

See also Series 2: Writings,
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PHILOMEL BOOKS

July 31, 1990

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida
1685 Solano Avenue
Apt. 102
Berkeley, Ca. 94707

Dear Yoshiko Uchida:

I came across your piece, "The Bracelet" when a friend who teaches eighth grade told me about the reaction of his class to your story. I asked him to show me and I, too, was struck by the subtle power of your writing, its poignant characterization, and its how it lasted in my mind for many days after I read it.

Marilyn Marlow at Curtis Brown put me in touch with you and that I how I have occasion to tell you these things. I am an editor at Philomel Books, a list of books you may know. While our list is small, we have been fortunate in being able to publish many award winning titles, and perhaps we are best known for nature and animal books as well as regional and ethnic fiction.

I know you are well published by one of the great editors of our time, Margaret MacElderry, and I would never want to interfere in that relationship. But in the event that you ever have a manuscript available that you might want another editor to see, nothing would please me more than to have the chance to consider it here.

In any event, please keep writing. We need to hear voices like yours.

Sincerely,

Paula Wiseman
Executive Editor

/pw
Encl.

a division of The Putnam & Grosset Group

200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016 Telephone: (212) 951-8700 Telex: 4972968 GROSLAP Fax: (212) 532-3693

phone call
8/15/90

August 7, 1990

Ms. Paula Wiseman
Philomel Books
200 Madison Ave.
New York, N. Y. 10016

Dear Paula:

I can't tell you how delighted I was to receive your lovely letter, and thank you so much for your kind words about my work. I'm so pleased to know that you liked "The Bracelet" and that your friend found it useful for his students. I also enjoyed looking at your catalog and think you have an excellent list.

Your letter couldn't have come at a better time! I think it was truly providential, as I do have a picture book manuscript (THE WISE OLD WOMAN, adapted from a Japanese folktale in one of my collections) that Margaret McElderry couldn't include in her list. I would love to have you consider it for possible publication, and hope you'll be willing to take a look at it. I'll send it along as soon as I make a few modifications.

I had heard about you from my friend, Bob San Souci, and almost sent you an earlier picture book a year or two ago, but somehow it was relegated to my files. Your letter gives me incentive now to resurrect it. Thank you for writing to make the connection we needed to make our working together a possibility. It is a delightful prospect, and I do hope something will work out. I will be in touch again soon.

All the best,

P.S. Your friend who teaches might be interested in my piece, "Letter from a Concentration Camp", which I donated to Dutton's "Big Book for Peace", due this fall. *His students might also enjoy Quiet Exile (see Unlabeled Box), as it has many photos. J.*

*Unlabeled Box: marked Des. Ex * a non-fictional & my family war time experience.*

Cust from Paula Wiseman 8-15-90

- She was so pleased r my ctr - said it made her day! -
- Told her I sent WOW ms - she seemed very pleased. "I'm sure I'll like it ..."
- She asked ~~if I could~~ re poss'ly "The Bracelet" as pic bk. -
- She said she likes a central image in pic. bks. as a unifying theme.
Ex - *The Bracelet, patchwork quilt, Talking eggs, Enchanted Tapestry
She did book called "The Black Heart".
- She said 7pp. OK for pic bk.

- I told her I'm wondering about Met. Explained re CEB / CFS. so she's been waiting for a book -

- She suggested - maybe I talk to Met. in gen'l terms -
In re - longer bks to her. (Met)
- longer pic bks to Paula.

- Many authors have more r / publisher she was sure Met / understand.

- I mentioned Uncle Kanda's Black Cat she said death OK.

- I mentioned Linnet Sketches - she's doing bks on endangered animals (wants to see.)

- she's leaving in 1 1/2 wks - back after labor day -
- I told her I'd try to talk to Met after Aug - & then will call Paula.

8/21/90 - Paula c Michelle Cameron
to tell me - another Ed. also loved
"The Gauntlet."

- 1st person - OK - makes more ^{or} immediate
- I told her it was hard to visualize as pic bk. - but she said it would work - 1st person OK.

- Send original Uncle Kanda
not edited version.

- P. Back in office Tues after labor Day
9/4

- She liked WOW - but she said it had no central image - I said 3 faces - elles worked - Anthony -
- she wants to think about it.
- I told her / I easier to talk to Met if she were doing wow.

Michelle Cameron
Bouquet - loved, it

Paula
C
9/21/90

• ~~not~~ pic bk is only
what needs pic to tell a
story -

picture → show to

Uncle Kunda → send to

wow - lets

o pic bks P -

retellings -

helping there's a
Central image

but no " " here

September 3, 1990

Ms. Paula Wiseman
Philomel Books
200 Madison Ave.
New York, N. Y. 10016

Dear Paula:

It was good of you to call again about "The Bracelet" and I am so delighted that it might have a new life thanks to you. I would like to discuss with you how best to adapt it, if you decide to go ahead with it as a picture book.

In the meantime, I'm hoping THE WISE OLD WOMAN will find a home with you as well, and look forward to learning your decision.

I thought it best not to clutter your desk with yet another story at this point, so will send UNCLE KANDA'S BLACK CAT later on. Also, I think I'll wait to talk to Margaret until after I know about the above stories, although I certainly don't anticipate any problems.

I do hope you had a pleasant and restful holiday. It's hard to believe that summer is already over, but our best weather is yet to come.

All the best,

September 24, 1990

Ms. Paula Wiseman
Philomel Books
200 Madison Ave.
New York, N. Y. 10016

Dear Paula:

So nice talking to you today, and thanks so much for referring me to Louise Bates. We had a good conversation and she was most helpful. My appreciation to you both for your help.

I'm sending WISE OLD WOMAN back to you and appreciate your offer to walk it over to Kathy Dawson. I'm enclosing another bio in case you think she'd be interested in seeing it.

About UNCLE KANDA... I see it as a story of the relationship between a child and an old man. She grows in her understanding of him as a human being (not the stereotype she's heard about) and he learns to trust her. Giving her his cat is symbolic of his highest trust as well as his love.

Since there are almost no picture books dealing with the Japanese American experience, I'm especially happy about THE BRACELET, and would be so pleased if you could help me develop UNCLE KANDA into a good picture book as well. Expanding on Uncle Kanda's past a little more might make it an even better contribution to this field.

I'll look forward to hearing from you about a contract and also to receiving a copy of GRANDPA'S FACE.

All the best,

Encl: Bio, Memo
WOW.

9-24-90

MEMO RE; THE WISE OLD WOMAN
AND THE IMPOSSIBLE TASKS

This story is an adaptation of one of the stories in my collection, THE SEA OF GOLD, and has been very well received because of its positive viewpoint of women and the aged.

With the right illustrations, I think it could be a very attractive picture book.

Yoshiko Uchida

MILLERS FALLS
ERASE
COTTON CONTENT

COLLOW COMEEN
my other grandmother who lived in Japan.

E N E M A S E

M I T T E R B A T T S