

FINCA VIGIA, SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA, CUBA

Caro Alberto,

May 17, 1950

questa mane, appena arrivò la tua lettera, Papa m'incaricò di  
Dear Alberto - this morning when your letter arrived, Papa asked me to tell you that last week he signed the contract and its duplicate for the new novel, Across the River and into the Trees, and understood that Mr. Rice would be sending your copy to you soon. But I believe there was some question about the original contract because it gave you rights not only on the book but also on the serialization. You see, the serialization rights were sold in the U. S. for a really enormous sum---the magazines in the U. S. being so rich they can afford to pay big money. And it may be that Rice is delaying sending you the contract for the book because he thinks serialization rights in Italy should bring in more money than the contract provided for.

*understood perfectly about the book's serialization*

Anyhow I shall write Rice today asking him what is delaying the contract on the novel, and to send it to you, or at least to communicate with you about it. *(I wrote Rice to send it to you ten days ago E.H.)*

About the Short Stories, I think perhaps you may have misunderstood about the time of their publication, which, so far, is ~~completely~~ indefinite. You know Papa is not a writer who produces a harvest every year like grapevines. He plans to make a book of short stories, also including some poems. Scribners have set it for the fall of 1951. But he is still truly exhausted from putting the finishing polish on the novel. He may not want to write another word except in letters to friends for another six months---or, of course, he might write a story next week. He has as yet made no contract for the Short Stories with his New York or his British or his French publishers. So you see, dear Alberto, there isn't any great hurry about the Stories; but, Papa says, you will surely get them. *You most certainly will E.H.*

If Papa decides to publish some of them in magazines, or a magazine in the U.S., I promise I will let you know in plenty of time for you to publish them in your new magazine simultaneously. So, it will still be correct, as you told the Italian Press, that the stories will be under the imprint of your firm. But perhaps more later than sooner and probably in the fall of 1951.

I hope this helps a little and I shall write later whatever news there is on the contracts and the stories.

Best wishes and love to Virginia and to you, and  
ARRIVEDERCI,

*and Ciao*  
*Mary -* *Mr. Papa.*

(mary hemingway)

*set for the fall of 1951*