

January 12, 1970

Dear Ken:

I was disappointed that you were down here and I didn't get a chance to see you. Mark Rubin certainly enjoyed his talk with you.

I want to reassure you that my interest in ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST has not waned, but it's been tough. I have had to go through two crappy arbitration procedures which took a couple of years. The second one ended only a few months ago. I want to make a movie out of your book--a good movie. I tried to do it as a play and I gave it a lot of time and effort. I know the mistakes that I made in doing it as a play, but the biggest mistake was in timing. We were too far ahead. I think the timing is right now and I'm ready to go.

I'll be glad to take you up on your invitation to come up to Oregon. I'd like that and I'll bring Mark with me. I'd love to get away for a couple of days and talk things out with you. Let me know how long you'll be staying put in Oregon and I'll make plans to come up and visit you. In the meantime, all my best.

Best,

Mr. Ken Kesey
Pleasant Hill, Oregon

Candice
Rich:

Listen: what's happening with Cuckoo's Nest? The reason I ask is because I was regaled by this rumor that you were bowing out and letting your kid star in it and also because I truly and strongly advise that you and some of your people take a little incognito trip up to San Francisco and take a look at that production they're doing up there. I've seen a lot of different versions of the play, from so-so to excellent, as I thought your Broadway portrayal was, but this thing in San Francisco is amazing. They've not only gone back to the book, ~~ix~~ making a lot of changes in the Wasserman script, but ~~ix~~ they've gone beyond the book, bringing a lot of the colored aid talk up to date, making Billy Bibbit a hippy. Mainly, though, it's just the general energy that comes off the whole cast. Try your luck at that turtle-ridden mansion for a day and fly up and catch it; you'll be inspired.

I'm fat and fine and the morning glories are in bloom before me. I been ~~x~~ writing pretty steady and sticking to my vow not to ~~xxxx~~ ever show the stuff to anyone. It feels nice to whiz around inside of fiction again without my miserably name anchoring me with importance.

My oldest boy and I drove forty miles the other night, couldn't find the correct place in the dark, back and forth up and down the road until the car cut out suddenly and we coasted into this drive, slept on the ground, got up at dawn and waded the river and caught thirty trout by noon.

Peace to you,

Kesey

July 30, 1970

Dear Ken:

Your note reached me just before I left for Spain. I have now returned but may be going back in two weeks.

I honestly intend to get off my "Beverly Hills ass" and see the play in San Francisco. I have heard about it, and I'm anxious to see it.

Ken, have you any idea how much time, effort and money I have put into this project, and have you any idea the lawsuits I've gone through? I went through two arbitrations with Dale Wasserman, which held up this project, and I'm now in the middle of another one, but I still intend to make a movie of your book next year.

In the meantime, are you getting off your ass and doing any creative writing? Maybe if we both start working, one of us will succeed in doing something.

Until then, always - always

My very best to you,

bc: Mark Rubin

Mr. Ken Kesey
Pleasant Hill, Oregon