

1951

Dear Mr. Ford:

I should have answered before - I've been in the middle of writing an article, and put off anything else. Yes. I'd like the manuscript back, to work on this summer. I'm so thoroughly covered with lectures and articles that I can't tell them. I haven't yet seen which pages you meant (my carbon's not numbered) but I'll be very interested. ^{My suggestions sound very reasonable.} The narrator has a wife (to be treated a little more at length in the new version) so readers won't say, "Why doesn't he marry Constance?" or words to that effect. The present conclusion of the book is ~~going~~ to be followed by thirty or forty pages.

I decided to take a little more time putting together my critical book - I wanted to have some extra stuff on Moore (I'm doing it for a summer Partisan) and on Frost. Meanwhile I've done another piece for the book that you've

probably seen in the new Partisan: it makes the
general articles besides all the specific ones.

That Whitman sounds better out of context
is new to me: I thought that people always
said it's the monumental sweep, grandeur, and
range that does it, even though the details
are pretty crude, ^{a simple} usually. I'm glad you're reading
Whitman again; that's what the article was for.
The Song of Myself and The Sleepers are the
best two I think.

I'm glad the readers enjoyed Pictures.
I was a little disappointed to have only the
assurance of a warm rereading of its later state,
but I can see how an odd book is an odd
problem; after all, if I'd wanted it easily
acceptable I should it have given it two heads.
It was a great pleasure to have you yourself
enjoy it so much.

Yours,

Randall Jarrell