

NOVEMBER
TWELFTH
1939

John S. Lamont, Esq.,
Associate Editor,
Woman's Home Companion,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Lamont:-

In connection with the timely short story

Blind Man's Buff

going forward under separate cover. While affairs in Europe are occupying a great deal of people's thoughts upon this continent, there is still a great deal of interest in Asia. And in general sympathy is with the Chinese. As there has just recently been held a sweeping investigation upon this Pacific coast in the matter of the illegal entry of large numbers of Japanese, which investigation found that such was the case, I have taken this subject around which to build the love story BLIND MAN'S BUFF. Quite aside from the timeliness of the story, it is hoped the adventure, mystery and suspense connected with the working out of the story, as well as the love element is quite in keeping with the fiction used in your pages. I might say that I was chiefly prompted to thinking you would like to see this story by reading the one about the pumpkin pie in the June issue.

My own fairly thorough knowledge of this portion of the Pacific coast has of course greatly aided in the writing of Blind Man's Buff.

Appreciating your continued patience with my work, I am,

Very faithfully yours,

Francis Dickie

S-C
short story BLIND MAN'S BUFF
RETURN POSTAGE AND ENVELOPE.

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Correspondence 1940

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B. M. B.

January
Fourteenth
1940

Miss Virginia Bird,
Fiction Department,
Collier's Weekly,
New York.

Dear Miss Bird:-

Situated as you are far from the Pacific Coast, it is quite possible that you may be unfamiliar with the recent Government investigation of the illegal entry of Japanese getting into Canada and thence in some cases to the United States. The long stretch of wild and rocky coast of this continent bordering the Pacific and the large numbers of Japanese already legally resident along this coast, and who, as fishermen knew it so well made excellent the opportunity of helping other of their countrymen coming close to the coast on Japanese ships. In any case a sweeping Government investigation was recently carried out in British Columbia; the specially appointed Commission recently brought in its findings that such illegal entry had been accomplished on a fairly large scale.

To me, knowing this wild coast pretty well, and being familiar with the Japanese situation, this seemed to offer possibilities for a good adventure and action story such as is published in Collier's. Hence now the sending you of

BLIND MAN'S BUFF

If in reading this you are vaguely reminded of something, perhaps it is best to say that I sometime ago sent you a thirty thousand word ms in which part of the situation was used. Remembering your kind suggestion regarding another story of similar length to cut it to a short story, I took this second novelette dropped the original situation and replaced it with the present timely one of Japanese illegal entry, and so you have Blind Man's Buff. As Collier's, in addition to liking fiction of this type, is also always up to the minute in many of its stories, it seemed very possible that this situation is sufficiently in keeping with your editorial policy to make permissible my asking your time for its reading.

Very faithfully yours,

Francis Dickie

Ms- separate cover.

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THE 'FIRS
HERIOT BAY
BRITISH COLUMBIA
CANADA

JANUARY
FOURTEENTH
1940

John Holden, Esq.,
Editorial Department,
Maclean's Magazine,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Mr. Holden:-

You may perhaps be familiar with the recent investigation carried out by a Government Commission in B.C. covering the illegal entry of Japanese into this country, greatly increasing the quota permitted by arrangement between Canada and Japan under the "Gentleman's Agreement". In any case, the Committee brought in a finding that much illegal entry had undoubtedly occurred.

Being particularly familiar with this coast and the subject of Japanese in general here, there seemed in this subject an exceedingly interesting situation to work out in fiction. This I have done in the story

BLIND MAN'S BUFF

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