

"Well," I said to Arnie Katz on the phone, him having come home for the Eight Days of Hanukah, "I've got to get off the phone now and go do FIRST DRAFT."

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CHRISTMASEVE EVE #145

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"Oh," said Arnie Katz. "When are you going to fold FIRST DRAFT, Dave?"

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Ho-ho-ho-ho-ho-ho-ho-ho-h

□□ As for phone conversations, I'm rapidly deciding that there is one voice I have been hearing on the phone lately that is doing a lot to change my deep-seated antipathy to the telephone. That is the voice of Henry Morrison.

Henry (or, "my agent," as we "pros" say) calls me up from time to time to tell me interesting things. Things like the progress of the legal researches into the three movie contracts (it looks now as if we'll sign them even tho they don't include the basic guild mandatory-payment clause. This is a goodie which says that when you turn in an outline, treatment, first draft script, or final draft script, they have to pay you within 24 hours (scale on this batch of scripts is Minimum, i.e. \$250, \$1000, \$1000, and \$1800, respectively for the 4 stages above). So that in this respect we'll be writing on speculation. On the other hand, as they accept each stage they still have to pay us, so the likelihood still seems to stand that Van Arnam Associates will be picking up about \$12,000.

But to the case in point. Yesterday Henry called me again, in reference to something Ted White had mentioned to me.

What it boils down to is that CBS and Pyramid books are making up a contract for Ted and me to sign, to do a novelization. Basically I'd do most of the writing, if not all of it, and wd get most of the money, which shapes up to about \$1250 for 40,000 words. It'll be published under a pseudonym, of course, and I hesitated for a moment before deciding to let the cat out of the bag. But what the hell.

Now, of all the TV shows you'd like to see novelized, which wd you bet on? (ok, it has to be a CBS show; I shdn't have mentioned them above)...

Would you believe THE AVENGERS?

Would you believe I SPY?

Would you believe STAR TREK?

Would you believe...LOST IN SPACE?

\*sigh\* Well, yes, gang, that's to be the latest Litry Effort of yhos dgv, poet, critic, novelist.

I even watched the damn thing last week. The Evil Scientist is sorta funny, I guess, and Robbytherobot has possibilities. The littul kid is unbearable, the girl is completely Awful, the parents are wooden and unlikeable, and the boyfriend is a clod. Apart from that, though, and the fact that the scripts are clever but incompetent, it isn't that bad a show. Ho Ho. □□ Listen, gang, this little epic is going to be Continued Next Week again. I've got to concentrate on Books... Hoping you  
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are the sane... -- dgv

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