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Mr. Carl Van Vechten,
c/o Mr. George S. Oppenheimer,
Alfred Knopf, Inc.,
730 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

WALTER F. WHITE
SIXTY-NINE FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

August 7, 1924

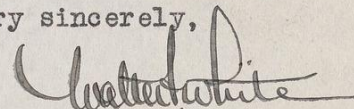
My dear Mr. Van Vechten:

I can remember no occasion in all my life when I had a more pleasant surprise than when I was talking with Mr. Oppenheim at Knopf's a few days ago and he showed me the too laudatory paragraph which you have done on "The Fire in the Flint."

Neither my best friends nor my worst enemies have ever accused me of too great modesty, but I must say that I had no idea that you would be so interested in a novel such as mine. The fact that you feel as you do about it has made me happy indeed. You saw exactly what I was driving at. It is my first novel - in fact, my first attempt to write a novel. Knowing that I had no particular distinction of style, I resolved to tell as simply and as honestly as I could the story as I felt it, achieving as much as my feelings would permit maximum objectivity.

From the paragraph which you did I realize that you more than any other person who has yet read the novel sensed what I was attempting. All I can say is that I thank you, hoping that from that simple statement you will realize how much I appreciate what you have done. If the novel achieves the success for which I am hoping it will be in no small measure due to your own generosity.

Yours very sincerely,



Mr. Carl Van Vechten
C/O Mr. George S. Oppenheimer
Alfred Knopf, Inc.
730 Fifth Avenue
New York City

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