

HERVEY CLECKLEY  
3025 BRANSFORD ROAD  
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

2 April 1948

Dear Sidney:

I am genuinely ashamed about not writing sooner. But I'll try not to use up the bit of time I've found for this note in attempts to explain my delay.

Your epistolary adventure with Miss M<sup>c</sup>C. fills me not only with interest but also with amazement. Of all the people in the U.S., there is scarcely another about whom I have more human curiosity. The startling lack of formality, and the immediately personal details in her letter to you make me wonder if, by some inward sort of genius, she has succeeded in side-stepping the artificialities, verbal and conventional, that keep most people living in the shallows and, so often, merely going through



rather emaciated motions of living. I also wonder if such characteristics indicate a very different thing, the familiar and almost routine Bohemian "revolt" that I've often found in people who produce various sorts of "art."

I hope you've seen Miss Carson, or at least made plans to do so. I've even had vague hopes and fancies about the possibility of getting her to come down to Washington when the Am. Psychiat. Assoc. meets there in May. I'm assuming you'll be able to come, for it won't be far from Richmond. There are few things I can recall that are to me so formidable as this girl's writing. From the books I seem to get not only the impact of a rare and specific experience of emotion but also ideas of a deeply troubled soul. And, as a matter of fact, everyone who has impressed me as

Please excuse  
change of  
pens!



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3,

a fully alive + sentient being  
has also seemed to me perplexed  
and suffering. Perhaps I  
should modify this and say  
that the non-dead people ~~seem~~  
at least to have been perplexed  
and to have suffered inordinately.  
I don't believe that the fullness  
of living means defeat, but  
I'm sure it has its price  
of torment. Most of the  
"creative" people I encounter  
seem not merely in rebellion  
against bad and negative  
things but against what  
I take to be positive and  
as deep, and as deeply true,  
as biology itself. I hope  
Miss Carson hasn't worked  
herself into this situation.  
Your contact with her  
(and may it progress!) fills  
me with all sorts of  
speculations that for years  
have come into consciousness  
from time to time and



that still have me puzzled. I hope an opportunity will come for us to pursue them.

Please tell Milton Freidenberg I regret not having kept him in better touch with developments here. I believe our situation may be better than it seemed when I discussed it with him.

Do you recall what cause of Esquire his article appeared in? I'd like to look it up.

The marrying on B<sub>2</sub> Psychiat. continues. Miss K. Corbin is now going to leave us for Orange-blossoms with one of the recently graduated seniors. Corbett hopes to get out of uniform in a little over a month.

Louise joins me in good wishes,

Sincerely,

Hervey