

April 30, 1970

Dear Mr. Manalli:

I'm glad my letter made you happy. I will begin submitting THE PRISONER AND THE KREPRR and the first publisher shall be Atheneum. I agree that there are still many places to try. I don't really need another copy of the manuscript so why don't you hold the extra one for the time being. I'll be very eager to see the other two novels and the stories when they come back.

I do hope you'll be in New York and if you let me know what the dates will be in advance we can arrange to have lunch together.

Sincerely,

Ellen Levine

F.S. Manalli
428 Eighth St.
Santa Rosa, Calif. 95401

April 30, 1970

Dear Ted:

Here is an unusual and very talented novel entitled THE PRISONER AND THE KEEPER by F.S. Manalli. I think he writes beautifully.

I'll be looking forward to hearing from you.

Best,

Ellen Levine

Ted Best
Atheneum
122 E. 42 St.
New York, N.Y.

April 25, 1970

Dear Miss Levine:

Thank you thank you. Your comments are most gratifying. ~~XXXX~~ Editors and other agents have made similar remarks about my novels, but you're the first to commit yourself. Of course I realize it is a difficult book and will probably have difficulty being accepted by a publisher. But I think it can be, and I'm glad you think so too. Do. Do and do.

It hasn't been seen by too many American publishers. The first was Random; I think a lot of people there read it, for they kept it almost 10 months. The rejection came from James Silberman, who said it was a great book but they "didn't understand it." I spoke to him on the phone: "Since when do publishers have to understand books they print?" I asked, but he had no answer.

Henry Robbins of Farrar also rejected it. A partial Ms., some carbons, went to the Harper Prize and was rejected. Also unsigned rejections from Grove and McGraw. A friend in London last year took it around to a few houses and, though impressed, most of them thought it should have American publication first. Two West Coast reps of NY houses have seen it (Harcourt & Doubleday) but their reasons for rejection were so narrow-minded that I certainly think a more responsive editor in the NY offices of those two houses might be found. That's it. Plenty of major houses remain to be tried, it seems to me, as well as the not-so-major (whatever that means); I don't give a damn - I want to see the book in print, with anybody but the vanity presses.

I have another original typescript of the book now, too. Shall I send it to you, or would you prefer to work with only that one?

I've done 3 other books, one of which I'm ashamed of - a total loss. The other 2 I'll send you; the first, which Robbins liked a great deal, needs a little touching up, while with the other I'm doing a complete overhaul, mostly cutting; you should have them both within a couple of months. I'm also starting a new one, a short novel, so a problem right now is directing my efforts, but I think I can have a draft of the new one to you this summer.

My stories are all out right now, but as they come in (and as I do new ones) I'll send them on to you. Did I mention in my last letter that I had stories published last year in PERSPECTIVE and THE LITERARY REVIEW? Jarvis Thurston, of PERSPECTIVE, who recommended me to the National Endowment people, seems certain that "Paradise, It's A Nice Place" will be cited by one of the BEST collections this year. That would be nice.

The Endowment grant gives me a little freedom - at least I won't have to teach summer school. It's been a long time since I've done any real traveling, but I hope to later this summer, and perhaps I'll reach NY for a few days; if so, I hope I'll have the opportunity of meeting you personally and thanking you again, properly.

Best, Fred Manalli

F. S. Manalli
428 Eighth Street
Santa Rosa, Calif. 95401

April 23, 1970

Dear Mr. Manalli:

Please forgive the delay in writing you - I have been out of the office ill.

I've now had a chance to finish reading THE PRISONER AND THE KEEPER and I am overwhelmed by the beauty of your writing. It's been a long time since I've read such powerful prose. I think the novel is very ambitious and very haunting. I also think and I'm sure you have heard this before, that it is a very difficult book and one that may be just as difficult to sell. It definitely deserves to be published, but I'm afraid that many publishers may be reluctant to publish books as unconventional as yours. However, I think there are so many marvelous things about your novel that I would be proud to try it on the more imaginative of the editors with whom I deal. May I do this?

I will need from you a list of the editors and publishers who have already seen the manuscript so that I don't duplicate your efforts. Also, you've mentioned several other novels and stories - I'd very much like to see the rest of your work and hope you will send it to me.

I'll be looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ealen Levine

Mrs. Ellen Levine
Paul R. Reynolds, Inc.
599 Fifth Ave.
New York City 10017

March 12, 1970

Dear Mrs. Levine:

Thank you for your kind letter.

I am not working with an agent, and in addition to the stories and poetry I've published, I've written several more stories as well as four novels - in varying stages of completion. The most finished of these is titled THE PRISONER AND THE KEEPER, a manuscript copy of which is being sent to your office for your consideration. A couple of editors and publishers have seen it and remarked on its quality - power, beauty, whatnot - and one house kept it nine months before returning it and saying "It's great, but we don't understand it." Since when did a publisher have to understand what he publishes? Anyway, good reading to you. Let me know if you have any questions. Also let me know if you'd be interested in seeing any of my other work, either the novels or a group of unpublished stories.

Yours truly,

F. S. Manalli

F. S. Manalli
428 Eighth St.
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401