

Second St., S.E.,
Washington 3, D.C.,
15 September 1961.

Dear Boris:

I was delighted to have such a prompt response to my letter of 25 August, but sorry to learn that you weren't quite well at the time you wrote.

In the letter before your last one you said that you had had a slight operation and I gathered that there was no surgery on the prostate and that you were recovered. Now your last letter leads me to imagine that you had a real operation. Is this true? I hope not but if it is true, then I trust you will soon be 100% OK.

I noted with interest your journeying on the "Astarte". Why did you baptize her with that name? In Greek mythology Astarte has various attributes, among them "the lecherous Sea-fidess, 'ruler of men'." Which of these two descriptions did you think of?

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of my Casanova article and hope you will find it interesting.

We have been under a terrific strain as I told you some time ago. Barbara was given temporary custody & the final hearing comes up in October but no date has been set as yet so journeys anywhere for more than a few hours are out of the question until after the hearing. Barbara & Nicholas are staying in our home, of course, and this will continue for some time until the child recovers his equilibrium from the terrible experience he underwent when his father snatched him from our house and kept him hidden for 4 1/2 months - not even our detectives were able to find where had taken & placed the boy or with whom. And the father is a graduate in medicine! An evil, very evil man, who is so self-centered that he can think of nobody but himself. He's an only child of wealthy parents.

unne will see
pleasant journey back
to Zug, and that
you will be feeling
up to par soon there-
after.

The world situation
looks pretty fright-
ful but I am not
shivering in my boots
yet. Thinkin' through
about having a
fall-out shelter
built under my
kitchen. What about
you? And the people
in Switzerland
Sweden. ^{Nobody will}
be immune anywhere
on earth, I fear.
The whole thing is an
absurd, frightful
departure from reason
if a nuclear war does
occur.

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There are some
very scared people in
the U.S. now who
are moving out to the
deserts of Nevada, etc
seem safe to them,
from blast - but what
would be the use of
living in a half-dead
world? It's too bad
your late lamented
father in his Russia-
mining work didn't
blast the whole of
Russia off the face
of the earth. They
are all a pretty
terrible sample of
humanity + I hate
them with an in-
describable venom.

Affectionate re-
gards from us all to
you all. Sincerely,
Bill