

22 March 65

Dear Jack: Thanks for your letter and the enclosed story. I knew it well. What he hates about the Sea of Cortez is that it describes him. He is the same kind of man who screamed with pain at the Cruise of the Beagle. Incidentally, Fred Zimmerman, the great director, asked me to write a picture script for "Beagle." I refused. It would take three years to do it well.

I don't know how the television series to be based on Sea of Cortez progresses. Could I don't ask because I am working so hard on my present book. But if it should come to life, I might ask you to stand in for me in the matter of collecting techniques and attitudes. As a matter of fact, with a beard, you could even play Doc Richetts. But as I say, I've heard nothing more.

As for the degree - if you could get one without effort, it would do me harm. But the best people won't demand one of you - only the second raters who have to wear their knowledge in the set of the tablet of their mortar-boards. So you know, I turn down at least six honorary degrees a month. Recently a funny thing happened. Maybe I told you.

I have always refused the "Doctorates" on the ground that since I had no degree, I was

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my own university, Stanford, it would be unseemly
to accept an honorary one from some other. Well
recently the President of Stanford asked me to take
a "doctorate" there. I wrote him a note
note, told him he was cutting the ground out
from under me and asked him to retract
the offer - which he did.

You seem to be doing fine. I think
you realize the value of writing our degrees
now.

Look - you seem to be unhappy with your
agent. Would you like to query mine. The
only ones I see lead. McIntosh & Otis, 18 East 41st
St, New York 17. Elizabeth Otis or Sturley Fisher,
probably the latter is the best to write to. I'll
tell them I have no commercial agent and you
do also if you write to them. They are wonderful
people and Sturley Fisher is particularly interested
in your field although not specially trained
in it. You don't have to stay with an agent
you don't want - unless you have a contract.
I have no contract with mine and I've
had them for 25 years.

Yours in a real sense
I thought you'd like teaching
Yours
J.S.

22 March 65

Dear Jack:

Thanks for your letter and the enclosed story. I know it well. What he hates about the Sea of Cortez is that it describes him. He is the same kind of man who screamed with pain at the Cruise of the Beagle. Incidentally, Fred Zimmerman, the great director, asked me to write a picture script for "Beagle." I refused. It would take three years to do it well.

I don't know how the television series to be based on "Sea of Cortez" progresses. And I don't ask because I am working so hard on my present book. But if it should come to life, I might ask you to stand in for me in the matter of collecting techniques and attitudes. As a matter of face, with a beard, you could even play Doc Ricketts. But as I say, I've heard nothing more.

As for the degree - if you could get one without effort, it would do no harm. But the best people won't demand one of you - only the second raters who have to wear their knowledge in the set of the tassel of their

mortar boards. Do you know, I turn down at least six honorary degrees a month. Recently a funny thing happened. Maybe I told you.

I have always refused the "Doctorates" on the ground that since I had no degree from my own university, Stanford, it would be unseemly to accept an honorary one from some other. Well recently the president of Stanford asked me to take a "Doctorate" there. I wrote him a rush note, told him he was cutting the ground out from under me and asked him to withdraw his offer - which he did.

You seem to be doing fine. I think you realize the value of writing one's degrees now.

Look - you seem to be unhappy about your agent. Would you like to query mine - the only ones I ever had. Elizabeth Otis or Shirley Fisher. I'll tell them I have recommended you and you do also if you write to them. They are wonderful people - and Shirley Fisher is particularly interested in your field although not specially trained in it. You don't have to stay with one agent you don't want - unless you have a contract. I have no contract with mine and I've had them for 25 years.

I'm in a rush now -
I thought you'd like teaching

Yours
JS
