

Le Bocage Vert

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Monday

Dear Thelma,

I enjoyed our delicious meal and happy afternoon together yesterday. The oyster dressing was the best I can remember. I applaud your effort; I relished the results! And I was pleased to see you looking well again.

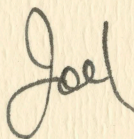
Your wise and heartfelt letter to M. Toole has been put in my file, waiting there to spring on posterity.

Giuliano appreciated your note and the mints. My mother loves the handkerchief and her Whitman's Sampler. We each chose two after lunch today, a very sweet ending to a mundane Monday meal....and we spoke with affection of you.

Thank you for your loving generosity.

Tomorrow it is off to Midland...an endless drive through barren land....just when you think you are about to drive off the edge of the earth: there it is. I look forward to getting back to my verdant, soggy Louisiana, and back to New Orleans to see you soon thereafter.

Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joel". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop on the "J" and a long tail on the "l".