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June 23, 1970

Mrs. Virginia S. Carr
Department of English
Columbus College
Columbus, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Carr:

I read your dissertation in one sitting and was so impressed that I called you only to find that you were in the hospital. I sincerely hope that you are on your way to a speedy recovery.

I think, Mrs. Carr, that you will have a fine book. I found great understanding, insight and compassion in your study. The book (dissertation) plunged me into that "zone of loneliness" that I am just emerging from. I think this will be a book that I will be proud to publish.

Your letter of June 10th showed that you realize the work involved in converting the dissertation into publishable form. As a rule, I like to hold my comments until I have seen, at least, a first chapter. I agree that shorter chapters and additional biographical material will enhance the book. I feel you are on the right track in your approach.

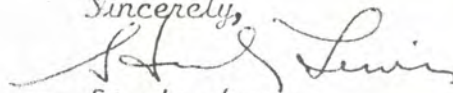
I have not read the Evans book as yet.

I like your style and feel for words. I have read many dissertations and for the most part I read 50 pages and give up. Your study, I feel, will be important to a greater understanding of Mrs. McCullers' work and through her work, to a greater understanding of Mrs. McCullers herself.

I feel that the title of the book leaves much to be desired from my standpoint. I would appreciate your thoughts on this. Granted, I have to consider the commercial aspect too, I feel the title smacks just a bit of a "dissertation".

I am enclosing a contract for your consideration. I don't have Mrs. Alexander's address and would appreciate your conveying to her my sincere interest in the book. If the contract meets your approval, kindly sign and return one copy. I will need Mrs. Alexander's signature too.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

Stanley Lewis

SL/mlh