Journalism

June 3, 1925

My dear Mrs. Livingston:

Now once for all, my dear, please get it out of your head that I would for a moment think of taking any return - your pearl or anything else - for any help I might give you in revising your articles.

In the first place I do not consider myself competent. In the next place you, yourself, can, if you will discipline yourself, criticism yourself severely - this is the best kind of criticism there is - and do for yourself what nobody outside can ever do.

You should study the type of thing that the magazines you want to reach publish - criticise what you, yourself, have done in the light of somebody whose work you like. There is no profession in which it is so true that you must depend upon yourself as the profession of writing. It is a personal job. To be sure if you can make an alliance with somebody to assist, that is gather the material and do the interview - that is one thing - but generally such joint work does not come off as well, as where the person learns his job. That means study. It is always a long task. If you are going to succeed in this, my dear Mrs. Livingston, it will be by your own individual efforts far more than by anything that anybody, schools of journalism, editors, or fellow writers, can possibly do for you.

This may sound hard, but I know that it is the fact. With all good wishes

Very sincerely

Mrs. Ruby Livingston
Russellville, Ark.

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