

Ans'd Jan 21

Durant, Oklahoma
January 12, 1945.

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Dear Sir,-

May I tell you about the very special interest I've had in one of your Saturday Evening Post stories? Since reading your advice in the September issue of The Writer-- "Pick out the authors that you like, the tales that appeal to you yourself, and study them and find out what makes them tick"-- I think you will like to know that two years ago I did just that with your story, "The Wedding Gift."

I was studying Writing with W. S. Campbell (Stanley Vestal) through the Correspondence Study Department of the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Campbell's method of teaching is based on the analysis of models. In one of a series of lessons I was asked to choose stories I considered good contemporary examples of the kind of thing I wish to do; then choose my favorite of these. It was for this lesson I chose "The Wedding Gift".

In this lesson I was asked to make a typed copy of this favorite story, and record what I could surmise of the author's technique. In the next lesson I was required to copy the story again, and to analyze it from a certain angle. For the third assignment in the series, I was again asked to copy the story and to analyze it from yet another angle.

And after all that copying I still loved the story!

I truly love that Kezia. Indeed, I often think of her as a real person, married to the helpless Mr. Mears, loving and protecting him, teaching him to laugh, even to play a little. One feels that Kezia lives, and one cares about her, cares what happens to her, grieves and rejoices with her. And one hates the people who are unfair to her.

Mr. Raddall, I am ever so enthusiastic about these Post stories of yours. I envy your ability to breathe so much life into black and white print. My congratulations, and my best wishes for your future successes in stories and books.

Sincerely yours,

Lucille Houston

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