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THE FRUIT AT SINGAPORE

Mrs. Edythe Draper
Oswego
Kansas

Dear Mrs. Draper,

We have read THE FRUIT AT SINGAPORE with a great deal of care. I am sorry indeed, but I am afraid we will have to say no -- at least, on the basis of the present script.

I am anxious to be as helpful as possible and so I will report quite frankly our readers' reactions. The general feeling is that the book is too unrelieved, too monotonous in tone. The material has authenticity, but there is no lighter side to the picture -- nothing to set it off -- so that after a while it becomes a little dull to read. On the other hand, some of the moods of the little girl are very well handled indeed.

I regret extremely that we can't take this. But we are still very much interested in your work and we are anxious to see the next thing you do. Please forgive the unvarnished candor of these criticisms, but, as I said, I wanted to be helpful. And please let us have a chance to read any subsequent offerings.

Sincerely,

P.S. The ms. is being returned to you under separate cover.

Clifton Fadiman
CLIFTON FADIMAN