

Picture  
name

PRINCETON N.J.  
JAN 14  
5-PM  
1952



Mr. Harry Ford  
Alfred A. Knapp Inc.  
501 Madison Avenue  
New York City 22

Dear Mr. Ford:

Your letter, the reader part, was a great pleasure to me, and the publisher part I wasn't unexpected. During my vacation I thought of a way in which I could make the book have much more of the superficial form of a novel: by pretending that it's more the story of Gertrude's year at Benton, and of how she <sup>gets</sup> the material for her novel; there are several parts of Benton and Gertrude that I've decided to write some

more about. So suppose you tell anybody reading it <sup>or attach a memorandum to it</sup> that this is an incomplete manuscript of the book, that in the end it will look considerably more like a novel. You often have books shown to you in unimproved states, masses of pages in suitcases, don't you, which you then make into Thomas Wolfe? (you meaning publisher.)

I had a wonderful time in California; I could hardly bear to come back at all. People said to me when I got back, "Why, you're brown!" I really haven't got poems just now to

give that New American Library thing - though I'm  
in a very good humor from having set up  
until three writing both a poem of my own and  
a translation of Mörke's poem about the forsaken  
girl who makes the fire at dawn and cries.  
If English only had some usable words rhyming  
with over! It's almost as bad as love.

Yours,

Randall Jarrell