

To Miss Alice Ruth Moore (Dunbar) (1)
Brooklyn, N.Y.
From Paul W. Dunbar

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Washington, D.C. Feb 2nd 98
Department.

My dear Wife:-

I am feeling so much better this afternoon that I thought I would drop you another line so as to reassure you. My head & eyes are not very steady, but the former is not aching and that is something to be thankful for.

You speak as if you were discouraged because your mss. come back. Don't be. It doesn't mean any thing except that they don't happen to meet the editor's taste. I have just had one mss. that I thought particularly good returned three times. It was written at the order of the Ladies Home Journal, but the editor returned it saying that they had one just like it & would I please write them some thing a little lighter & brighter.

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Then I sent it to Mr. Gelder and he returned it saying that it was the best story of mine he had ever seen but he was overruled with short stories already. Then it went to Harpers and came back with one of those blessed printed slips, and yet I think the story is good.

You are bound to succeed, dear if you just keep on writing. Think how long I pounded at the door of the Century and Harpers before I got in. It means good, good good.

It will be very sweet when we can work together, read discuss and criticize each other's productions. I see you now peering over my shoulder and saying, "A Paul, I don't like that expression." And I see myself blue-penciling one of my pet phrases and being paid for my docility with a bribe.

And I see a some paper and

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book believed. A husband throws
down his pen and turning hood,
me his arms to the dearest wife in
the world and says, "I am tired of writ-
ing, Alice, darling, - come sit on my
knee and talk to me."

Do you not like the picture, oh
great hearted, pure souled wife of
mine? Do you not long for its
realization? I do - more than

I can tell you.

You say, can it be done in
June? Why not? I am working
hard to that end. I do not
want you to set in for another
year of school-teaching.

I do wonder what your sister
said when she got your letter.

Don't you tell me what sort of
answer she makes you. Pleasest,
I do believe that our love is sure
and real. I do not believe that

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it is a passing infatuation. My love for you is abiding and strong. It will last.

Don't you go through my book and suggest some things to read on the 11th - things you would like and that you think would please the audience.

I have decided not to recite any more this winter and to tempt me comes Mr. Waller to plead for his brother in Baltimore who wants me to come over and help his church along; but I am obstinate and Rev. O. M. goes away thinking I am a hard case. We have a disagreement too about Booker T. Do you know that he came near converting me in his Independent article that you saw before? A story which I was writing called "The Ordeal of Mr. Hope" also took the bit into its

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took and made the strongest plea
for Booker T. that has yet been
made to me. Think of one's charact-
ers to whom one has given the bone
of life having the impudence to
turn on one and attempt to as-
sault. Base ingratitude!

And now darling, I close again -
wish I could kiss you now. I
would hold your lips on mine
until you gasped.

Ever lovingly -

Your Husband,

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