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Dear Edward,

I owe you a letter. It has been a busy time here so excuse the delay.

In your last letter you said that many of your friends are dying. I know this because the obits in the times mentions you a lot. I think you were even in a headline of someone who was in a play of yours. If I didn't know that you were in no need of publicity, I might think you were in some way complicit in their deaths.

Speaking of publicity. The reviews of "Peter and Jerry" (I always want to say Tom and Jerry) were terrific. You won't remember, but a few years ago when we saw you in New York and then went on to New England, we stopped in Hartford and saw the production there. It really worked then and it obviously does now.

As soon as I wrote to you last, I started to have some problems. My routine check-up found a low iron count and my doctor was sure that I had stomach cancer. After a virtual colonoscopy there was nothing awful there. So now I am scheduled for a small intestine exam which involves swallowing a "pill camera." I asked what that was and find that it is a camera one swallows and works its way through the system. It all sounds miraculous and besides the discomfort of the prep, I am anxious see how this is done. This is all probably more than you want to know but don't worry, I won't describe my bowel movements.

This reminds me of an incident in grad school when my best friend, a Chilean went to pick up his laundry. He came back embarrassed because of his poor English. He told the laundry lady that he had come for his shits. When she laughed, he said, "Excuse me, I have trouble with my bowels."

Some business. In looking into buying copies of "-Bessie Smith" for the Jury, I found that there were many cheap second hand copies for which you don't receive royalties. If it is OK with you, I'd like to save money by buying new copies for the jurors and letting students make copies. If that offends you, I know you will let me know.

I hope you are healthy and all your zillion productions are going well.

Debbie and I send love,