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Sept. 30, 1932.

Mr. Richard Dodson,
507 South Davis St.,
Kirksville, Mo.

Dear Mr. Dodson:

A letter I received from you this morning is the first that has come to me, so the others must have gone astray.

I will be glad to autograph your copy of "The Moon rool," and I enclose an autograph that you can paste in it if you won't want to send it. I happen to have an extra copy of the "Dwellers in the Mirage," which I am sending you because I think that you will like the book perhaps better than the serial, which had to be considerably cut.

It is somewhat uncertain whether you will like BURN WITCH BURN, the title of which, by the way, I don't like, preferring my original one of THE DOLLS OF MADAME MANDILIP. It is entirely unlike any of the other books and is a study in horror, with the scene laid in New York City.

Most of the time I like best "The Ship of Ishtar," although now and then I prefer the novel version of "The Snake Mother" -- which, too, is somewhat unlike the serial. But there are parts of "The Dwellers in the Mirage" which I like better than anything in any of the books.

And, by the way, you will notice in your new copy of "The Moon rool" how hard it was to turn a perfectly good German into a Russian Red. Despite all care, Von Hetadorff bobs up most puzzling three or four times.

I don't know quite why I keep on writing for the Argosy, except that they have a great many readers who look for my stories and I sort of don't like to abandon them. I write very seldom and let the so-called "class" end show itself in the book publications. These are taken care of by Liveright, who belong to the highest grade publishers.

By the way, if there is an Amazing Stories Quarterly in your neighborhood, buy it and read a story called "Beyond the Veil of Time." Here is one of the most flagrant instances of plagiarism I have ever seen, and I suppose I shall have to sue Amazing Stories to prevent this writer from stealing any more of my stuff. Particularly embarrassing is the way he has "lifted" the Dream-Makers out of the "Face in the Abyss" -- or as it was called in the serial, "The Snake Mother." And if, as one who likes "The Moon rool" and "The Snake Mother," you feel that what this writer has done is a contemptible thing, I wish that you would drop a letter of protest to the Editor of Amazing Stories about it. Whole paragraphs and phrases have been taken bodily from both of these books and the whole spirit of both of them very cleverly blended and distorted into another story.

All best wishes.

Yours,

A. Merritt

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