

Norton-Editors Correspondence

7 April 1953

Dear Miss Norton:

We like MOUSETRAP—nice idea, greatly told, but one thing bothers us. How on earth (or Mars) does Sam know about the puffball action. I don't see how it can be abstractly deduced. He could, of course, easily find out by seeing it happen to a cat or dog or some odd martian beast.

If you can fix this up, we'll be happy to buy it.

Have any of your other shorts sold or will this be a first?

And just incidentally, how come it is Andre and not Andrée or Andrea? It's been bothering me ever since I learned your sex.

Cordially,

Anthony Boucher

9 April 1953

Dear Mr. Boucher:

To say that I am overwhelmed at your reception of "Mousetrap" is putting it very mildly! I can very easily put in a puff-ball discovery for Sam. Think I know just where to insert it and how.

Had two stories published in the "Fantasy Book" under "Andrew North"—"Gifts of Asti" and "People of the Crater". But no other short s-f. Short stories are not natural writing for me and I have to work them over and over—seem to think only in book length plots.

As to "Andre"—just a properly ambiguous either sex name to be worn by a female who makes a living writing male adventure stories—it can be a problem with readers unless one works behind such a smoke screen—especially

when one writes for teen age boys. I am very used to being "Mr. Norton" and have stunned radio program directors when acting as guest-interviewee by appearing in skirts.

Sincerely,

Andre Norton