

Walt - Wan

Katti Wankel



The STANHOPE
Fifth Avenue at Eighty-first Street
New York 28, N.Y.

25th. september 1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
New York City N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt.

I take the liberty of introducing myself as a Norwegian visiting this country for the first time in my life. While here in New York I went to the movies the other day together with my husband to see the pictures of the life of the late president. It was a revelation, and I wept from beginning to the end. It is always inspiring to have the feeling of being in contact with a great personality, and it is so very, very seldom. Even these movie pictures gave an impression of power and a will for the good, which fascinated me.

At the same time I came to think of what a shattering effect it had on myself and my fellow prisoners in a german koncentration camp in Norway - Grini just outside Oslo - when we were informed about the death of the great president F.D. Roosevelt. Our german warders distributed papers telling us in short that the biggest warmonger had passed away. We, however, saw it from another angle.

Shortly before I was arrested, I had read

*Thank
dearly
As busy
with work -
long and you
now how
we here ?*

your book: "This is my story" so when we were locked up in the evening in the wooden shack where I was appointed the boss for about 100 fellow prisoners, we made a blackout with the aid of our blankets, the girls went to bed often two in each bed and the beds themselves four in height. I was standing on some sort of a gallery telling my fellow prisoners about all I could remember from your book. An other prisoner, who had been to the United States told about the White House, and I ended up by telling about my uncle: The norwegian Politician Johan Castbergs visit to the first president Roosevelt, Th. Roosevelt.

It was a peculiar evening, and many warm thoughts were streaming to you from a camp of political prisoners far away.

I know you are a very busy woman. Never the less I take courage in asking wheather I could be allowed to call on you one day. There are so many things I should like to talk to you about, and write back about to my weekely magazine at home , if you would permit me to do so.

In the meantime I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours

Katti Vonkef

Regret have no time
at present ^{can not see you} you could
approach any of the
good shops. Saks -
Bergdorff Goodman
Halter Carnegis

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