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Dearest Neh

I write by return mail, a quick response - so on fire am I with the flame caused by the book idea - which is now burning the telephone wires from New York to 280! The book is approved by Penguin. That means Viking-Penguin together (hard + soft covers) will back the book. The contract will take till May 1st to work out. I'll come East around May 21-24 or so to talk to them - organize The Museum (I have written Grace Mayer!) and we are hoping either Museum of Modern Art or the Metropolitan will sponsor the Exhibit/publication idea.

With that burst!! I respond to your long letter about The Woman, Alicia Wille, who came to interview you. I have no doubt that you will^{be} are asked many times - and deserve to be heard

and I am in no way asking to possess you in any way — That is not our friendship and I am sure that you know it. But I do feel that I am linked to you in such a way — tested over time and space, that will serve your needs and not drain your energy — which I know interviews do even when well intentioned. In a real sense I feel that I am prepared to do the book in mind — that it is not an infatuation or a journalistic exercise — it is a heart's desire — and a fulfillment of our friendship — of our mutual belief in pictures and in their power in our lives. I remember so strongly the image you spoke of years ago — of a web, barely visible on which we were / are linked — and it is as a part of that web that this book comes. You know that this project would not have been imagined if I ~~had~~^{had} not experienced our relationship — and had not tried to do a book of you ... so it is certainly with all this torrent of thoughts that I tell you how

3. grateful I am of your trust.

One question. You did not mention if she has a publisher, a contract or who the other women are. Those facts would be interesting and important to know.

David and I had the most remarkable conversation today. He said that the book must be 1st class all the way. That if necessary we would do fewer photographs to insure that each was properly done - and all in all, I feel there is a real energy in this book that is moving now of its own. Gestation! Such joy in dreams that move through all aspects of life. This one does for me. And it really is so very simple in a way. So utterly logical a book to do. We are fine. busy. had rain today which is, of course, our main request of the sky! The girls are perky - all three dancing, playing music and working hard. More soon. Love, love
Greta