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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Nora Gaines,

About Pearl Hochstadt, 'Jean Rhys' by Carole Angier: A Review':

My indignation was aroused at the very first paragraph and only mounted as I read on.

Has Pearl Hochstadt (indeed, have you) never heard of forms of literature apart from the academic? There was no place for footnotes and references in a short book for the general reader. These are all where they should be, in my second book on Jean Rhys, which is coming out this year.

It is a great waste of time and effort to show so carefully how something is a bad piece of chalk when in fact it is a piece of cheese.

Yours sincerely,

Carole Angier

To the Editor:

I quite agree with Carole Angier that there is a difference between writing for a scholarly audience and writing for the general public - and I think my review makes that plain. It is not the lack of scholarly apparatus that I object to but the assumption that we "must" identify Rhys with her heroines. Angier knew better when she wrote the review of Rhys's Letters that I referred to - and I recommend that anyone seeking a fairer appraisal of Rhys's life consult the text of that review (London Review of Books, 21 June 1984).

Pearl Hochstadt

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