

NELLA LARSEN

A Letter to Carl Van Vechten

Saturday

Dear Carl

Though years have flown by since last we met I still have a place in memory for you and often wonder if you still look the same. Life, disease and hard labour have laid their heavy hands on me however –

I want to tell you that I am asking for the Harmon Award and am taking the liberty of using your name as “a responsible person who knows by contact the work and ability of the applicant.” A little ambiguous, but I hope it’s all right. Looking back on the year’s output of Negro Literature, I don’t see why I shouldn’t have a look in. There’s only Claude MacKay [sic] besides – Rudolph is just too late – and the Harmon Foundation is in some way tied up with the uplift so maybe “Home to Harlem won’t get a very warm welcome.

I have this day completed your novel “Nig.” That is, it has only to be copied. Thank God, Glory Halleluja Amen!

My love to you,

Nella

I’m sending the Harmon Application the first part of next week. If it’s not all right –

Saturday 53

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