

How writers work

[Note on Endo Ohma]

Along our journey, I would pass away the time composing frases, sentences, and paragraphs. I find this is a very good way for putting myself to sleep when I've nothing to read at night—composing descriptions of the scenery I had passed through during the day. Anything that will concentrate the mind on one thing, shutting out the mind from all other matter. But what one concentrates on must be all-absorbing.

Thomas Burke once wrote of my saying that there was an icy quality in my character which baffled him. I was baffled when I read about it and somewhat disturbed. I always thought of myself as a warm, passionate, love hungry and most tender individual.

The eternal static, the immovable vacuum, indissoluble and
withstanding against action, conflict, life immured.

For in anything is the eternal and what is eternal

After browsing through Spengler's *Decline of the West*, I gather that Spengler feels that the West is in decline. How I'd hate the job of reviewing that book. However,

Just to tip you off, there is a chronological table that gives you in syllogistic form the complete transition of

[Books]

The general aspect is just as important as the specific, the difference is that the first belongs to the knowledge of fact and the latter to the technician.

The story, or, I might say, the mood, must definitely be established if it is to have a sustained interest, and an unusual color, to give it its departure from any other ordinary story. Therefore, have a deep, profound, philosophical connotation.

But for individual and interesting treatment given them, all stories would be alike.

With all the lure and fascination of the movies, few writers of note have capitulated to it. Few writers have consistently written their best for it. I have [xxx] several respectable authors whose names appear on the credit titles for having written the dialogue and I must say their work is exceptionally bad. The more excellent the writer or playwright, the worse seems their work in movies.

Why is this? They are given fabulous sums to come to Hollywood? But the moment they arrive here something happens to their creativeness—a metamorphosis takes place.

Who would have thought

A young writer will write a novel with an eye on the movies hoping to achieve both goals. But even when he gives into the Hollywood gold rush, he never quite capitulates.

Many good wirtes

This attitude of writer is the nadir of all motion picture ailments. If at the vital source of the industry there is a lack of spiritual integrity, real enthusiasm

When lack of spiritual integrity and real enthusiasm at the source of the industry then that industry cannot depend on too bright a future.

This condition is not deliberately the fault of producers or executives. Many of them are conscientious and enthusiastic, and expend enormous sums to produce great pictures and a few have succeeded. But the industry is so constituted that

In motion pictures the public is denying the realism that exists around them in the press's popular productions.

to the well-known writer, he still looks on the industry as a mistress and not as a wife.

This odious situation is not healthy for the future of the industry. If at the very nadir of it there is a lack of spiritual integrity beginning at the very foundation upon which the industry is being built. But it is not the fault of the writer. It is the system under which he works. A playwright is brought to Hollywood to adapt a play for the movie is never his own, only another author's, while his own play is being adapted by someone else.

Book 2

I am not satisfied with your verbal and written explanations.

B) I question whether you have had my interest at heart, to allow me to sign even such a pro tem agreement.

If you remember I discussed with you the importance of a special contract for paper backs. I also sent you a clipping concerning the matter. I want a full explanation why he rushed ahead with his commitments, whether his comments are irrevocable as you make them out to be.

I have never had any written statement concerning the condition of the contract. All objections to my suggested amounts have come from you—never a word from R.

As I told you I never approached BH [Bodley Head] about publishing an Autobiography.

