

21 March 1980

Mr Robert Bre
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Dear Robert,

I had better send this letter 'Express' as you have to finish the translation so quickly.

p206 'Pristine' means 'perfectly clean'.

p233 There is a printer's error here. My manuscript says 'left the Minch for the North Sea'. The Minch is a strait on the north-west coast of Scotland; so, you see, the ship leaves Cardiff and heads north, through the Irish Sea, along the west coast of Scotland, through the Minch, and so finally into the North Sea north of Scotland.

p307 You guessed it, 'giving head' is fellatio. A tapedeck is a magnetophone.

p313 A toilet on a ship is called a head.

p325 The Wreck of the Marie Celeste is a true story. The ship, the Marie Celeste, was found floating in a calm sea, with no signs of damage - but the crew had simply disappeared. It's one of the classic true-life mysteries.

p325 'Plumbat' doesn't mean anything, but it has the look of a trademark, and in the real-life uranium theft, that word was stencilled on the sides of the drums.

Yes indeed, we must meet one of these days. If you're ever in this part of the world, I hope you will come for dinner.

Yours,

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