

670 West End Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10025
September 27 1974

William Targ, Vice-President
G.P. Putnam's Sons
200 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Bill Targ,

Some time ago when I inscribed a couple of books for you you asked if there was any way you could reciprocate. I'm writing now to say that there is. I have recently read the manuscript of what seems to me a very extraordinary novel, The Beholding by the poet Kenneth Pitchford. It concerns sexual/political relationships within a group of women and men who are artists and political people in New York in the 1960's, and is really a very radical exploration of the ways -- whatever the gender -- human beings love and fail to love each other in our time. Its materials are in part what I suppose is still regarded as unconventional, but what is really unconventional and radical in Pitchford's novel is the exploration of depths of feelings.

The majority of novels I see coming out of the pseudo "sexual-liberation" of the past half-dozen years are as shallow as that concept itself. This book goes much further, is traditional in its surface and radical in its vision of the possibilities we all share.

I've suggested to Mr. Pitchford that he send or bring the manuscript to you and have told him that I'd write my feelings about it to you. I think you will find it very much worth reading. Because I believe that this novel has a potential audience, and because I think it should be read, I will take it as a personal favor if you can give it your attention.

With all good wishes,

Yours,

Adrienne Rich

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9/65