

care of Haar, 16 Rue Pierre Nicole, Paris 5, 75 France

Hilda, I think that THE BORROWED HOUSE is as fine a book as THE WINGED WATCHMAN. You must be extremely pleased to have accomplished this--especially with such a difficult topic. You have made your German characters really understandable and alive and one feels sympathy for them--even the Baron. Janna is beautifully portrayed and her attachment to Sef is just right. I especially liked her growing attachment to and understanding for her parents--very real, very moving. And what a great plot. I expect it was a lot of work to get it all to fit together so neatly, but it is perfect. And the idea of the ring is very clever--especially when Janna realizes that the ring wasn't really magic. I do like the bit when she throws it into the canal while the house is burning--very Wagnerian. In fact, as I think about it, I think this is even better than THE WINGED WATCHMAN. I certainly hope it will be a huge success here--it certainly should. One never knows about these librarians--who make the decisions about whether a book succeeds or not. Sometimes I think they don't know enough to come in from the rain--much less judge a book. Well, you can be sure I'll be wildly enthusiastic, but I'm afraid none of them listen to me anymore--if they ever did.

Your life in England sounds very pleasant, and I am glad you are continuing to paint too. Imagine having two such marvelous talents! I wish I could say that I'll be over to see you soon, but it looks now as if it will be 1976 before I come--and perhaps not until next spring. In any case, you can be sure you'll hear from me long before I take off. I do miss you both very much, and wish you weren't so far away. But you sound happy with all you are doing and your children and grandchildren.

This takes you both my love and good wishes, and thank you ever so much for sending me THE BORROWED HOUSE.

Affectionately,

July 19, 1975

May