230 West 105 Street (#11D) New York, NY 10025 (212) 865-7328 January 1, 1998

Ms. Dana Yanulavich

Marketing DirectorState

University of New York Press

State University Plaza

Albany, NY 12246-0001

Dear Ms. Yanulavich:

Here is a comment on Richard Elman's book Namedropping. I hope you find it useful.

"Richard Elman obviously has had a talent for friendship, especially with writers whose work he admired. He seems to have known or met everyone, from Tillie Olsen and Robert Lowell to Faye Dunaway, and his recollections usually capture something essential or unexpected about them, and finally about himself. Many of his idols were bound to disappoint him, as he sometimes disappoints himself, but his plain-spoken honesty is bracing. The rueful, bittersweet sketch of I.B. Singer is itself worth the price of admission."

--Morris Dickstein

Please do not edit or alter this comment without my consent. I would appreciate receiving a copy of the final book.

Sincerely yours,

Morris Dickstein

Distinguished Professor of English

City University of New York