

10 Clevedon Place  
Eaton Square SW

November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1898

Dear Mr. Hutchinson,

Your courteous letter explains much which very reasonably worried me. Of course I had no communication whatever with reference to any change of title and so felt more than a little annoyed.

That is all right now. Of course. But I am sorry I cannot alter the title of my book as you suggest. "Joan of the Sword" would be nothing to me. I could not write with any fervour: whereas "Joan of the Sword Hand" stirs me like a trumpet, and was moreover a real enough person.

The serial is no doubt important, but there is the book also to consider, and, as I think I have been somewhat fortunate in my titles, I am sure also that I have not made any mistake here. I am sure that the printers are able to overcome this little difficulty of lettering and spacing, and, in any case, I am sure you would rather turn the corner in any fashion than that I should write you a book which did not first stir my own blood and then your readers' blood.

Besides it does seem strange that any considerations of typography should justify tinkering with an author's own title, chosen by him before he had a line written. I never heard of such a thing.

I should much like to oblige you by doing as you wish, but, frankly, the book would lose all interest for me, and I would rather change the name altogether, and run the story out on other lines.

I am

Dear Mr. Hutchinson  
Faithfully yours

(Signed) S.R. Crockett