

27th August, 1963.

Dear Mr. Mathews,

When I was in Cape Town towards the end of last year, it was my intention to get in touch with you. Unfortunately, due to the limitedness of my time, I was unable to see you.

I have followed your writing with great interest and I expect you may have heard by now that I am editing a new literary magazine in Johannesburg. Richard Rive whom I met in Cape Town and who has recently written to me from London, agreed with me that I should try and get a story or some other contribution from you for the second issue of "The Classic". This has become even more important, because like all other little magazines "The Classic" is permanently short of material.

Can you please send us a story within the next ten days? In case you have not seen "The Classic" yet, I am enclosing a copy of it herewith. I sincerely hope that you will not find it too disagreeable to be connected with. You will notice that in our prospectus we make it clear that "The Classic" is neither African, nor non-white. It is simply a literary magazine for writers. Richard Rive warned me that it is just possible that people in Cape Town might be misled into thinking, for one reason or another, that this is a sectional magazine. That is why I am giving you this assurance that it is not.

It may interest you to know that in the second issue of "The Classic" which is due out in September, we shall be announcing a short-story contest open to everybody. Our prizes will be £50, £30 and £15. I shall be most grateful if you persuade any of the writing people in Cape Town to send entries to this contest, apart from sending your own.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

NATHANIEL NAKASA.  
Editor.

12 Sondousteeg,  
Silvertown, Athlone,  
Cape.

17--10--63.

Dear Mr. Nakasa,

Could you tell me whether the September issue of  
"The Classic is out and is it sold through agents  
in the Cape? I have spread the news about the short  
story competition you intend running. Was my story in  
time for inclusion?

Sincerely,

James Macfarlane

22nd October, 1963.

Mr. James Matthews,  
12, Sondousteeg,  
Silvertown,  
ATHLONE.  
Cape Town.

Dear Mr. Matthews,

Your letter of the 17th October reached me yesterday.

I noticed to my horror that you say you sent me a story. Although I did ask you for a story I did not receive one from you. Could you please let me know if it was sent by registered post and when you posted it. I am desperately keen to see something from you.

It is heartening to hear that you have spread the news about "The Classic" short story competition. Yes, the second issue is now with the printer it should be out within a matter of days. Our distribution is handled by the C.N.A. in Cape Town as elsewhere in the country. I look forward to hearing from you about the whereabouts of your story.

Yours truly,

NATHANIEL NAKASA.  
Editor.

I2 Sondousteeg,

Silvertown, Ahtlone,

Cape,

I8--II--63.

Dear Mr. Nakasa,

I must say this is the first time that a story of mine has gone astray and have sent off quite a number to outside the country. I will try to find time to send you another copy of it. Do let me know when is the deadline for the third issue of 'The Classic'. I must say your second issue is taking a helluva long time to reach us at the Cape. I sincerely hope that 'The Classic' is not going to take the same route many a literary magazine has travelled with as few appearances possible. Also, do let me have more details of your short story competition.

Sincerely,

*James Matthews*

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