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August 5, 1985

Dear yo,

It was a pleasure meeting you
and hearing about your writing.
Thank you so much for taking
the time to meet me in your
busy schedule. I feel very
fortunate to have met you +
to have such aunts with such
important connections! It was
interesting to hear how you go about
your business + inspiring to see
your patience + persistence.

I will go ahead + try to contact
James Clavell as you suggested +
see what he might say. If
anything - a miracle (!-) comes up,
I'll let you know.

Again - many thanks +
continued success in your
good writing,
Sincerely,

Karen Yamashita

November 17, 1985

Dear Katie:

It was good to meet you this summer, and I hope all is going well with your writing. I also hope you were able to find a good agent.

When Kay wrote to me, she mentioned that you were working at KCET, and I was surprised to learn you were there as well as your sister. I hadn't realized that when you were here.

This is just a quick note to ask if either you or your sister might know anything about Smith-Freedman & Assoc. (Talent Agency) in Beverly Hills. A friend suggested I send my material to Mary Cross there for possible TV sales, and I just want to make a discreet and confidential inquiry as to their reliability and their reputation, as I have no information about them.

I realize there are many agencies in Beverly Hills, but thought you or your sister just might know something about this one.

I'd appreciate hearing from you, and thanks for your help.

All the best,

Karen Tei Yamashita

17508 Catalina Avenue
Gardena, California 90248

November 26, 1985

Yoshiko Uchida
1685 Solano Avenue
No. 102
Berkeley, California 94707

Dear Yo:

Hi. Thanks for your letter.

I asked my cousin Richard Sakai, who works at 20th Century Fox with Richard Brooks and also produced with Brooks the Taxi series on television, about Smith-Freedman and Associates. He said, "They're good. Decent." He suggested that there are better agencies in the business, but that they were good. Also, he said that it depended more on the agent himself/herself than the agency as to whether they would perform for you. He mentioned, without my asking, two names he heard were good: Susan Smith and Mary Cross. His answer was: Go with them.

I also called the Writers' Guild in Los Angeles, and they immediately recognized the name. Yes, Smith-Freedman & Associates are members of the Guild. The Guild could not give any recommendations as to their reputation, but the person on the phone did say that, if any agency were known to have done something wrong to writers, it would be expelled from the Guild. Does that make you feel better?

If you need any other information, I'll be pleased to do the research for you. I hope this is helpful to you and that you get your material in.

I'm working hard to put my manuscript in order. I did send some stories out to publishers so I feel as if I'm going forward. Thanks for all your encouragement.

Sincerely,

Katy

November 30, 1985

Dear Katy:

Thank you so much for your letter with the very helpful information! It was most reassuring and has given me the impetus I needed to get my material off to Mary Cross. Please thank your cousin for his good advice.

I certainly appreciate your prompt and most efficient response, as well as the time and effort you spent for me.

I've spent the past few weeks going to a new internist and having tests, and have finally discovered that the cause of all my poor health for the past 15 years (and when I saw you), is Chronic Epstein Barr Virus (related to the Mono. virus), for which there is no known cure. As my Dr. said, at least now my illness has legitimacy, and I guess I'll just have to live with it.

Good for you, to be sending stories out. Remember, don't let the rejections discourage you, and just keep trying. I have a feeling you're going to make it!

I haven't been able to work on a new book, but am having fun doing some poetry for children. At least my present poor health has opened up a new creative channel and I guess I have to be grateful for that.

Thanks again, Katy, for all your help. Yes, your letter and the information you gave me did make me feel better!

Let's hope next year will be a great one for us both!

All the best,