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5208 Glenwood Rd.
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Jimmy,

Your pictures and your story in Collier's were a delight to me, after six years or so of wondering how you were. It was a real joy to us to know that you are your own insouciant self, with some work that's gay and fitting, and a wife and baby to love.

It relieved my mind to read that article. About four years ago, before my little boy was born, I began to develop a conscience, rather late in the game. I treated my father, my mother, you, and almost everyone whom I loved with cool thoughtlessness, which was the same as cruelty. I'm sorry, and I'll have to spend the rest of my life trying to make it up to my parents. At the same time, I realized how badly I'd behaved to you. I'd like to apologize. In the last few years I've begun to appreciate how much I learned from you and with you, and to realize that I owe you a debt of respect and affection, which I pay in my heart now, gladly. In your completely individual way you were kind, and I wasn't. Since I had no idea where you were, I wasn't able to tell you this, and it has given me a guilty conscience, which plagued me in spite of the happy and fortunate life I've been undeservedly living.

So that's why I am so very, very glad to hear of your whereabouts, and your happiness. (Also, how you have had to become an expert on wines! I can imagine with what great reluctance. Whee!)

God bless you and your family, Jimmy.