

May 27, 1968

Our Beloved Nell,

How maddening this has been. I have been out here at Mexican Joe's for a week working in solitude on my new book; and your glorious book came to my house on Thursday. All I heard was calls from Piedy, from my mother, from Father George telling me how magnificent it was, how beautiful and profound, how deepening with each new perusal. Finally, yesterday, I got a ride back to Fort Worth and had supper and spent the night. I immediately grabbed the book and found it more beautiful than even I had remembered; and this morning when Piedy brought me back out here to this isolation to work, I brought the book with me. I just talked to Penn, asked him to bring me a gallon of milk and told him I had the book. He is thrilled out of his mind and is on his way out to look at it. He will order copies for all of your admirers in this area (and that includes everyone we ~~sk~~ know.) I am going to review it and probably publish my portrait of you in Voyages, and ask them to run the photo small, because it is not really a great picture at all.

All for the moment. I must get this ready so Penn can take it back into town and mail it.

Thank you, dear Nell, for this great and lovely work,

Love
John