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[Privacy Policy](#) [Contact Us](#) [Help](#)**Date:** Mon, 13 May 2002 14:48:52 +0100**From:** James Flint  [Add to Address Book](#) [Add To Spam Block List](#)**Subject:** Re: letter as attachment**To:** acord@eudoramail.com

Jim!

wonderful to hear from you. thanks for your letters - i got both the attachments no problem, they came through perfectly. And thanks for cc'ing me on your other mail. I'm really glad the eudoramail has worked out so well in providing the required correspondence continuity while you're travelling round this sofa surfing circuit of yours. But it's also really cool to just hear how you're doing and what you're up to. And it's inspiring too... i hope you don't mind, but one of your stories (about the visit to the petshop) has worked its way (in a much changed form) into the novel. It just happened to arrive on a day when i needed a cool little Seattle anecdote... and there it was! Many thanks.

It's very cool of Joey to come through for you like that with the Starlight; it sounds like a fantastic place! I'm quite jealous of your 'residency' there... i think i'd like to come take the next door room, write by day and drink beers with you and a sample of your fellow residents by night. Sounds to me like you're right - there's a book in there somewhere. Armistead Maupin on crystal meth, or something in that vein.

Talking of residencies, i'm also greatly amused by your description of my scottish sojourn. you captured it perfectly, right down to the raven and the 12 yr old virgin carrying up my daily bowl of gruel and dram of whisky. You were also right about it being productive. While i was there i looked at the version of the book i'd come up with two years ago, realised that it wasn't working, chucked it out, and started over with a clean slate. Spending a month locked away in that lonely tower helped me figure out what the problem was... and it was this: The whole story was told in the voice of Jack Discord, who was supposed to be kind of a fictional version of you. But Jack Discord never really came to life, because you were always too much in my head. In other words, i hadn't been able to bring to life a fictional character who was more interesting or engaging than the real James L. Acord - basically, Jim, you're too damn interesting yourself! Since it was never my aim to write your biography, this was a problem...

Well, i've solved it, i think. Since Discord was in the way, i decided to get rid of him, first by changing his name (to Jack Reeve)... and then by killing him off. The story is now told through the eyes of Reeve's estranged son, who works on a Star Wars base in the UK (kind of a rebellion against pop, who he hasn't seen since he was ten). The book now opens with the arrival of his ashes (stored in a coffee canister, naturally) on the aforementioned Star Wars base, where they are mistaken for anthrax and cause something of a storm. This gets the son into all kinds of trouble, and sets him off on a quest to find out what happened to dad...

That's the basic idea, and this time it seems to be working. I'm about three quarters of the way through a draft, and hope to have the book done

by the end of the year. Regarding the pictures - i still don't know at this stage whether i'm going to use them or not. I don't think my original plan for them will work, but there's a couple of other things i could do with them, so if you've got time to finish them that would be great. I would really like to have something of yours in the book, apart from anything else. But if i'm going to incorporate them, i will need them by the end of the summer - say august, at the latest? is that possible? I don't want you to go out of your way to get them done, but if you can find the time, it would be pretty cool to do something with them. either way, i'm certainly looking forward to getting that copy of Beowulf - i've heard it's excellent. In return, i'll send you a copy of my new book - it's (finally) being published on July 3rd, and i should have finished copies sometime next month, one of which has your name on it. Should i send it care of Tom Putnam?

well, better get back to work. had a late start today thanks to a very heavy weekend celebrating a friend's wedding, and the work's rapidly piling up all around me. great to hear from you; great to hear that you're well.

all best

Jim



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