

EUGENIA PRICE

648 WRIGHTWOOD AVE.
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Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Taylor
Oatland
St. Simon's Island, Georgia

My Dear Dear Friends,

Please forgive me for being so long in thanking you for that beautiful and meaningful and happy Sunday afternoon I spent on your front porch under your lovely trees.

Berta, I know now why you love that husband of yours so much! I love him too now that I finally caught him and Joyce is really looking forward to her first meeting with him when we come back in November. I will never be able to tell you, dear Douglas, how much you helped me in the places where I believe no one else could have helped me. I will be grateful to you always.

I think you will both be glad to know that yesterday I wrote the first 7-1/2 pages of "our" novel! I am sure I will revamp them many times but Joyce and I both feel that I got the right sort of start. In those pages there is no one present but young Anson Dodge, age 19, and the horse he borrowed to drive up the beautiful Frederica Road alone the day he saw the old church the first time. I tried to establish something of his energetic, open-hearted nature along with what I hope is a real "feel" of the unique beauty of the island itself. It must have captured him immediately as it captured both Joyce and me. I know you will both be praying for me as I work because now I am sure you are convinced that my heart is involved in much more than in writing the best book I can write. I love your island more than any place on earth, and I have come to love not only all of you my dear friends there now, but Anson and Anna Dodge too as though they were members of my own family.

This time after I talked to Claude Cryder and Douglas, I came away with still a deeper admiration for Anna. My editor at the J.B. Lippincott Company said immediately when I told her the story: "This is Anna Dodge's story, isn't it." More than anything I want this book to cause the people of St. Simon's to realize what a truly great woman she was. Don't worry, I'll not make her an untouchable saint, but I feel that she was not only great in her own right, but a real balanced wheel for Anson as well. I am so glad that you and the Everetts realize that in a novel of course one has to fictionalize, and if there is anyone else there you can think of I should talk to so they won't feel left out or resentful of any of the rest of us, please let me know. I have to trust you for this, and I do. I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings and I have already decided that where I need conflict from

(Continued)

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor
Page Two
September 28, 1963

unpleasant or bad-tempered characters, I will fictionize entirely. I plan to have one or two other families living up at the Fort where the Taylors or the Stevens lived so to have some villains handy. With all my heart I believe the Taylors and Stevens, particularly the Taylors to have a real vital part. The Goulds do of course, but I am speaking now of the families living at the Fort proper when he came there who were neighbors when he built his house there.

I guess more than anything else I want all of you dear ones who have been so kind to me to be satisfied with what I do with your wonderful story.

Joyce and I plan to be back by November 15th or sooner if possible, and we can scarcely wait! Do you think there might be a chance that sweet Douglas Taylor could find time to show us little St. Simon's Island sometime before spring -- hint, hint! Even if he doesn't find time for this, I love him anyway and Joyce loves him too already. Of course from the beginning we have loved dear Berta and Mary E.

God bless you all and keep you close to His heart.

With love from us both,



Genie Price
(Dictated but not read)

GP:tj