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June 1, 1981

Mrs. Thelma Toole  
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mrs. Toole:

Because I was profoundly touched by the tragic circumstances of your sons death, I have long wished to express by feelings of respect for his novel, and to you, his fateful mother.

During the past year, I wrote a novel called IN DARK DESPAIR; unfortunately, I was given the exact same treatment by a corporate New York Liberary Agent called Scott Meredith. IN DARK DESPAIR is a tragic novel, and the result of my efforts and correspondence was a cruel and bitter rejectance, for Meredith, by his intrepretations of my novel, kept me on tenterhooks about it, Finally and ultimately he had revealed himself as a completely dishonest agent, but for me, I nearly lost my life, and due precisely to his games that he played over my tragic novel.

It was only lately that this man wrote me, in reference to my defence of your son, and his tragic fate, about both Gottlieb and Lawrence Kennedy Toole. In effect he identified with Gottlieb, and blamed Toole for his suicide. I thought it proper that you know this, since I feel that I face in a bitter way, the exact same fate that your son did.

I hope and wish that you will seek publication of your sons letters with Gottlieb, for in such an act, light and goodness for those who are in the same struggle as he, against the same people can come. I myself loved your sons book, and wonder how many more such tragedies exist, due to men like Gottlieb, and in my unhappy case, like Scott Meredith.

Sincerely,

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