

July 7, 1976

Dear Nell,

I wrote you this morning in the initial excitement and surprise of receiving your beautiful book. Now, I have lived with the book all day. I could not let it go. I kept returning to it, to read the text and absorb the photos again and again. You have let me know the heart of three very beautiful people - Joan, her husband, your own dear self - and all of the children, of course, and the young bridegroom - but most especially Joan and her husband. What a straight and honest and incomparable artist you are. And how much I love you for these photographs, this great art that connects with something deep in me. I could not go to bed tonight without saying this, though it is now very late. Surely, Joan had one of the most beautiful faces I have ever seen. You have captured in her what all of us hope and pray we may accomplish just once or twice in our lifetimes, no matter whether we are photographers, musicians, poets or writers. At this level, it does not matter because all of the arts are intermingled in this kind of truth.

Thank you, beloved Nell, for letting us see these things.

Much love always,

*John*