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Title: Letter from Allen Tanner to Victoria Glendinning

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July 30, '80

Dear Victoria Glendinning:

It would indeed be hard to tell you in words, of how deeply touched I was, by your so immediately kind and understanding letter.

The initially horrific shock of the event of the book, was hard enough to have had to bear, before all my many European Friends and Colleagues, who of course like yourself had only the bare false appearances to judge from, and it is greatly noteworthy that un all the anomalous confusion of it all, it was dear Edith herself who was one of the very first, even before I could barely say a word in my behalf, assuring me with all warmth and undimmed affection that she never for an instant believed that I could or would have used our great and beautiful friendship in any such manner. Likewise dear Pavlik, when, after it happened I then told him all that had come about, Such a bitter disappointment in the collapse of what had been planned as a highly emotionally altruistic "Miracle" in behalf of a profoundly beloved friend who had been such a spiritual sustenance to us! Even to the very expressive symbolically expressive "cooling" of relations with Gertrude and Alice, when they began, as per the extraordinary Alice's automatic practise, when she percieved Gertrude becoming too fond of anyone, to be building up "the inevitable quarrel" that invariably led to the "Big Rift".

Naturally the whole affair of that book was a terribly shocking disappointment. And you can imagine what a repetitive shock it would have been for me, in the face of all my newly-found friends, admirers of my pianism (My recordings have been played over many Classical Music Stations on Radio, Celebrations of my Birthday, etc etc. So, I do indeed want to say that I am very very deeply appreciative of your ready and generous helpfulness in this matter.

And, as you so accurately said: When one has no more than "appearances" plus third hand information to base the "Facts" on, there was, (for me, as Hamlet said) "There's the Rub!"

So, in concluding, I do so want to say to you with all warmth and sincere appreciation of your gracious understanding, how much and how deeply I do appreciate your helpfulness. In the summer of '32, Pavlik was at West Dean, in Chichester, visiting Edward James. Edith and I lunched and dined together very often, with much enjoyment, for such was the quality of her understanding and loving nature. I saw then so vividly that nothing could have persuaded her that I could or would have (And in spite of those bare and quite suggestive "appearances") been so amorally cynical even sinister as to have knowingly acquired a book by fraudulent means, and worse still, to have involved shamelessly such a great Lady and Friend as she had always proven herself to be! So, I can only say "Thank you, so very much, for your British (And personal) Honesty, Honor and sense of Justice!" I am enclosing a snapshot of dear Edith, which I took when she came out to spend two weeks with us, at our