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Dear Margaret Yates:

Your book came Saturday and welcome it was, for it turned what otherwise would have been a dull Sunday into one of lively adventure. Lying down because of a pain I gave myself up to reading. And such a good time as I had. It meets all my specifications, my dear, and what pleases me more it is a distinct improvement, both in construction and in writing, on the first book. Perhaps I should say a quite remarkable improvement. One thing that delights me is that there is so much of your bubbling self in it. I think I have told you - perhaps I put it in my specifications - that a mystery which keeps me laughing as well as guessing is the cream for me. And I laughed just the right amount through your story.

The book is made substantial by your knowledge of the locale, of the Navy and its people. I nearly turned on my fan, you made me feel the heat so keenly. And the talk of your people! Of course you know, dear Margaret, I do not hear much that is quite so free and easy, so perhaps that is the reason it was so entertaining to me. I know that you know what you are talking about when you make your people talk this way.

Altogether, I think you have done an excellent job and I am pleased and as proud as can be.

I am sure that your Skipper appreciates the book and particularly its specifications. My judgment has long been that he deserves it. Please remember me most kindly to him and believe me

Affectionately yours

Margaret Taylor Yates
Norfolk, Virginia

Dedication

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