nellie Sukerman, Secretary
Curtis Brown, Ltd.
575 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

Dear Miss Sukerman:

Thank you for your letter of January 22, 1960 regarding the Federal Income Tax which we have withheld on 1959 stock purchase from Peter Abrahams. We have just received Treasury Regulations and note that the exemption letter for a small amount of stock information not supplied in the previously forwarded letter from Mr. Abrahams. We have also received a new letter for this purpose. As soon as the original and signed copy are returned to us we shall remit the tax with interest.

We do realize that we are required to pay to the Internal Revenue Service all taxes due prior to March 15, 1960. We must, therefore, return the letter to Mr. Abrahams prior to that time, and we would appreciate your returning the letter to us as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Comp. 117

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Please sign all copies attached and return via airmail. I'm going to get that refund before March 15 or burst.

Nellie Sukerman

CAN-TR-12
501.

These
are
along
with
this!

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

January 22 1960

C. A. Nichols, Esq.
Curtis Publishing Co.
Independence Square
Philadelphia 5, Pa.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

We are once again on the subject of \$300 withheld by your firm in 1959 as tax on the purchase of CORE OF THE APPLE-HARLEM by Peter Abrahams.

Our lawyers have advised us today that regulations regarding the Jamaica-United States tax treaty have been promulgated and notification by letter to the withholding agent is sufficient to eliminate withholding and refund amounts withheld. These regulations appear in the Commerce Clearing House Tax Report #93 in full text.

We look forward to receipt of the refund as soon as you have confirmed this information.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. We are enclosing a duplicate set of letters signed by Mr. Abrahams.

Dear Mr. Abrahams: While you have shown much patience about this matter, I have been agitated beyond endurance. By March 15, 1960, if Curtis Publishing Co. ~~is~~ still withholding your tax, they will pay it to our government and this means you ~~would~~ ^{will} have to file for a refund to the U.S. Treasury Department; a further delay on the return of your money for from six months to a year. I never sent the letters you signed in November because it was hopeless to move Curtis Publishing without some evidence of the regulations and now that we have it perhaps I'll be more successful. Much credit goes to our lawyers who have helped us throughout.

Sincerely yours,

Nellie Sukerman
Nellie Sukerman

AGENDA

Meeting of Dance, Speech & Drama Sub-committee
held on Saturday, 28th November 1959.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Confirmation of Minutes held on 24th October 1959
3. Matters Arising
 - (a) Travel Awards
 - (b) Entry of Quadrille Group for 1959 Awards
 - (c) Play Writing Competition
 - (d) Submission of Marking Sheets
4. Any other business
5. Date of next Meeting.

❁ ❁

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

Jan. 5, 1960

Mr. Peter Abrahams
The West Indian Economist
164-6 Harbour Street
Kingston, Jamaica, W. I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I have now read over the weekend Bill Branch's latest adaptation of UDOMO. I think it is quite good as a pageant although Bill has in no way licked what I call basic dramatization problems of the novel. I would recommend that we let Karamu do it as it is a moving pageant though not yet a play. In return for letting him do it I will get a letter stating that the contract between you and Bill is null and void and that he may not do anything with the play after the Karamu production without first making a completely new arrangement with us. Of course, I am hoping that after the Karamu production Bill will know how to rework the play in a better way. May I hear from you if you will let me go forward on this by night cable. The reason for speed is that Karamu has to announce this production if they wish to do it in March or April.

Cordially,

CSD:df

Claire S. Degener

Best Cindy

cb

Person 1 file

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

December 30, 1959

Mr. Peter Abrahams
The West Indian Economist
164-6 Harbour Street
Kingston, Jamaica, W. I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Thank you for the communication on William Branch. Luckily Bill has gone to a sensible agent and yesterday I talked with his agent regarding this whole Karamu production. I said that I wanted to read the latest version of the play first. Then if Bill would give us a letter absolutely confirming that all rights etc. which he might have claimed under the old contract have now terminated we would indeed consider a Karamu production. If the production is to be done at Karamu it would be for only twenty-three performances and Bill would have to understand that beyond that point we would make a completely new contract if the production out there, and any rewrites Bill might do as a result, warranted our permitting him to go forward with the script.

Karamu is a very interesting theater project in Cleveland which has done many extraordinary plays. I think Bill would learn a great deal from seeing the play on the stage and I would try and get out and see it myself. I shall report to you next week after I have read the script again. I think it is substantially the one you felt was not ready yet. With a production in Cleveland we are not in danger of any national critics and that's why I think the Karamu idea is not a bad one.

I have not written you about MINE BOY because I felt there was nothing to say until Michael Gardner in London and Arnold Margolin here have raised the necessary money to produce MINE BOY in the West End of London. Frankly, I am doubtful that they can do it and, therefore, since we have signed nothing further we are free to sell MINE BOY to other mediums if we find this is the best thing to do. I was in London most of the fall and I talked with Gardner on the phone several times and he says that his money man is an Australian and they probably will not know until the middle of January whether they can really get the money from him for the production.

Mr. Peter Abrahams

- 2 -

12/30/59

I talked with Mr. Innes Rose in London and he sends you his very best. He hopes you are writing a novel and also hopes to see you soon.

I think that about winds it up for the moment but I will be in touch with you next week. Every best wish.

Cordially,

CSD:df

Cindy
Claire S. Degener

*Bill just left his
Script here.*

22nd December 1959.

Mrs. Claire S. Degener,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York 22.

Dear Mrs. Degener:

I have had two urgent communications from William Branch about a Karamu House production of A Wreath For Udomo. Apparently they propose to put on a Branch version on March 8th for a run of approximately twentythree performances closing on April 2nd. The Branch letters gave me the impression that he has not been in touch with you and that he expects me to give him the go ahead. I have today written him and I enclose a copy of my letter to him.

Will you please take it from here.

All the best for the holiday season.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Abrahams

PA:ehk

encl.

22nd December 1959.

Mr. William B. Branch,
11 Stuyvesant Oval,
New York 9, N.Y.

Dear Bill,

I am sorry about not replying immediately to your letters concerning the possible stage production at Karamu House of A Wreath For Udomo. Reuben Silver, you may not know, is a very good friend of ours.

As I told you when I saw you in New York earlier this year I would like you to do things through my agents, and only refer to me in the event of there being some bottleneck. From your letters I have the impression that you have not been in touch with them at all. Do get in touch with them, Bill. This, after all, is a business deal which they should handle in a business-like fashion. And if that does not pay off let me know.

All this is dashed off in haste and under severe pressure. Will write you a personal letter when I have a little more breathing space.

Warmest personal regards.

Yours sincerely,


Peter Abrahams.

PA:ehk

11 Stuyvesant Oval
New York 9, N. Y.
December 15, 1959

Dear Peter,

I have now heard in greater detail from Mrs. Jellife of Karamu House in Cleveland. They plan to produce A WREATH FOR UDOMO on March 8th for a run of approximately 23 performances, closing on April 2nd.

Mr. Reuben Silver will be the director, and their royalty rate is 6% of the gross receipts, payable at the end of the engagement. Their theatre seats 233 persons, and their ticket prices are scaled to be within the reach of low income groups. They have ~~are~~ really unique and interesting operation and history, and I am asking them to send you some of their literature.

Well, thus far I've looked in vain for your reply to my message, but perhaps it's on its way and is merely delayed in the mails. I've written to them asking their patience until I have word from you, but if for some reason you have not had a chance to reply, please dot it now, Peter. I understand from Mrs. Jellife that it is necessary for them to make public announcement and get out tickets and posters at once, and a delay might result in either postponement or cancellation of the production.

Ruth is absolutely ecstatic at the news and is already seeing what she can do to arrange the trip out there. Sylvia Buchanon phones the other day also, and though she has from time to time expressed differences over the philosophy of UDOMO, she was glad to hear it was going to be done.

Well, Christmas is almost upon us, and though Marie will probably be getting the cards out later this week, let me take this opportunity to wish for you and your family the happiest and most prosperous Christmas and New Year ever. I hope you'll be working on a new book, and I hope also that you can manage to get your hand in some of these fellowship pockets. Jimmy Baldwin, you may know, recently received a two-year Ford Foundation grant for an estimated \$7,500 a year.

Again, all the best, and I'm hoping our girlfriend isn't giving us any trouble about the production. It's been a long hard pull, and now that things are about to happen, I hope I can count on our personal agreement. Meantime, go well - stay well.

Sincerely,



William B. Branch

P.S. Lofton says hi.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

27th November 1959

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
"Coyaba"
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Herewith for your records, the
permission form covering the use of the extract from
THE BLACKS in OUTSIDE READINGS IN SOCIOLOGY. As you
will see, the \$50 fee covers a non-exclusive basis only.

Sincerely yours,

Kreda J. Fuller

fis.
enc.

NEW YORK

CABLES: BROWNCURT

Dated.....

CURTIS BROWN, LTD.

60 EAST 56th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

These forms to be filled in and returned to the above firm who will then quote a fee and any special conditions.
If satisfactory, sign one form and return.

The undersigned requests a non-exclusive license to ~~publish~~
~~reprint~~
~~select~~

Title **"The Blacks"** Author **Peter Abrahams**

Published in **Holiday Magazine** **1959**
(magazine or book) (date of issue or publication date)

Published by **Perfect Publishing Co.**
(Please supply specific details of material desired, with pages, chapter heads, opening and closing lines. In short, whatever necessary to identify the material precisely.)

This material is to be published in a ~~text book~~
~~trade book~~ entitled **AFRICAN LITERATURE**
~~periodical~~ **James E. Miller, Jr., Robert O'Neal**

To be published by **Scott, Foresman & Company** Edited by **and Helen McDonnell**

Proposed publication date **1970** Tentative publication price **\$2.16**

Paper or hard cover **paperback** Approximate size of first printing **15,000**

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The undersigned agrees to pay to the above firm, as agents for the author, the fee of \$ **150.00** on publication, or within two years from the date of this agreement, whichever is earlier.

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- (2) The right to reprint the material described above shall apply only to the issue or edition named in the application, but this permission shall also extend to special editions of the work produced solely for the use of the handicapped by approved non-profit organizations and to revised editions where changes in contents do not exceed one-fourth of the original text.

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- (5) This permission does not include any copyrighted matter from other sources that may be incorporated in the material.
- (6) No deletions from, additions to, or changes in the text may be made without the written approval of the above firm.
- (7) The title of the material licensed herein shall not be used as the title of the book, nor shall the name of the author of such material be given greater prominence than the name of any other author in the book.
- (8) The publication of the material in the form approved herein does not permit quotations therefrom in any other work.
- (9) In the event payment is not made as specified, or in the event copyright and acknowledgment notices are not printed as specified, then all rights herein granted shall immediately terminate without further notice and without prejudice to any monies that may be due the author under the terms hereof.
- (10) Two copies of the work containing the above-licensed material will be sent free of charge to the above firm on publication date.
- (11) SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

APPROVED

CURTIS BROWN, LTD.

Agent for the Proprietor

BY Mary M. Martin

Date October 10, 1969

SCOTT, FORESMAN AND COMPANY

(Applicant's signature)

1900 East Lake Avenue
(Address)

Glenview, Illinois 60025

Date October 13, 1969

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

September 4, 1959

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

As you will see by the enclosed accounting we have been successful in getting Knopf to dispense with the deduction of alien tax on your current royalties and in obtaining a refund on the royalties paid to you in March.

As for the tax on the sale to Holiday, the attached copy of a letter from The Curtis Publishing Company will give you the story up-to-date.

Sincerely yours,

Nellie Sukerman

NS/jw

THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY

INDEPENDENCE SQUARE
PHILADELPHIA 5

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST
LADIES' HOME JOURNAL
JACK AND JILL
HOLIDAY

CALVIN A. NICHOLS
COMPTROLLER

August 18, 1959

Miss Nellie Sukerman, Secretary
Curtis Brown, Ltd.
575 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Miss Sukerman:

With further reference to our letter to you of July 21st concerning 30% non-resident alien income tax withheld from Peter Abrahams, of Jamaica, we have now received a letter from the Internal Revenue Service regarding this matter.

This letter advises us that present regulations concerning taxation of non-resident aliens who are residents of the United Kingdom do not apply to the possessions, which are covered by the extension to the Treaty. They further advise that the regulations covering this extension should be issued in a few weeks.

From the foregoing we are sure you will see that we have no choice but to await the issuance of the new regulations.

Sincerely yours,

CAN:b

Comptroller.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

September 5, 1959

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P. O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B. W. I.

Due from A. A. Knopf, Inc. as
royalties to April 30, 1959. \$22.88

Less: 15% Commission 3.43

By check herewith-- \$19.45

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

September 4, 1959

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B.W.I

Due from Alfred A. Knopf \$8.67
as refund of tax on October 30, 1958
royalties paid March 1959.

By check herewith

\$8.67

1, KING STREET,
KINGSTON,
JAMAICA, B.W.I.

Dr. to D. HENDERSON & CO., LTD.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
~~c/o Mr. George Shearer,~~
~~41, Sundown Crescent,~~
~~Kingston 10.~~

Date 31 JUL 1959

Capress 58-214

DATE	DESCRIPTION	FOLIO	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
	1 JUL 59				2,232. 3.10
14 JUL 59	TO INT.ACCRUED TO 30.6.59	69,676.	36. 11. 5		2,268. 15. 3

N.B.—PAYMENTS MADE AFTER THE ABOVE DATE
WILL APPEAR ON OUR NEXT STATEMENT.

E. & O. E.

THE LAST ITEM IN
THIS COLUMN IS THE
AMOUNT YOU OWE.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

July 29, 1959

AIRLETTER

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica
B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Your letter to me must have crossed Miss Sukerman's letter to you with the check, but explaining why the Curtis Company had to continue, for the time being, to hold the thirty percent.

This is a beastly nuisance and I can only hope that Curtis, and we, will get a ruling soon.

All the best.

Yours sincerely,

Sewell Haggard

EH: dab

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President

July 24, 1959

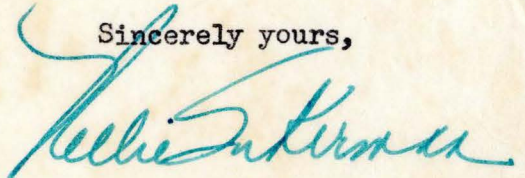
Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

You will see by the attached accounting that Holiday has withheld the 30% tax and I have also attached a copy of a letter from their controller which explains their position. I had hoped to send you the payment in toto, that is with the refund of tax, but now it seems that there will be a delay on the refund. I say this because I have tried for months to get a ruling from our Treasury Department and it will be something of a miracle if Curtis Publishing Company gets one quickly.

I am also including the A.A.Knopf royalty statement to April 30 which is due for payment by September 1st. You will see that they have shown a deduction of the 30% alien tax. I have sent them a set of makeshift exemption forms, copies of the ones you signed, which I hope they will accept. If not, Knopf will also be bombarding our Treasury Department and that ought to put a fire under the pot.

Sincerely yours,



NS/jw

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President

July 24, 1959

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P. O.
St. Andrews
Jamaica, B. W. I.

Due from Holiday as all
American and Canadian serial
rights on CORE OF THE APPLE-
HARLEM. \$1000.00

Less: 10% Commission	100.00	
One Path of Thunder		
for T.V. offer.	3.05	
Taxes <i>30%</i>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>403.05</u>

By check herewith \$ 596.95

THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY

INDEPENDENCE BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST
LADIES' HOME JOURNAL
JACK and JILL
HOLIDAY

JULY 31, 1959

Miss Nellie Sukerman, Secretary
Curtis Bros. Ltd.
1111 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Miss Sukerman:

Thank you for your letter of July 21 regarding the 30% non-resident alien tax withheld from our payments of January 1, 1959. Although the tax convention for Jamaica was signed on January 1, 1959, we have not received any Treasury Department regulations concerning it. We are writing the Treasury Department regarding this matter. As soon as word is received, we shall be pleased to forward to you the \$100.00 tax withheld from our purchases of January 1, 1959.

Sincerely yours,

Controller

CC: JEL:sp



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

June 29, 1959

AIRLETTER

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew,
Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I found THE CORE OF THE APPLE enormously absorbing
and I am sending it on to Harry Sions.

Thank you for telling us about the reciprocal trade
agreement and I am giving your letter to our account-
ing department.

Yours very sincerely,

Sewell Haggard

EH: dab

"Coyaba"
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica.

June 1, 1959.

Mrs. Claire S. Degener,
Curtis Brown Ltd,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York 22, N.Y.
U.S.A.

Dear Mrs. Degener,

So sorry about the delay in answering your letter of May 8th. I have been travelling in the South Caribbean, and running an economic journal does not exactly give one much time. However, I hope before so long to quit all this hackery and get on to my real business which is writing books.

Of course I would have liked to get more money out of Chris Manos as this would have helped the process of turning to serious writing, but I certainly feel we ought to go along with him in any case. I like very much what Manos is doing with MINE BOY and that is very important. So you go ahead and make the best possible deal you can. As I told you when we met, I regard my interests as being entirely in your hands. I don't think there is much sense in having an agent and then meddling unnecessarily. It is all a question of confidence.

Which brings us to Bill Branch and A WREATH FOR UDONO. Following my little principle of not meddling I have neither written to Bill about UDONO nor received any direct communication from him except the one letter which I received when I was in New York and which I passed on to you the day I saw you. Such correspondence as I have had has been with Jo Stewart and even this was not much. You will recall that after reading the first draft of Bill's script I wrote her my reactions on it. I have of course not seen any revised script. That is as far as my knowledge of the matter goes. There is no correspondence other than you have on your files. I hope this clears the picture for you.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Abrahams

"Coyaba"
Red Hills P.O.,
St. Andrew,
Jamaica.

May 30, 1959.

Miss Nellie Sukerman,
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York 22.

Dear Miss Sukerman,

In a recent small royalty remittance you made to me I noted that you still deducted the 30% Alien Tax.

I think I told you when I saw you in New York in April of this year that Jamaica had now entered into a reciprocal agreement with the U.S. under which Jamaican residents are relieved of paying the U.S. Alien Tax. This convention came into action on January 1st of this year. I know only a small sum is involved in my case but I should like you to look into and rectify the situation. And of course this will be important in terms of future earnings.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Abrahams.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

May 28, 1959

Mr. Peter Abrahams
'Coyaba'
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I am most anxious to hear from you regarding my letter to you of May 8. We have written out the final draft of the Manos contract and I have heard nothing further from Bill Branch, so I do want to hear from you as to whether you have heard from Bill.

Time is on our side in getting our of the Branch agreement. I gather Mr. Branch has won some kind of foundation prize, and he seems to be working on two other projects according to the papers last week.

My very best to you, and I look forward to hearing from you. I shall send on the contracts when they are ready for signature.

Cordially,

Cindy
Claire S. Degener

CSD:pj



Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President
Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

May 8, 1959

Mr. Peter Abrahams
'Coyaba'
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I have waited a long time since your return to Jamaica before writing because I wanted to clear up several matters. As you know, MINE BOY is going forward either off-Broadway in New York or in London's West End; things look better every day for the West End. I am now in the process of daily negotiations with Manos' lawyer on details in the new musical contract. I am delighted we need a new contract, as it gives us a chance to clarify certain points and improve the conditions a little bit.

One of the reasons for the delay has been Manos' feeling that he simply cannot pay you an advance and not pay Martin, Baker and Ellington. I for one feel we should go along with Manos as I feel your financial position in the musical is excellent - that is, $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the gross from the first dollar or pound and 25% of the total Author's share on all subsidiary rights.

I shall work out a final draft of this contract with the lawyers and send you copies in Jamaica for your signature.

Just for your files I shall enclose a thermofax copy of a letter received from Timothy Taylor, the lawyer for William Branch. The issue brought up in Mr. Taylor's letter to me of April 13 has been dealt with. Under the agreement you have with Mr. Branch he has no right to sell any rights until the play is produced for 21 performances, so I cannot imagine why Bill thinks he can sell a movie before he has gotten the play on. I refer you to clause 3 of the agreement between you and Bill.

This brings me to the whole matter of Bill and his attempt to adapt A WREATH FOR UDOMO. Have you heard from him? I cannot get him on the phone and think he is avoiding me. Mr. Taylor, his lawyer, is no longer authorised to speak with me about the whole matter, so could you give me a brief history of whether or not you ever wrote a letter to Bill telling him that you did not wish him to proceed with the play? I note that Miss Stewart wrote to you on August 14, 1958 telling you that you had to give written approval or a statement of changes you wished, or to state your complete disapproval after the receipt of the script. I also note that on December 30, 1959 Miss Stewart wrote you pointing out that the revised script should have been in your hands in November, 1958. Therefore we may possibly be able to simply tell Bill that he has no rights in the book.



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										2288 *
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March 6, 1959

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Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

April 14, 1959

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

First of all, it was awfully nice to meet you, and I look forward very very much to your new book. Meanwhile, I wrote to Harold Strauss about reprint and have had the following letter.

"Many thanks for your letter of April 9 about Peter Abrahams and reprint possibilities of his novels. As we always do, we have offered all of them to the paperback people, and so far have not gotten an offer for any of them. I don't think we can really use the possibility of MINE BOY being made into a musical as ammunition. You know what the theater world is like, and how many of these possibilities never materialize. But once the musical actually is in production, I promise you that we will go back hard at the reprinters, if indeed they do not come back at us for the book before then."

I'm keeping in close touch with Cindy Degener and will keep after Knopf.

Sincerely yours,

Naomi Burton

NB/ah

March 2nd, 1959

as from:
"Coyaba", Red Hills
St. Andrew, Ja.

Miss Jo Stewart
Curtis Brown Ltd.,
575 Madison Avenue
New York 22

Dear Jo:

I am sorry to hear that I won't see you when I come up later this month. But I do wish you all the best in your future undertakings.

Thank you for keeping me in the picture about the two stage projects. I will get in touch with Branch and with Manos when I am up in New York.

May I end by once again thanking you for what you have done on my behalf and wishing you the best for the future.

Yours ever


Peter Abrahams

PA/bid

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President

February 17, 1959

Dear Peter:

It is good news that you will be visiting our shores next month. However I am sad I will not be here to see you. I will be leaving the agency in mid March.

To bring you up to date on the two projects. A WREATH FOR UDOMO and William Branch. I've told him you will be here and he would like to sit down and talk to you. I think it would be well if you got in touch with him when you arrive. He can be reached at 605 East 13th Street. Telephone- home Spring 7-2318 or by contacting Plaza 5-0416. He has just taken over as producer of the new Jackie Robinson radio show and will be spending a good deal of his time at the Plaza number.

MINE BOY (SATURDAY LAUGHTER). I talked to Christopher Manos last week. Everything was cleared with Ellington to open as an Off-Broadway production but they lost out on the theatre. It is important that the production is done in the right theatre. Manos hoped to get the York but another production went into it. If it is available before it is too close to the summer, the plans are to go ahead.

Chris knows you will be here too and he will bring you up to date on any new developments. He can be reached at the office 11 East 48th Street, Pl 3-0261 or at home 44 East 87th Street, Templeton 1-4649.

It has been nice working with and for you and I will certainly be interested in you and particularly what happens with the above two properties no whether where I may be. Mrs. Claire Degener will take over here on the dramatic rights.

I hope you have a fine trip and the symposium is interesting and you enjoy your visit.

As ever,

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Jo Stewart

P. T. O.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President

January 6, 1959

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B. W. I

EE: A WREATH FOR UDOMO

Dear Peter:

Bill Branch has just telephoned with apologies for the delay on the revised script. He evidently has been lining up with an agent; had her read the script and she evidently felt the points you mentioned most valid. Branch feels he will have the revised script by the end of the month to send to you. He also wondered if you at this time intended to send along your comments and suggestions on the 'minor points' in the script as you stated in yours of September 4th. I told him not to delay the revise any longer for after you had gone over it these minor points could then be discussed.

I stressed to him that the revised script should have been in our hands the end of November and I would let you know the state of affairs. It seems only in your favor to let him proceed with the revised script and let you make the decision after reading it. He seems very confident that he can please you.

Best,

Jo Stewart

S.

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President

September 15, 1958

airletter

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica
B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I am very, very sorry you have been ill and deeply regret the annoyance my cable must have caused you, but I had no choice in the matter.

When Holiday replies to your letter, they will send a copy to me. Thank you very much for your carbon.

Yours sincerely,

Sidney Haggard

EH/j

Curtis Brown, Ltd.

LONDON

NEW YORK

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575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22

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CABLES: BROWNCURT

MRS. SEWELL HAGGARD
NAOMI BURTON

September 11, 1958

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
"Coyaba"
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B. W. I.

Dear Peter:

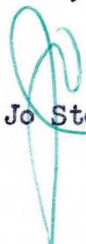
RE: MINE BOY
(SATURDAY LAUGHTER)

Christopher Manos called me earlier this week. As I knew, he has been having difficulties raising the money. Under your agreement with him he was to have the play ready for production by September 15th. He is far from accomplishing that.

He has changed his plans and has decided to come in first with an Agatha Christie play called SPIDER'S WEB which they tried out in summer stock. He is hoping that with the success of the Christie play it will enhance their abilities to complete raising of the money for MINE BOY.

As there has been no interest in any other quarter, it seems best to wait and see what happens after the Christie play opens. I'll keep on top of it.

Best,


Jo Stewart

JS:few

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CABLES: BROWNCURT

MRS. SEWELL HAGGARD
NAOMI BURTON

September 11, 1958

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
"Coyaba"
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B. W. I.

Dear Peter:

I was so sorry to hear that you have been ill and I do hope you have started to regain your strength. I do feel badly that you had to tire yourself at this time to answer mine on A WREATH FOR UDOMO, but I did want to get your reaction and for the reason that I was afraid the adaptation would not be too much to your liking. As I look over my notes I, too, felt pretty much as you did on several of the points you raised. I deliberately had not mentioned it when writing for you were the one to approve or disapprove.

Immediately after receiving your letter I wrote Branch both at his New York address and the one we had in Rome. If he holds to plans he should return about the sixteenth. But I wanted to get on record your comments.

Please do not bother until you feel stronger about the minor points for there will still be time to get these to Branch before he really gets rolling on a revision. As soon as I hear from him I'll let you know.

I understand all is taken care of with Edith Haggard and the HOLIDAY assignment.

Now mind your wife and get plenty of rest.

Best,

Jo Stewart

JS:few

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President

September 5, 1958

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
'Coyaba'
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

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CABLES: BROWNCURT

MRS. SEWELL HAGGARD
NAOMI BURTON

April 14, 1958

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
'Coyaba'
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Peter:

As I had not heard from you I wrote Innes to see if you were still in Jamaica and at what address. As I knew you were leaving the paper in March. He gave it to me, so I am sending the revised play script of MINE BOY - called SATURDAY LAUGHTER. Christopher Manos and Martin and Bates will be most interested in your comments.

I went to an audition of the play a couple of weeks ago and keep your fingers crossed - maybe we have something here.

I hope you are enjoying your more leisurely life after the busy days as editor - but then I imagine you still have a full schedule but let me hear from you when you have a moment.

Best regards.

Very sincerely,

Jo Stewart

P. S. Yours of the eleventh just received. I'll be writing you in more detail regarding Branch and the other matters.

JS:bj

FORM 1001A-UK

REV. DEC. 1954

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(2) reduces to a rate not in excess of 15 percent the United States tax on real property rentals and royalties in respect of the operation of natural resources, received by a nonresident alien (including a nonresident alien individual, fiduciary, and partnership) who is a resident of the United Kingdom, or by a foreign corporation whose business is managed and controlled in the United Kingdom, if such alien or corporation is subject to United Kingdom tax on the income so received and has no permanent establishment in the United States at any time during the taxable year in which such income is derived.

This certificate should NOT be filed by a corporation with respect to interest payable to it by a United States domestic corporation more than 50 percent of the entire voting power of which is controlled, directly or indirectly, by it, since such interest is NOT entitled to the exemption from United States tax.

Do NOT use this certificate in claiming exemption on coupon bond interest, but use Form 1001-UK.

Form 1001A-UK shall be filed with the withholding agent for each successive three-calendar-year period during which such income is paid. Each such form filed with any withholding agent shall be filed not later than 20 days preceding the date of the first payment within each successive period, or, if that is not possible because of special circumstances, as soon as possible after such first payment. Once such a form has been filed in respect of any three-calendar-year period, no additional Form 1001A-UK need be filed in respect thereto unless the Commissioner of Internal Revenue notifies the withholding agent that another such form shall be filed by the taxpayer. If, after filing such form, the taxpayer ceases to be eligible for the benefits of the Convention with respect to such income, he shall promptly notify the withholding agent by letter in duplicate. When any change occurs in the ownership of the income as recorded on the books of the payor, the exemption from, or reduction in the rate of, withholding of United States tax shall no longer apply unless the new owner of record is entitled to and does properly file a Form 1001A-UK with the withholding agent. The term "beneficial owner" for the purposes of this form means the person who, in the absence of the Convention, would have been subject to the full United States tax upon the income.

The duplicate of Form 1001A-UK (and letter) shall be immediately forwarded by the withholding agent to the District Director of Internal Revenue, Audit Division, Alien Returns Section, Baltimore 2, Maryland.

Curtis Brown, Ltd.

LONDON

NEW YORK

ALAN C. COLLINS, PRESIDENT

347 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17

MURRAY HILL 6-6170

CABLES: BROWNCURT

MRS. SEWELL HAGGARD
NAOMI BURTON

January 8, 1958

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Public Opinion
2 Torrington Road
Kingston - P. O. Box 115
Jamaica, British West Indies

Dear Peter:

It was good to hear from you and thank you for returning the dramatic agreements on A WREATH FOR UDOMO.

Regarding the U. K. exemption certificate. The treasury department will not accept a home address in care of an agent, bank or anyone like that. To establish yourself as a resident of England you have to have your own address. I am enclosing in duplicate a new form for you to fill out.

As there has been a delay while we have been waiting for the certificate it seems best that we send the accounting to you now. As you will see the 30% alien taxes have been deducted. If you have legal residence in England and after we have received the new exemption certificate, this money will be refunded to you.

It is wonderful news to know that you will be getting back to your own writing early this year. I know Knopf will be equally as glad, but I'll save that pleasant surprise until you tell me more about these plans of yours.

Yes, I had very nice holidays and I hope you and the family did also.

Best,


Jo Stewart

JS:bj
enc.2

Curtis Brown, Ltd.

LONDON

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347 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17

MURRAY HILL 6-6170

CABLES: BROWNCURT

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
c/o Public Opinion
2 Torrington Road
P.O. Box 115
Kingston, Jamaica B.W.I.

January 7, 1958

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

We take pleasure in enclosing our statement representing the amount due to you.

We shall be glad to know if any of the details do not agree with your record.

Very truly yours,

Nellie S. Kerman
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CABLES: BROWNCURT

MRS. SEWELL HAGGARD
NAOMI BURTON

March 12, 1958

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
c/o Public Opinion
2 Torrington Road
P. O. Box 115
Kinston, Jamaica
British West Indies

Dear Peter:

I believe if you heed to plans you were taking leave of your editor's chair this month. Will you be returning to England and if so please let me have your address. For tax purposes we will need to establish your legal residence during 1958.

This is just a short note to get this point cleared up. I'll be writing you soon on the dramatizations.

Best,

Jo Stewart

JS:bj

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President

December 30, 1958

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Coyaba
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Peter:

Christopher Manos telephoned me about MINE BOY (SATURDAY LAUGHTER). Their plans for the play have changed and they now think it might be best to bring it in as an off Broadway show (a major off Broadway house). He expects Duke Ellington in town on January 6th and they will be going into it extensively in these terms. He promised I would hear shortly after their discussion.

I recently queried Bill Branch regarding the revision of A WREATH FOR UDOMO but he has not replied. I know you were very displeased with his first script. Branch according to the contract had eight weeks to make the changes after receiving word from you, and this was up November 18th, 1958. I will wrap this up officially as soon as I talk to Branch.

It would be so nice if the seminar on Africa takes place, if you could be here. I would love to see you again and you could meet your American agents and that would be just fine.

May the New Year be very good to you and yours.

Best,

Jo Stewart

Mrs. Sewell Haggard, Magazine Department Naomi Burton, Book Department Nellie Sukerman, Secretary

cb

Curtis Brown, Ltd. 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22 PLaza 5-4200

Alan C. Collins, President

September 24, 1958

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
"Coyaba"
Red Hills P. O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B. W. I.

RE: A WREATH FOR UDOMO

Dear Peter:

William Branch is back in the country and he telephoned me yesterday. My letter, giving your reaction to his adaptation of the novel, was, of course, waiting for him.

He says he is not unhappy at all about your criticism or 'undaunted.' In fact, he welcomes it. He did not quite understand one of the points you raised underlying the second theme. He said he was a little mystified about this, but he wants to digest it all more thoroughly before he writes you and starts working on the script again. He also would prefer to wait until he gets your second letter regarding the minor points of detail.

Please don't rush about this, but wait until you are fully recovered before you think about it.

I also talked to him about the copyright and he said that there will be no trouble here -- the revised script will be copy-righted in both your names as it should be.

I do hope, Peter, your convalescence has been rapid and you are feeling more like yourself.

With warm regards.

Very sincerely,

Jo Stewart

JS:few

Curtis Brown, Ltd.

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NEW YORK

ALAN C. COLLINS, PRESIDENT

575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22

PLAZA 5-4200

CABLES: BROWNCURT

MRS. SEWELL HAGGARD
NAOMI BURTON

August 14, 1958

AIRMAIL

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
"Coyaba"
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B. W.I.

Dear Peter:

I am glad to send you William Branch's play adaptation of your novel, A WREATH FOR UDOMO . Under your agreement with Branch you must give written approval or a statement of changes or your complete disapproval, with your reasons within three weeks after receipt of the script.

You will note that Branch has copyrighted this only in his name. The dramatisation should be copyrighted in both your names and I am taking this up with him immediately upon his return. I don't know what we can do about it at this point.

Please let me hear from you.

Best,

Jo Stewart

S.
enc.

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PLAZA 5-4200

CABLES: BROWNCURT

MRS. SEWELL HAGGARD

NAOMI BURTON

July 23, 1958

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
c/o Public Opinion
2 Torrington Road
P. O. Box 115
Kingston, Jamaica
British West Indies

Dear Peter:

I thought you would like to see the enclosed letter from William Branch regarding A WREATH FOR UNDOMO. I do hope there will be no further delay, and I will be writing you again as soon as I have the script in hand.

I hope things go well with you.

Best regards.

Very sincerely,

Jo Stewart

JS/pol
Enc.: 1

Copy Peter

July 23, 1958

William Branch, Esq.
605 East 13 Street
New York 9, New York

Dear Mr. Branch:

Thank you for your nice letter of July 16th. I'm sorry to hear that the script of A WREATH FOR UNDOMO by Peter Abrahams did not completely satisfy you. As you say, you've lived with it so long, that it might be well to get some other opinions now. I shall look forward to seeing it by the end of the month, and I am sure that Peter will be glad to hear from you.

Congratulations on winning one of the Robert E. Sherwood Awards. Also the Del Vecchio. I am real proud of you.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Jo Stewart

JS/pol

605 East 13th Street
New York 9, N. Y.
July 16, 1958

Miss Jo Stewart
Curtis Brown, Ltd.
575 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Miss Stewart:

I owe you a great debt of gratitude for being so very patient for so long, especially since I have told you that the script of A WREATH FOR UDOMO would be in your hands some time ago.

I was not satisfied with the script when it did finally arrive from the typists, however, and have since been engaged in still more laborious re-writes. Though I am still not as satisfied as I would like to be, I'm afraid I must sooner or later give in to the realization that there must be a limit somewhere.

Therefore, please look for the completed script by the end of the month. I shall also get a letter to Peter out to you at the same time.

Thanks again, and best wishes.

Sincerely,

William Branch

P. S. I don't know whether you caught it in the papers or not (Times, Tribune, News--June 20; Post, June 18) but a TV script of mine had the good fortune to win one of this year's Robert E. Sherwood Awards. Also, Legit Bits in the June 18th issue of Variety reports the Hannah B. Del Vecchio Award, given by the trustees of Columbia U. for excellence in playwriting -- partially for work done on UDOMO, incidentally.

W. B.

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CABLES: BROWNCURT

MRS. SEWELL HAGGARD
NAOMI BURTON

June 2, 1958

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
'Coyaba'
Red Hills, P.O.
St. Andrew, Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Peter:

I hope you are enjoying your days away from the grind of the paper.

Have you had a chance to read the script of SATURDAY LAUGHTER (MINE BOY) that I sent you in April?

I was talking to Christopher Manos the other day. They are in the "money raising" stage and will probably have another audition in a few weeks. The contract calls for them to produce and present the play by September 15th, so they do not have too much time. I'll keep you filled in.

I should also be getting the script from Bill Branch on A WREATH FOR UDOMO very soon. It was to be in my hands the end of May, and if I do not hear in a day or two I'll phone him.

Have you started the new novel? I was talking to Harold Strauss the other day and we talked about you. Knopf are anxious of course to get your next.

Curtis Brown, Ltd.

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CABLES: BROWNCURT

MRS. SEWELL HAGGARD

NAOMI BURTON

Peter Abrahams, Esq.

June 2, 1958

Innes and Pauline Rose are making an unexpected and quick hop to the states. I'm seeing them at a cocktail party at the Overseas Press Club tomorrow and I'm looking forward to seeing them again. Wish you were here to join us.

Best,

Jo Stewart

JS:bj

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Curtis Brown, Ltd.
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New York 22, N. Y.

Alfred A Knopf Incorporated



501 Madison Avenue, New York 22

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"Coyaba",
Red Hills Post Office,
St. Andrew, JAMAICA. B.W.I.

April 12, 1958.

Dear Harold,

Here, at last, is word from me. And my silence had nothing to do with Caribbean manana. I've been putting in a ten to twelve hour day on this paper here for the past eighteen months (mainly because there is such a shortage of competent newsmen). But it has been extremely useful in that the settling in period in any country is always costly and ours was made costlier by the fact that we bought a chunk of land and built our own home; so the steady weekly income from the paper was extremely important. But I have now quit the paper and although I shall probably be forced to take another (for the present) in order to see my children fed, it will have to be something less time consuming which will make writing possible.

I have decided to make Jamaica my base of operation for the present. My family is very happy here and I think there is a very important book for me up in these hills among Jamaica's peasantry; a book that none of the Jamaican writers have written yet. And of course the sun and the sea and the clean air are powerful attractions, as well as the rugged and tender beauty of the island.

I am at present reading the draft of a novel I wrote several years ago. It is the second part of a trilogy I planned the first volume of which Harper published in 1950 and Fabers in 1951. The first volume was called WILD CONQUEST. I don't know whether you've read it. If you have not, I wish you would. What I conceived for the whole set was an attempt to illuminate the whole of South Africa from the point of the Great Trek to the point where its present racial structure breaks down: the whole to be called SOUTH AFRICA. Once this is done I will be able, writing-wise, to turn my back on South Africa. Assuming it comes off I would like all three to be published as one volume. The fact that the first is under the imprint of Harpers and that I hope the second two will be under the Knopf imprint might cause a problem. But that is in the future. ~~No~~ I will let you know what the chances of this novel look like to me when I've finished reading this draft. At least my mind is back on writing again, which is what I think you want to know. It might prove slow going though as I will probably have to hold down a job as well.

I have just done a radio review of Vic Reid's new novel which is quite a feat of imagination and which I liked for that very fact.

Greetings to all my friends at Knopf.

Yours ever,

"Coyaba",
Red Hills Post Office,
St. Andrew,
Jamaica, B.W.I.

April 11, 1958.

Miss Jo Stewart,
Curtis Brown Ltd,
347 Madison Ave.
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Jo,

Please forgive the long silence after your last letter. Clearing up at the paper was a fairly hectic process but I've now had ten days of taking it easy after eighteen months of real grind and its wonderful to be unemployed!

In answer to your question: I propose, for the present at least, to stay on here in Jamaica, and the above is my address. I have a fairly chunky piece of investment here - three acres of what will soon be a very high-toned residential area and quite a house which we have designed and built ourselves. Of course I owe money on the house but if we ever decide to sell we are likely to get five or six times what we spent on it. But my family is so in love with the place that they do not see it as a piece of investment so that chances are that this will be our base for a good few years. What does that mean in terms of taxation assuming we earn a decent sum of money from the play(s)?

I have all sorts of ideas about books but it is too early yet to talk about them. And in any case I will soon have to find something to do to keep us in bread and cheese. But it will not be anything as time consuming as the paper was. Over the past eighteen months I have been putting in between ten and twelve hours a day on the paper (thanks to the shortage of competent newsmen here) and this allowed no time for writing. Whatever I take on now will have to allow me time for writing. The ideal solution, of course, would be if the Manos play made it possible for me not to have to take another job. But I'm too old a hand to start building hopes on that. If it comes, it comes and very welcome it would be.

What news of the play? Am I right in thinking you wrote me that the music was already recorded? If so, would it be possible to get a record or two? And when do they plan putting it on? And any news from Branch? I now have time to take a real interest so please let me know.

I am writing Harold Strauss a very long letter tomorrow morning. I feel I have neglected the house of Knopf and my friends there most disgracefully and must make up for it. I wonder if you will do something for me, please? I would like to get hold of a copy of Mario Dal Fabbro's "Furniture For Modern Interiors" which is published by Reinhold Publishing Corporation. Could you mail a copy to me and charge me for it? I would be most grateful if you would.

Best regards,
Yours ever

Peter Abrahams,
Coyaba,
Red Hills Post Office,
St. Andrew.

April 9, 1958.

NOTES ON MY RADIO EXPERIENCE

I have spent practically all my adult life working through the main media of mass communication - the press, radio and the writing of books. In the press I have functioned as sub-editor, chief sub-editor, reporter, literary editor, features editor and editor as well as being special correspondent travelling abroad for the papers I served. In writing I have published some eight books, including fiction, travel and history. These have been translated into most of the main languages of the world.

In radio I have had nearly ten years of experience in broadcasting and the planning of broadcasts. I have scripted and delivered innumerable talks on the BBC's Home Service, the Third Programme, the General Overseas Service, the Far Eastern Service and the African Service. These talks have been on cultural, social and political matters. I have also taken part in a large number of radio discussion programmes on the BBC, some of which I have initiated. In 1952 I travelled to South and East Africa with a commission from the BBC Third Programme to report on conditions there. In 1953 I visited West Africa and again made radio reports. In 1955-56, after my visit to the West Indies on behalf of the Colonial Office to write a book on Jamaica, I did a series of eight feature reports for the Overseas Service of all the places I had visited.

I have also broadcast in the United States, on both sound and television, as well as on the continent of Europe. A number of my individual talks have been transcribed and rebroadcast all over the English-speaking world.

There is one deficiency in my radio experience which I feel I should point out. My experience of the purely mechanical side of broadcasting is limited: I refer to such matters as taping, cutting and dubbing. But these are simple mechanical matters which I could master if I were given a short spell of two weeks with the engineer now working for the Government Broadcasting Service.

Finally, I have had, in my newspaper work, the kind of imaginative organising and administrative experience which I think the job of planning and directing programmes requires.

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c/o Public Opinion
2 Torrington Road
P.O. Box 115
Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I.

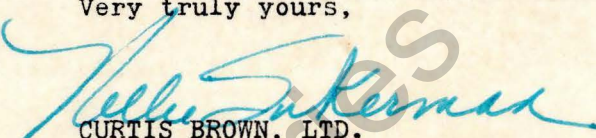
March 7, 1958

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

We take pleasure in enclosing our statement
representing the amount due to you.

We shall be glad to know if any of the details
do not agree with your record.

Very truly yours,


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CABLES: BROWNCURT

MRS. SEWELL HAGGARD
NAOMI BURTON

December 17, 1957

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Public Opinion
2 Torrington Road
Jamaica, British West Indies

Dear Peter:

I talked to Chris Manos the week on MINE BOY. He had an audition several months ago and the consensus was that the play needed more music. Duke Ellington has come up with several more songs and right now the script is having more work done on it. Manos hopes to have the revised script shortly and he will send me a copy, which I will send to you.

They are now working on the money end. The casting has not begun. He does not think they will try for big star names - hoping the Duke's music will be the draw - and use more or less unknowns. (As was done with the hit show, of this season, WEST SIDE STORY.) I believe the songs have been recorded also.

I'll be in touch with you as soon as I have more news.

I do hope you and the family have wonderful holidays.

Very sincerely,


Jo Stewart

JS:bj

P. S. Are the papers on A WREATH FOR UDOMO on the way back to me?

J.S.

NEW YORK

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First

24th Jan

10 AM

December 17, 1937

Peter Abraham, Esq.

Public Opinion

2, Tottenham Road

Jamaica, British West Indies

Dear Peter:

I talked with Chris Jones the week on TIME. He had auditioned several months ago and the consensus was that the play needed more work. (Chris Ellington has come up with several more songs and right now the script is having more work done on it. Jones hopes to have the revised script shortly and he will send a copy, which I will send to you.

They are now working on the money end. The casting has not begun. He does not think that will try for big stars names - hoping the Duke's music will be the draw - and use more or less unknowns. (As was done in the hit show of this season, WEST SIDE STORY). I believe the songs have been recorded also.

I'll be in touch with you as soon as I have more news.

I do hope you and the family have wonderful holidays.

Very sincerely,

to Stewart

13th

7.2. Are the papers on A WREATH FOR UDONO on the way back to me?

7.2.

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CABLES: BROWNCURT

MRS. SEWELL HAGGARD

NAOMI BURTON

November 21, 1957

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Public Opinion
2 Torrington Road - Kingston
Jamaica, British West Indies

Dear Peter:

I'm glad to send you dramatization agreement with William Branch covering A WREATH FOR UDOMO. You will recall I wrote you at some length about Branch a while back sending you a resumé of his background.

He is most enthusiastic about the book and is only thinking of it as a top drawer production.

If you find the agreement in order will you kindly sign the copies and return three to me, keeping one for your files.

I'm also sending you an exemption form 100LA-UK. Will you kindly complete and sign where indicated and return both copies to me.

I do hope things go well and you are not working too hard.

Best regards.

Very sincerely,

Jo Stewart

JS:bj
enc.

*Pa:
I should be hearing from
Mama on Mine Boy three or*

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LONDON

NEW YORK

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MURRAY HILL 6-6170

CABLES: BROWNCURT

MRS. SEWELL HAGGARD
NAOMI BURTON

October 24, 1957

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
Public Opinion
2 Torrington Road
Kingston, Jamaica
British West Indies

Dear Peter:

You will recall some time ago I wrote you regarding William Branch's interest in adapting for the stage A WREATH FOR UDOMO. There was a delay for some time and we have finally agreed on a contract and it is now being made up. As soon as this is done I will be sending you copies for your signature.

I haven't heard from Christopher Manos recently on MINE BOY, but I expect I will shortly. I hope this finds you in tip top health. More soon.

Very sincerely,

Jo Stewart

JS:bj

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MURRAY HILL 6-6170

CABLES: BROWNCURT

MRS. SEWELL HAGGARD
NAOMI BURTON

February 25, 1957

Dear Peter:

I hope a letter is on its way to me about William Branch's interest in adapting A WREATH FOR UDOMO to the stage. His agent has just called me again for Branch has something else on the fire and is most anxious to know whether your novel will be available. Will you let me know how you feel about this. From the background material I sent you on Branch it might be a good move to let him have a go at it.

Since writing you last I've talked to Chris Manos and he said the script still had a couple of snags in it, but he expected them to be ironed out soon and he would send on a script for you. He had exciting news for he told me that a contract with Duke Ellington was in the process of being negotiated. Let us hope it is brought to a happy conclusion. You will recall they were thinking of William Warfield for Xuma, but feel he is not young (or physically attractive) enough. Sidney Poltier has been in their thoughts, but I do not know if he sings. If all of this jells, it should be most exciting.

I hope this finds you well. Please let me hear from you on A WREATH FOR UDOMO.

Best,

Jo Stewart

(of mine) Ray

Peter Abrahams
Public Opinion
2 Torrington Road
Kingston, Jamaica
British West Indies

S.

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MURRAY HILL 6-6170

CABLES: BROWNCURT

MRS. SEWELL HAGGARD
NAOMI BURTON

November 30, 1956

Dear Peter:

I have taken the liberty of suggesting that a Reader's Digest editor who will be in Jamaica from December 2nd to 9th get in touch with you. It is Frederic Sondern, Jr. who is their specialist in European politics and federal law enforcement subjects. I am sure you will like Fred. He is a most interesting and charming person. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Sondern.

He plans to check in at Kings House.

I hope things go well. I hope to be sending you the play script of MINE BOY shortly.

Best regards.

Very sincerely,

Jo Stewart

Peter Abrahams, Esq.
120a Constant Spring Road
Constant Spring P. O.
Jamaica, B.W.I.

S.