

30 June 1955

Captain Edward Hastings (R.N., Ret.)  
 Northeast Manor  
 Rodmill  
 Lewes, Sussex, England

Dear Eddie:

Maybe this is not news to you but I am home now convalescing from a coronary occlusion which hit me on 3 April just about a week after my return from my last trip to Europe. I had a rather bad time of it, with two sojourns (four and three weeks each) in the hospital. I am getting better fast now, at home for the second time, and hope to be allowed to return to the office sometime around the middle or latter part of August.

In the course of my light reading I was going through Joyce Cary's PRISONER OF GRACE and there tucked away, toward the end of the book, I came upon a paragraph which immediately carried me back to the lovely luncheon you provided for me at your new restaurant in the theatre district. You will recall your relating to me your partner's comment about Clement Attlee in the latter's younger days. So here is the paragraph from Cary:

"And if you think that it's absurd to say Chester could have been Prime Minister, you simply don't understand how people do become Prime Minister, and how ordinary they seem before something happens to make them so."

Grisel and you will perhaps be interested in the inclosed clippings. With regard to the Folger Shakspeare Library award, please do not fail to tell that very charming lady (to whom you presented me after our luncheon, and who is a Director of Chatto and Windus) about the award. I liked her a lot. Cambridge University Press has our manuscript now under consideration and we hope they will decide to publish it.

My belated thanks for the lunch. Wonderful restaurant!

Love to you and Grisel from both of us.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN

Incl:  
 a/s