

September 15, 2005

Dear Lee,

I was sad to learn of not receiving your letter. Ignoring it would have never been the case. It simply did not arrive prior to your call today. After talking with you, I coincidentally checked the day's mail. Your letter arrived today. The postmark is faint yet appears to be "Aug". The day of month is illegible yet it would likely be the 31st, the date of your letter. You addressed the letter correctly. It must have been misdirected and later properly routed or delayed for some other reason. The post office stamped over the computer printed routing code, front and back. I am returning the original envelope for you to see because I absolutely want for you to know that I was not avoiding returning your loaned items.

Gladly, I will return the items that you loaned to Kay. She deeply cherished all because you had loaned them to her. Four years ago, we purchased a dining room table. Yours was a reminder of your love and she had second thoughts about replacing the table, returning yours. We decided to store the one that we had purchased. When we had dinner parties, we sometimes swapped them to accommodate more people.

Kay talked of an oriental rug. You were right. Such an item and dogs do not mix well. I apologize to you for how Oreo was so defensive when you had brunch with us. Oreo is a gentle dog yet he is the guardian. It is not common for him to act the way that he did. Normally, he barks for only a minute or two, resolving that guests are not intruders. He'll sit in the corner and watch from a distance. Kay said that to receive the rug, you asked for new homes to be found for our dogs. She dearly loved them and parting with them is something that neither of us could ever do.

For all that you are due to receive, I feel it to be an obligation to you. It is also what Kay would have wanted, simply by you asking. You mentioned two guns mistakenly given to me long ago by Mabel yet belonging to you. Also, your letter to me describes two. I recall receiving only one. Added confusion is the fact that I currently have only two older guns in my collection. I have several firearms: handguns, shotguns and rifles. Most were purchased new. Of the older guns, my father gave one to me and the other is likely the one that I received from Mabel. I do not conclusively know. Presumed to be a gift, it was mixed with the others. It does match what I remember.

If the one in question belongs to you, I wish to return it. When I received the gun from Mabel, it was depicted as being Edgar's. I recall us searching the attic because she thought that there were two. Like the ring, there was no discussion of it being a loan. Especially with the confusion about ownership and there being two, it seems possible that Mabel may have had at various times guns belonging to both you and Edgar. We only found one, however, that day. I may have received one belonging to Edgar. This would mean that Mabel did not give one away belonging to you yet it would not account for your missing guns. If it can be confirmed that Edgar never owned a gun, this would support the gun being yours. My attorney should be able to confirm ownership with a

written statement from you affirming how it came to be that Mabel possessed your guns and descriptions of your two guns, make and model if possible. I apologize for being so formal. I do not doubt that Mabel had guns belonging to you. Being that this happened long ago and you were not present, the gun being yours is presumed yet not confirmed. Based on all that I believe to be true, this gun originally belonged to Edgar and was gifted. If the gun in question does prove to be the one provided by Mabel and also belonging to you, I will deliver it to you or ship it to you in California at my expense.

I found only one U-shaped chair rather than two. We moved twice and at least one piece of furniture was broken during each move. Other than a coffee table, I do not recall the specific items. I remember the table because a friend fell when it happened.

There are two marks on Mabel's table. One is near a glass piece where the finish appears to be chipped or worn away. The mark existed when Kay received it. Kay unintentionally created the other mark. Being in an awkward location, she would unplug an oil air freshener to use the outlet for other purposes. Setting it on the table, it leaked and dissolved the finish.

An item that I remember receiving yet have not been able to locate is one ring belonging to Edgar. When given to Kay and I by Mabel, it too was presumed to be a gift with no discussion about it being a loan. Even with this being the case, I will gladly provide it to Mabel if found. Most small valuables were kept in our safe. Being that it is not in my possession, my guess would be that Kay returned it to Mabel long ago at Mabel's request. I do not conclusively know this to be true. The ring continued to be a topic of conversation long after it was received. My impression at one point was that Kay wanted to return the ring to end the topic. I do not presume it to be lost, however, it is difficult to know what may have happened after so much time passing.

The conflict between Mabel and I is her demands to receive things that obviously do not belong to her and attempts to control others beyond her authority. It is highly complex. I appreciate the assistance that you offered in mediating. The only resolution must be a legal one due to the many issues involved. I've wanted to return the loaned items, even when you initially said to wait. Early on, I offered to return Mabel's table. She also said to wait but it was related to her wanting to receive many other things at the same time upon taking an inventory of my home. I apologize for your requested items I am unable to provide. I'll discuss both the gun and the chair with my attorney. The ring is on the list that I prepared from Mabel's verbal requests as well as her involvement with the gun. The guns are especially confusing. If you could document more information about them, it would be helpful.

You are aware of much that has transpired. I feel badly that you have been caught in the middle because all that you have done for Kay and me is heartfelt and deeply appreciated. My encouragement to you is to fully support Mabel. I know that you disagree with several of her actions, she told me so. My sadness is how situations such as these often do impact other relationships. Even with some of Mabel's actions being extreme, I expect and want for you to devote yourself to her support. I have many

wonderful people supporting me through this. As the issues are addressed, my only hope is that all is truthful.

Once when you and I talked, you mentioned assisting Mabel with the written list that I requested. I have received no list or letter from her. Soon afterwards on July 26th, she told me that she refused to provide anything in writing. It would be helpful to know if she did send a list. Like with your letter, it too may have been delayed or even lost in the mail system. Being that she verbally declined, I have not anticipated receiving a letter from her. If she had provided a written list, much would be different now. My attorney will resolve with her all remaining issues and requested items.

I can provide to you the dining room table and chairs, the curio cabinet, one chair described as having U-shaped back and also Mabel's table. I will gladly attempt to resolve the other items with you. At the moment, they truly are a mystery.

With love and sincerity,

[Signature on original]

Wayne