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September 8, 1938

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Miss Pearl S. Book
386 Fourth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Miss Book:

A friend has called my attention to your article entitled "Ransom" which appeared in the October issue of Cosmopolitan Magazine and I want you to know that I have just had the opportunity of reading your story. It immediately impressed me with your keen understanding of human nature, as did your book "The Good Earth."

As I read the story of the young people and their children I again lived the horrors of kidnaping as I have on innumerable occasions in the past through actual cases and while the story, of course, was fictional, nevertheless I suffered with the young parents. While we of the FBI have been through many kidnaping cases, nevertheless each brings a new experience, one that almost tests one's faith in human nature and it is difficult to understand how anyone can take a helpless child from his cradle.

I feel the moral of your story is particularly good. It is so hard to tell a parent whether he should or should not pay the ransom in a kidnaping case and while I, of course, cannot comment upon the pending legislation which would prohibit the payment of ransom in kidnaping cases, nevertheless I feel that it would be most difficult to successfully legislate in matters involving human nature.

On your next visit to Washington if you have the time I should be very glad indeed to arrange for you to take a special tour of inspection of the facilities of the FBI.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 14 1938 P.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Crowl
- Mr. Dawsey
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. McIntire
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/2/84 BY [signature]

FEB 17 1955 (A)

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