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Dear Renata,

So many thanks for your interest in my "new career"! Best of all, this gave me an opportunity to talk with you after (it couldn't possibly be before) a number of years. I very much hope that we will meet soon, here or in New York. Please remember that our house in Villanova is fairly large.

I am sending you chapter 7 of my novel, The Observer, which may also bear the title Claudia, my Claudia, the three last words of the text. To put things contextwise, as General Halg would say, I am also enclosing a kind of summary or outline.

I translated the chapter, and Priscilla went over it most carefully. I assume that a professional translator might do a better job, but I have no reasons in support of my assumption. At any rate, if the translation looks good enough --it is certainly faithful to the text, except for a couple of untranslatable puns--, and if Knopf or someone is interested in the publication of my opus but does not wish to bother about finding a suitable translator, Priscilla and I would be willing to work on it. It would take about three months to have the English text ready. The novel will be published in Spain by Alianza Editorial (Madrid) some time this year or at the beginning of next year. I deal directly with the publisher, so I have all the translation rights.

I must confess that this is my second attempt at so-called "fiction." My first attempt was a book of short stories, entitled Siete relatos capitales (Seven deadly stories), published by Planeta (Barcelona, 1979). I have been concealing this fact to philosophers --who, as you would put it, although you would put it much better, are utterly unable to discover a new particle, or a new theorem, so they claim they are interested above all in physics or in mathematics, but not in literature--. Nevertheless, since this fact has now been made public in the book Transparencias, which by now you should have received pace the U.S. Postal Service, there is no longer any reason to conceal it.

Thank you again, very much! Best wishes, and love,

