

Mary K. Frank

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July 20, 1959

Mr. Alan Paton
Lynton Road
Kloof, Natal
South Africa

Dear Alan:

I do want to tell you how much I appreciate your sending the script of "The Last Journey" to me through Annie Laurie.

You have told a very great and moving drama with such simplicity and integrity that it at first seems deceptively simple. But this is not the case. I have had the script now for over two weeks and have read it twice over but it is constantly in my mind. This work has the gathering momentum of a small stream which starts with such simple, spontaneous beginnings and moves inevitably with mighty force into the sea. This power of love and service can not be stemmed or diverted and although it seems swallowed up by the sea, it is a moving force of life. This is so beautiful because it is a positive statement of God's love of men by humble men.

You have lived with this theme and this play for a considerable time and it has grown and developed within you. I too ask that you give me the time to gestate with a concept of production for this country. I even ask that you allow me time before I make any detailed or specific comment as I feel anything I would say now is superficial.

Since our last hectic and harried meeting in London, I have thought so much of you and all that you have given. This last year I joined the parish of St. James up on Madison Avenue. At my first conversation with the Rector, on his desk was your prayer "Meditation for a Young Boy Confirmed". When he discovered that I knew you, he gave it to me. You found the words which gave me hope for my thousand apostasies. My prayer for Maudie is your meditation.

I enjoyed so much my short visit with Malcolm Woolson and I am anxiously waiting to hear of the development of production plans with the musical. He promised (with your permission) to let me see the book. I also heard a record of songs by the composer that you are planning to work with and it all sounded like very exciting and stimulating theatre. We need you in our theatre here and I am so happy that you are thinking in this media.

My love to Dore and I do hope it will be soon that we will have you with us again.

Devotedly,

Mary
P.S. The cap from Jaeger's arrived safely
18 months ago — How can I thank you

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