JOHN GREEN
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BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA
90210

Tuesday, March 3, 1987
Enroute L.A./N.Y.
American Airlines - Flight 20

Lylisa, dear friend:-

Bonnie and I heard the devastating news about Danny between 4:30 and 5:00 this morning as we were starting our preparations for departure for the airport. We had not been aware of his latest return to the hospital.

As my secretary told your secretary, had this been a pleasure trip - or even an ASCAP Board trip - we would have cancelled, just to be available and at hand. However, I am involved in a major way, not only behind the camera, but as an on-camera performer in a big PBS Special that starts final rehearsals in New York tomorrow (Wednesday, March 4) and tapes on Wednesday, 3/11 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Only a professional commitment of this kind and importance could have kept Bonnie and me from being available for you at this so-difficult time.

Despite the still-mysterious - to us, estrangement-like separation of Danny from our lives for the last several years, ~~we~~ Bonnie and I have continued to think of him as a close, close friend whom we love dearly and admire enormously. Certainly, we have never laughed, or had more deliciously remembered times, with anyone to remotely compare with our literally glorious times with Danny and you for so many years.

As for me, I have never, for one moment, ceased to be grateful beyond expression, and to thank God, for Danny's devotion to and personal care of me when I was so ill in 1942. And the joy of the work that it was my privilege to do with Danny and you remains, to this day, ~~among~~ high among the significantly highest happinesses of my life and career. For my own outbursts of silly temperament and immature petulance on a couple of occasions during our work together, I am still ashamed and deeply apologetic. I pray that Danny has forgiven me, as I believe you have.

Danny's contributions to the joy-of-living for millions of people all over the world through the expression of his unique and varied talents were, of course, awesome in their magnificence. His special gifts for brightening dark corners in the lives of all of us who were privileged to be his friends were likewise unique. What he did for UNICEF, for the Symphony Orchestras and other humanitarian causes bespoke a man of true greatness who attained to heights of caring where it counted most. How he will be missed!

Sylvia dear, Bonnie and I profoundly sympathize with you and Dena. Beyond sympathy, we empathize, for very truly we share your sorrow. We are searching our souls as to how and why you and we ever lost the day-to-day closeness and contact that, for so very many years, were

part-and-parcel of our daily living. I shall spare you protestations of good intentions, and also attempts to explain or rationalize past behavior. But I will not spare you assurances of our love and devotion, which have never waned and are yours forever.

We will be back in Beverly Hills on March 20th*, ~~but~~ will, of course, have been in contact with you throughout our absence (to the extent that reaching you is possible).

Meanwhile, to you and Dena, re-expression of our profound sympathy.

To you, Sylvia dear, from Connie and me in equal measure, most affectionate embraces and ----

Much, much love—

Sam

* I have two concerts with the Virginia Symphony on March 14 & 15 and am committed to be in Washington, D.C. for ASCAP from March 16 thru a.m. of March 20.

P.S. If there is anything that my office can do to be of service in any way, please do not hesitate to call DONNIS at either 271-5504 or 276-3061. (Her home number is 818-780-4364.) She can reach us at any hour, the day or night.

SJ