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Title: Letter from Allen Tanner to Parker Tyler

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Dear Parker: Many thanks - for your
kind letter. 1923-1934 - is a long
"movie" to recall - but I have begun
to look back ~~at~~ "the screen" - to see
what ~~will~~ ^{will} be needed off - there! Then -
there is the writing down of it all -
which is a sort of "mumbling to
one's self - on paper" - (some of ~~us~~ ^{it}
"mumble" easily - some quite to the
contrary!) But - I am persistent!
Unfortunately though - I can only
do it - between ~~the~~ "paroxysms" ^{of the}
ghastly work I must do - which
leaves my brain quite empty -
So - I hope you are furnished with
ample indulgence - (not to mention
ample deadline - for yourself - and for
this undertaking - ^{of such magnitude!})
As a "writer" - I am "lousy" - only a
self made man" - but I do do fairly
well - and feel it is the best way - for
me. In conversations - one can so
easily get side tracked - and miss
bringing in ^{relevancies and} ~~other~~ important points -
and ~~details~~ - at their proper time -
and place. Whereas - if you have
the solid continuity of notes - all can
be fitted together - ~~properly~~ ^{again} - like mosaic!
I know you have too much
intelligence - taste and integrity

to even think of "prettying up" people's lives-and actions. But in certain instances - where so much is relative - to treat the whole - without considerable ^{disclosure} ~~detail~~ and analysis - would be neither consistent - or even fair. ~~However~~ this can often take on an appearance of being ^{an} "expose" of people's weaknesses. And sometimes it can look (and read) ~~pretty~~ ^{disagreeable} - in print. ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~can~~ be rather of a "ticklish" problem ~~to~~ ^{to} how to deal with the "actual" facts - of the break-with Gertrude. Pavlik told me he would ^{write} ~~went~~ it done wisely - and carefully - (perhaps ^{even} "shrewdly") and I feel the same way. So does Shoura. I can tell you the true facts - but you are writing the book - and will of course ^{have to} know yourself - the degree of "discretion" you wish to employ - ^{it} might however - be advisable to talk ^{a little} about it - to Shoura. Pavlik made his peace - and paid his respects to Gertrude - before his death. Nobody - now - except Alice (Toklas) and I (and Shoura - to whom I ~~know~~ ^{know} ~~rather~~ ^{or} ~~then~~) knows ~~and~~ remembers the facts - and I dare say ~~she~~ ^{she} would not care to "rehash them" - ~~now~~ ^{now} at this late date.

Gertrude's quarrels were not quarrels over "ideas" - not intellectual or aesthetic "schisms" - such as were -

So often ^{the case with} those of ~~the~~ (Gide) Proust, Apollinaire, Cocteau - and others. They were "personal" - and had their foundation in ~~a~~ rather childish disillusion ~~about~~ ^{about} people - and ^{their} personalities - which she was determined to "edit" - and change. Failing ~~of~~ which ^{it} disturbed her ^{and} - threw her "off balance" in her relationships. ~~For~~ with all her great ~~intelligence~~ intelligence - she could ~~be~~ easily ^{be} troubled - and influenced ⁱⁿ her thinking - and in her feeling ^{about people}. When we met them - they ~~already~~ had had an extensive history of quarrels - with - Leo Stein - Matisse - Picasso - Lipshitz - Gris - Hemmingway - Ford - and many others. Gertude and Alice - astounding as it will seem to you - were ^{really} two rather blasé women - perhaps even ^{a bit} bored ^{and frankly - lonely} - and ^{I gave them an interest} loved to "hear about" other people's quarrels. The "overall" reason for the break - as Pavlov afterwards felt ^{also} ~~so too~~ was the fault of "our youth" - ^{plus} ~~their~~ their critical severity - and ^{their} mania for changing - and regulating ^{other} people's lives. Granted - perhaps their intentions were ^{perhaps} good - ~~but~~ ^{but} their ^{actions} were ^{however} wrong - and ⁱⁿ combination with other factors (which I will tell you of later) - levels friendships ^{thusly} came - ^{invariably to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~end~~! Later on - the quarrelling - (the attendant gossip) took on - ~~rather more~~ ^{really} - the aspect of "toleration" for the sake of publicity - for Gertude was then - still unpublished - and was making a

great effort-to be. We all know she
was a great woman - and both Pavlik
and I agreed (~~now~~ ^{afterwards}) that the break was
a tragic and unfortunate accident to
a lovely relationship - which could
have - + should have - been avoided!
~~But here~~ ^{again} - Time - as it ~~failed to~~ ⁵⁰
often ~~happens~~ ^{happens} - to our sad regrets - ~~did not~~
synchronize - properly!! ~~People~~ ^{things} - people
of great intelligence - who foolishly - ~~and~~
for whatever reason - allow their good
sense to be ~~tripped up~~ ^{thrown} by stubborn
pride - have - after all ~~been~~
~~only~~ ^{only} ~~themselves~~ ^{to blame}. In the Paris of
the 20's - it was not considered "intellectually
smart" if one did not indulge in "la
méchanceté" - and deride - defame -
and tear to pieces - everything and
every one - within sight!! "Colleague"
became - almost - a "synonym" for
"enemy"!! Pavlik could ~~be~~ - one must
admit - ^{hold his own with the best of them} a powerful ^{possessing} adversary - with
a quick and fiery jealousy - which -
more often than not ~~did~~ ^{did} disturb and
even ~~destroy~~ ^{ordinarily} relationships. These things - so in
contrast ~~with~~ ^{with} his superlative qualities -
made deals with him - at times -
~~very~~ confusing. ^{But} We will talk of
all this - ~~also~~ ^{also}.

I have made notes on our trip to
Tunisia - 1927 - for him a delightful
and revealing excursion - to the other
half of the world" Also - the second
trip - to Algeria - ^{but} not at all delightful -
Here again the question of "frank
revelation" will enter ^{as} the woman
who was the cause of all that ugliness

and traced (for ^{him}) ~~still~~ still alive
in Paris ~~the~~ ~~accuse-~~
~~Shall to "expect to see and see for a label"~~
~~and "guilty enough"~~ ^{and evil enough to sue for label}
you will have to decide. ⁱⁿ Some cases people
deserve my rank exposure - in others -
as I said before - a kind of "half-silence"
as "half-light" ^{might be a more liberal}
As for books - I know only ^{but} one or
two - ~~from~~ ^{from} which you ^{would have} "filter"
~~the~~ ^{the} clean information. There is
an evil one - written by the malevolent
Bryan Imb - the gossyp and intrigant -
who - more than anyone - was the
"architect" of our final break with
Gertrude. ~~But~~ ^{from} a book like
this you ^{would} gain little - ~~as~~ ^{for} you
would constantly have to perform
a ~~sort of~~ ^{sort of} alchemy. The Vernon Duke
Memoirs - which that fauntz (but
frustrated) cad wrote (with such
cultivated disrespect for everyone)
is another rather useless suggestion - I fear.
Then there is the one written by that
British middle-class "Blue Stocking" (I know
the term applies only to women - and therefore
use it advisedly!) - Harold Acton -
whom everybody loathed on sight -
and who loathed everybody - in
revenge. He carried the menace
and threat - (in his very "aura") - of
murdering you with ^{his} boredom - and
he always ^{never failed to} ~~did~~ "commit that crime!"
He expected Paulik's portrait of him
would be another "Mona Lisa" - ^{therefore} and his
pen is dipped in the venom of personal
vendetta. I must terminate this interminable
document. Best regards - and I'll fit in touch with
you soon - Allen

A letter ^{in description} to Parker ^{of the awful}
(re Stein etc.) H. Acton