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January 1, 1973

Mrs. Margaret E. McElderry
ATHENEUM PUBLISHERS
122 East 42nd Street
New York, New York

Dear Margaret:

As I started reworking "THE ELEPHANT" it just grew until it came out as you will see in the enclosed copy. It sort of wrote itself this way. If you think it is too long, say the word. I can of course easily go back to the first version and start again from there. Or perhaps you may just want this second version pruned.

I'm sending a copy of this new version to Antonio in case you want to discuss it with him.

It has occurred to me since I came down here that there is a possibility you may not want this book to be bilingual because of the length. For my part it does not matter either way. If you do want it bilingual, I can turn out the Spanish quickly and easily. I will wait to hear from you on this.

Some kind neighbors here are leaving for the U.S.A. by plane tomorrow morning and have offered to mail this for me from the States. All letters mailed from here take at least a week to get through - and much longer during this holiday time.

Thank you so much for your Christmas card and for your thoughtfulness in sending me the clipping from PUBLISHERS WEEKLY. I was delighted! I wish you could be here - it's heaven!

I'm writing this in great haste, but am sending a copy of THE ELEPHANT AND HIS SECRET to Joan Daves as well as to Antonio.

I am so anxious to hear what you think of this new version.

With best New Year wishes,

c/o James Needham
Box 214, "The Flamboyant"
St. George's
GRENADA, WEST INDIES

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