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Dear Lee:

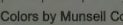
I can't believe it's really happened! Just as I was finishing the last page of my new teenage book the phone rang (when I was least expecting it, of course!) It was Judith Pownall of Reilly and Lee, calling from Chicago, to tell me they wanted to publish my book, THE ONE IN THE MIDDLE IS THE GREEN KANGAROO. Do you remember it? I did it in class at the very end of the first semester last year. It was rejected only once--by Harcourt Brace--and then sent on to Reilly and Lee where it has been almost a year. You know they sent it back to me last summer, at my request, after considering it for five months. But the "then" editor gave me so many good suggestions I felt I just had to redo it and send it back to show her I appreciated her help. I didn't really expect her to become interested in it again. But she did! Then she left her job and was replaced! Wasn't I lucky that the new ed. also liked it!!!! Anyway, I am now awaiting the contract which she said would be here the middle of this week. She also asked me if I had any artist in mind....sent me to the library looking for certain ones she was considering. I couldn't find any of them!

As you can imagine, on Friday I was nearly hysterical. Running through the house yelling WHOPPEE!!! My kids thought I was crazy, but were very excited, although Larry doesn't believe it because he says if Mommy published a book,,,where is it?

How well any of us ever be able to wait the year to see it. As my mother said....a real live book with a hard cover that says Judy Blume? I assured her....YES!

I am to get a \$350 advance and the standard 5% of royalties. I called you Friday night to tell you the good news, forgetting that you were at school... I had a chat with Bob. I had at least 8 million questions to ask you.







Such as....now when I submit to another house can I say I have sold a book and do I mention the name of the company where I have sold it? Do I have to go to Chicago to meet with them. Would that be advisable, do you think? I've still got to find myself a N.Y. house...Chicago seems too far away.

Anyway...I've got Iggie at Bradbury Press(Prentice-Hall) I was reading about it and decided they needed Iggie. Am sending another pix book to Parents today... Effie Popper is at Atheneum. Roger Crater is at Lion Press. And my new book is ready for a final polishing. I worry about length. It's not as long as I originally thought. Maybe 30 thousand words....but you know I underwrite a lot. Now I'm thinking about adding a few scenes to it. Also there is the possibility of taking one segment of it and offering it as a long story...maybe to Young Miss. Would that be advisable. I think I could work it out,....

My next book is going to be an 8-12 about a family who adopts a Vietnamese war orphan. It ~~wa~~ will be called UNCLE CHARLIE'S FRIEND. Remember, I did a short story in class called Uncle Charlie's Bird... Well, this will be that family....it will be a funny, sad book....anyway, that's all I can tell you because that's all I know for sure. I've got to get this one out first...and maybe a pix book in between.

It's all terribly exciting! I used to dread winter... all those long, days. Now I love it. I can't wait to get up in the morning and get the kiddies off to schhol so I can work. And all because of you! I always said----it was an omen that I found your course in that N.Y.U. bulletin!

Next term I must come to class....at least now I have something to tell them. I sold a real, live, genuine book!!!!

Let me hear from you soon. And thanks for everything!

Fondly,

Judy

P.S. All this happened on the same day  
I rec'd. my condensed Iggie's House  
from Westminster Press. I like the way  
They did it - cut in 1/2 - but I couldn't even  
(over)



remember what the other 12,000 words  
were - until I checked the original.  
It will start in April - for 6 issues -

P.P.S. I don't have to chase the  
mailman any more - good news  
comes on the phone!

