

THE HAVEN PRESS

BOOK PUBLISHERS
55 WEST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

November 14th, 1942

Dear Mr. Beal:

Your name has been recommended to me as that of a writer who deserves special consideration. I am therefore writing you personally.

A nation speaks through its writers. What the American people are thinking is today the vital concern of every human being on earth. And the American people look to their writers to express their thoughts. Our authors must put into words the things that are felt in the hearts of their fellow countrymen..And you, although you may be one of those who are as yet little-known - you are one of America's writers.

I am not a writer. I envy and admire those who have the talent to write in poem and song lyric the emotions I can only feel. I feel my lack of creative talent most keenly at a time like this, when there is so much to say and when the whole world is spiritually hungry, hungry for words of courage, beauty and consolation.

If I were a writer, I would supply that spiritual need. I would write a song of victory, words that would stir the hearts of free men everywhere, words of rhythm that will set free people to marching as a unified, determined, inspired, irresistible force, words that will help carry our forces to their inevitable triumph. Such a song has not yet been written. When it is written, the author of it may turn out to be one who is today completely unknown. World-wide fame and acclaim await the writer of it.

I would write of the Spirit of America - what it means to be free! I would write patriotic poems and song lyrics; I would write words of courage, words of consolation, words of inspiration; I would write love lyrics for sweet-hearts now parted; I would write humerous songs; I would write of the things we are fighting for.

I am not able to write such poems or song lyrics. But, as an editor, I can have the satisfaction of collecting the work of talented writers into a book that expresses this theme. I am compiling such a book. And because you have been highly recommended, I should like to include some of your work in it.

I invite you to submit for my consideration several of your best poems or song lyrics. Remember, they do not have to deal only with the war. Poems and lyrics on every subject will be used. You probably have several now ready. Send these to me at once, whatever the subject, before this important opportunity slips your mind until it is too late. If my letter has inspired you to write on other subjects, submit these later, but before the final submission date noted on the printed leaflet enclosed. This is a splendid opportunity to have your work published in a book where it will be seen and read. It may mean the beginning of a successful career for you.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Lawrence

Ruth Lawrence, Editor

P.S. We are going to publish in this book the full home address of each author (with the author's permission). This means that other editors, music publishers, composers and others who become interested in your work will be able to write to you directly.