

THEODORE DREISER

December 15th, 1928
200 West 57th Street
New York City

Dear Emma:

I would like very much to write something about you which I could include in my next book, "A Gallery of Women". Already I have considerable material concerning your life drawn from files of the New York World and other papers, and as you see, for I am sending it to you, it is unescapably dramatic and colorful. But what I wish more is to include certain of those dramatic incidents which relate to your arrival and early life in New York, your vivid interest in the unsatisfactory arrangement of society, and your determination to furnish the world with an illustration of what was wrong by personally slaying Henry C. Frick. You once told me this and some other things, and apart from this I have vivid memories in connection with you in your work and I can hardly call it private life, for you were more a public person than private even in your own room -- perhaps jails would be better.

I have the feeling that the thing I propose writing will be of considerable value not only as a forerunner to the biography I know you are writing, but as an avenue to a publisher and a popular success which otherwise might not follow easily. More; feeling as I do about you and knowing how I would proceed with my interpretation, I have the feeling that its publication would result in your return to this country. I think I might be even more able to justify you to society than you yourself would, because I have always felt that I knew, not exactly why you are as you are mentally or chemically, but being what you were, why you did as you did.

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At least I would like to work out my thoughts in that connection. But to do the thing properly I will have to have a few essential and condensed pivotal incidents around which I could throw all the rest. The sketch when done would be not more than nine or ten thousand words. You will have a permanent place in one of my most valuable and truthful books, and I would be so glad to have you there. My feeling is that the result should be entirely favorable to you in every way.

Will you reply at once furnishing me such material as you feel is truly dramatic and pivotal, and believe me,

Always,

Theodore Dreiser

N.B. Presently I am going to Washington and it is my intention to use my influence with certain personages now in power to have the ban on you lifted. You really belong on Thirteenth Street near Fourth Avenue.

200 West 57th St
N.Y. City