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Letter 13

Redacted

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MSL

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

July 13, 1954

Dr. Richard Sheppard

I am 32 years old and completely disgusted with life. I am married with 2 little girls and 2 little Boys, but my wife and I are separated.

In all my life I have not been able to get \$500 though I have work since I was 16. Lately I have been deeply upset because I am a failure. I have decided that I do not want to live any longer. When I see my children I am so ashamed of myself and very sorry for them.

Recently I Read about the trouble that your son Samuel has gotten himself into. From the way the story is being told one is easily led to believe that Samuel killed his wife. And if so, when the police begins to apply pressure on him he will break-down and confess to every thing.

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Everyone is not a believer in the philosophy "That even a dog is entitled to a second chance". However most people will give a dog a second chance. I have never received a second chance; each time ~~X~~ that I have made a mistake the burden was made heavier, Samuel will not receive a second chance either after he confesses, because of the apparent circumstance in his case. I believe that I can give my children a second chance at a decent existence, one which I never had. If I can sell my life to you, that is if you are interested in giving your son Samuel a second chance in life.

I am making this offer to you simply because it is really the only beneficial way in which I can serve my children before leaving to see what the next world is like.

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I simply do not want to live and if you should not except my offer I will kill my self any way.

If you should decide to except my offer for my children's sake then go to Samuel immediately and tell him not to confess to anything. Tell him to inject a Negro into the scene. Say—

A Negro was around during the middle of the week asking to do odd jobs. (window washing, painting, etc.)
Dark - 5 ft 11 ins - 175 lbs.
30 years old.

My story would be when I am caught robbing a house in the same town where the murder occurred and confess that I was involved in the Sheppard Murder Case—

Story roughly as follows—
A met a fellow* in Cleveland and we proceeded together to rob houses in

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The rich Bry Village area.
After looking over the neighborhood
for a few days we went
to work on the Sheppard
home.

I will be the person who hit
Dr. Sheppard from behind
on the two occasions when
he was attacked.

You may furnish me ~~X~~ with
the necessary time and
other pertinent data prior
to ~~the~~ my involvement in
the case.

If you have another plan
O.K., but I think my plan
will work.

* fellow = white fellow a lorry
described by Dr. Sauerh

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If acceptable place
this ad in Chicago Tribune
July 19-20-21, 1954, ...
Personal —

[redacted] come home
need you badly - Grace.

Terms:

\$25,000 (small bills)

\$2,000 July 28, 1954
7,000 when convicted
10,000 48 hours after
my execution.

Discussed

[redacted]

P.S. - please ad, will contact
for additional facts.

P.S.S. Dr. Samuel will consider
himself lucky - but tell
him that these things
don't happen twice in a
life time.