

Hello Sweet Darling;

Lay that Pistol down! Kamerad! Io [scratched out word] Captiulo! Vous avez raison! I yield! I will lay in a supply of the army's best condoms against my return and shall assign myself to waiting several weeks, although I still wish there were some other way. I just received a letter from you today laying down the law. So be it! I surrender dear. The only reason I was such a die hard was that I wanted our first night to be just as perfect as possible but you are right and it can only be the way you say I guess. I went down fighting though.

I do agree with you that we will have to be sure Michael does not put in a premature appearance because it would do a lot of harm to our scheme of things. Don't go worrying your little head about our having to scrimp and scrape to make ends meet Honey because I am sure we will be able to get along quite well and that we shall be able to support any children we have. All I ask is one thing and that is that you do not try to have me take a job I don't like [scratched out word] but which pays a small and steady salary, just because it is safe. I [scratched out word] know you would, not try to do this but I just thought I'd mention it. With the two of us putting our heads together, we shall be able to survive quite well. I just do not care particularly for being tied down to any such job as a desk job or a factory job. I just could not do it and if I ever did stay at such a job just for the sake of a small measure of security I would soon change, I just couldn't stand it. That is the thing which, more than any other, would come between us, if anything did. Life can be a lot of fun if you go out to get it and just enjoy it, even

2.

the harder time that are met. I don't know if I am very coherent in writing this because my mind just jumps from one thing to another. You see, Darling, I am quite a bit like your mother in some ways. Remember how she speaks of going to Alaska, and of taking that vacation and painting barns, etc. to pay for the vacation. Well, in a way she and I have a lot of things in common. She wants to feel that she is doing something and so do I. I feel that all of life is something like a frontier and that it challenges me to get a living from it and to wrest pleasure and happiness from it. It is a rather formidable opponent and does not yield easily, but in the combat a person can, if he wants, derive a maximum of satisfaction and happiness and make his way quite well. I want to fight for myself though and not as one of the drones who fight for a feudal lord (or employer if you will) who guarantees them a limited measure of security in exchange for their efforts. There are so many ways of making money for oneself that I am sure we shall never have to go without or to worry about poverty coming in the door and love going out the window. I don't intend either to have to work any harder than necessary to make a decent, and quite decent, living I want to have a lot of time for us to be together. I want to find some [scratched out word] way of earning our daily bread which will allow me to work at home, probably some work where we can work together, in art work, with you as critic and advisor. I just want us to be able to meet life together and to get every bit of pleasure and happiness from it as is possible. I guess I sounds as though my head were

3.

in the clouds. Maybe it is, but it is very nice up here and my feet are still on the ground. We may lead rather [scratched out word] a hectic life, but it will never be dull or routine Darling. When marriage settles down into the routine of a rut, the fun just isn't there any more. It is, and should always remain, a great adventure. Tell me if I have been able to state my case well will you Darling but keep in mind the one fact that if I ever got stuck in the rut of petty security, I would be a very unhappy man and I don't mind saying that it would be just like being imprisoned and having bars closing me in from the outside freedom. You do understand don't you Sweetheart? I am sure you do because I think you are very much like your mother in your ideas, and I know she would understand just what I mean, Darling, we can make of our life together whatever we want and I want to make it something grand, glorious, exciting and lovely. I want to get out of it everything that can be gotten from it and to just be drunk with living. Our children would never tie us down unless we forsook these ideals, they would be co-sharers of our happiness.

It makes me feel so good when I think of how nice [scratched out word] a time we shall have when we are married and are together. There are so many things we shall be able to do as long as we stay young and keep our love young always.

You and Sue really do get around in your nightly wanderings. Now you are almost picked up by some fellows in a car. It must have been mightly [sic] dark if they were trying to pick Sue up, and her in her

4.

[scratched out word] eighth month of pregnancy. You need me there to protect you from the wolves who are roaming around there. Just be very careful Honey and don't take any chances because I want you so very badly and need you so. You mean more than anything in the world to me and I want nothing to happen to you.

I am glad that you and Sue learned your lesson and that you now call May and Atchie before you visit them. At least that way you give them advance notice so you don't break anything up. When does Atchie think he'll be discharged? Or is he discharged already? He must have quite a few points because he has 24 for children alone. Is he planning on going to school after the war? Probably not since he and May now have two children.

Today's letter is the second I received in the last two days, one each day. That's nice. There [scratched out word] are two letters in between today's and yesterday's which I have not yet received. I hope they come in this afternoon. I've got to go to work now Honey but I'll be back to write more a little later.

Back again before you even realized I was gone. One of the fellows got a booklet advertising Western Michigan this afternoon. It was rather a large booklet covering all the counties in Western Michigan up to, but not including, the one you live in. They did not cover central Michigan. There are certainly plenty of resorts in Michigan. I was interested in one ad I saw which concerned the boat trip all through the Great Lakes, to Buffalo, then all

5.

The way back to Chicago then back to Detroit. It is a seven day trip in all and I think it would be very nice to take together. I didn't realize they covered so much territory on that trip. They did not quote prices on the trip but you can investigate Honey, and find out what the rates are. Don't you think it would be very nice to take such a trip?

We'll have to divide our whole vacation, before school starts, into three parts. The first part will be right after we are married. I would like that part to be spent recuperating and loving with no one else around. I just want to be alone with you for a couple of months taking life easy and getting off to a good start in our love life with no hurry or undue excitement. We could go to some dances and maybe play tennis, take long walks, draw, take (and probably develop and print) pictures. Nothing unduly strenuous or involving the meeting of other people Phase two will be one in which we can do a little traveling such as taking the boat trip I mentioned above, if we have a car, we could take a trip to New Hampshire, it would be a period where we could see something of the States, on a limited budget to be sure, but it would be very nice. That last period would be that before we go to school and we could go back to doing just what we were doing at the start of our vacation. Just recuperating and taking life easy.

The mail just came in and I got another letter from you, a nice long eight page letter, in which you touched upon the matter mentioned above, namely, our vacation. You made the suggestion that

6.

when [scratched out word] I got back, if it was in February, we could be married, then you could take a week off for our honeymoon, sick leave, and after that, I could start the spring term, go through the summer term at the end of which you would get your month's [sic] vacation and then I'd start the fall term and go through the whole year. The next summer you could take off, quitting your job and then we'd have the whole summer off. This idea has some good and bad features and I'll tell you what I think pro and con:

Con First

1. We would have a very short honeymoon to start off our married life.
2. I'd have a heck of a job getting clothes, registering for school, although I could do most of the registering now, and finding our apartment and getting the furnishings we would need.
3. It would be rather rough on us both to put in a full day of work and then exercise our [scratched out word] newly acquired marital privileges as much as we want to.
4. Procrastination is not a very good thing and we do definitely want to take a summer off to just enjoy ourselves.
5. It might be very rough on my studying if I went right into school without a vacation, especially in view of the fact that I shall also be experiencing something new in addition to the schooling, our love life as man and wife. Then there would be all the red tape attached to the GI Bill of Rights to straighten out.

Now the Pros

1. It would be nice that you wouldn't have to hunt up another job.
2. We would have enough money to have a

7.

Very nice summers' vacation in 1947.

3. We could probably also have enough money so that you wouldn't have to work while I take graduate work.
 4. I could get my degree by the end of the spring term in '47 instead of going into 1948 for my B.A., a very substantial saving of time.
 5. We would still have a whole month off in the summer of next year. You can get your month off at any time can't you?
 6. We would be able to spend the first part of our married life in our nice Cherrywood bed and we'd be able to get organized and get our apartment furnished and start housekeeping. If we did follow this course we'd have to find an apartment somewhere because they shan't have the school apartments ready.
-

These are the ideas I had concerning this set up. I'm still not sure just exactly what I think of it. It would be nice not to have you working while I take my graduate work because I shall take it in some school other than MSC and it would save your having to try to get a job in a strange city. Then too we would have a summer off after I finish school which would be very nice I could use a vacation before going into graduate work. I could probably get into the swing of my college work all right without a vacation and we would have a month next summer in which to take our boat trip and and [sic] to stay at the cottage. On the other hand I did plan on our honeymoon as a vacation to get over being in the army and to get our married life started. Do you think you

8.

could handle a job and a new, and very passionate husband at the same [scratched out word] time? That would be the biggest factor concerned because your health comes first. If you really want to do it this way Honey, it's all right with me. I just want to be sure that you'll be able to handle both the job and myself because, if there is a doubt in your mind, the problem will have to be settled in favor of me and to hell with the job. What do you say Honey? Whichever way it is you can be sure that we shall be the very happiest people in the world. Oh yes, in case you're afraid that if we put off our whole summer off next year we shall just forget about it the year after, you can hush your fears because I know damned well that, with even half an excuse, nothing could stop me from taking that time off. Any you my dear are considerably more than half an excuse for taking a summer off.

You asked me in this letter just what I intend to do with my training in art. Well, for a starter I may have to do a little teaching, if I can get started on regular work I may be able to get away from this, or just allow my teaching to supplement my outside work till I really get a good start. What I would like to do eventually is design. Designing toys, illustrations, cards, doing handicrafts work, maybe a little photography and graphic art thrown in. It sounds like a hodge podge I know but there is definitely a market for the stuff I mentioned if it can be crashed, and I feel that I can crash it all right. If you make a thing exclusive, someone

9.

will always buy it. I shall undoubtedly have to do some teaching until I get my start, but once I get going and get a market for my stuff it will be a kind of work where I shall be able to work

right at home. We may never become wealthy at this kind of work but we will be able to make our way quite well. I want to get a place away from cities, It could probably be near where I [scratched out word] taught (I'm speaking now of the time when I am a going concern) and we could have a small farm, maybe even a little larger one if we get a hired man, because I don't think I'd care to do the actual farm work too well. There are so many possibilities that could be worked out to supplement this scheme of life. We might even be able to branch out a little into other enterprises to help supplement our income. This could be cabins to be rented during the summer, or innumerable other old Yankee schemes for reaping in a little money. I just want to make enough so we can get the things we want and so that we shall be able to educate our children. Between the two of us we should certainly have more than enough brains to enable us to live by our wits. I have also had in mind for a long time doing a series of illustrated children's classics. Taking some of the old classics and illustrating them quite completely with plenty of color. It would be fun and I think there would be a good market for that. You could even try your hand at writing some, we could collaborate on the story and the illustrations. I think you told me once that you thought you'd like to write a child's story. I tell you Darling, that we

10.

will be able to make a living and a fairly good one even if we have to incorporate our [scratched out word] business and sell [scratched out words] our work ourselves. I think I could also be able to rake in a little money on cartoons at the same time. This is a kind of work I would like very much. It would be very interesting and we could work at it together and be together all the time. And we can have that cow you have told me you want very much. It will be an ideal arrangement. I have never told this idea of mine to anyone because even I will admit that it sounds like a screwball idea for a career but there isn't a reason in the world why it shouldn't work well. I have a lot of faith in my ability, particularly when you are in there believing in me. That's all I need Honey, your trust and cooperation and we can [scratched out word] lick the world and have an awful lot of fun together while doing it.

I hope Pop Robson [scratched out word] will be able to get the plumbing to put into the cabin this fall because if we use it for our vacation we will need plumbing and a little pot under the bed would be entirely inadequate. I like a shower and think we could get along perfectly well without a tub on our vacation but in our home I want to have both a shower and a tub. Don't forget Darling that you'll have to wash my back. That's one of the duties you assume when we exchange vows at the altar. I'll reciprocate and wash yours – in fact I doubt very much if, once I got started, I would stop at just washing your back.

Look here young lady, just who do you mean by asking me if I am all male? Don't deny it. You

11.

were speaking of the "it" that the nurse told you they had at the hospital. That certainly was a queer situation I wonder how they ever found out that "it" had dual sexual characteristics if the outer organs were male organs. The poor thing must be an awful jumble with both sets of sexual organs removed. Just what did they leave by way of urinary facilities if they removed the male organs. Maybe they just removed the testicles, if there were any, and did not remove the penis.

But then the question arises of just what they had intended to do about a vagina if they had decided to leave it a female. It sounds to me as if some doctor just made the most of an opportunity to do a little experimenting which resulted in a neutral gendered character. At least "it" will have no sex problems at all. Sometimes I think that maybe it would have been better for my present state of mind if I were of a slightly more neutral gender because Darling I have a sex problem. You need never fear about my not being completely male for I am as much and as thoroughly male as you are female. This desire I have is continually with me and makes life without you truly a hell. I'm glad you think I appear to be all male. You would think so even more strongly if you could see the wonderful erection which is with me every morning. A wonderful erection and never any place to put it. I long for the day when I shall awake in the morning in a like condition and shall have but to turn to you and plant it firmly between your waiting thighs. According to our booklet I am not the only one who is supposed to

12.

have erections though because they claim that there is a comparable erection in the clitoris when the female is sexually excited (the female in this case is you). To tell you the truth though Honey, I have slight doubts because as far as I have been able to find out your clitoris is in no way comparable to a penis since it seems to be merely a small flap of skin resembling the foreskin on the penis but having nothing inside. I may have formed this opinion from incomplete observation, this is quite possible. If so, correct me, but I'll bet you don't know as much about yourself as I do. In my case, a so called wet dream comes along to cause an involuntary orgasm during sleep every once [scratched out word] in a while and this help relieve the tension for a very short time. I never heard tell of it so I don't imagine that a woman has anything comparable to that does she Honey. It is a pretty good safety valve in a man if he does abstain from sampling the local flesh. That I am doing and shall continue to do so. All I want is you and I'll wait even if I burst before then. Speaking of sex, my mind is thoroughly fixed on this subject, have you tried exercising the muscles of your vagina yet Darling? Remember that this is quite an integral part of the sex act and that, the more highly developed is your [scratched out word] control, the more pleasure we can both get. You can develop great muscular control there too but you have to keep at it. It gives me the shivers just to think of it Darling. It will be so very nice when I can really make you my wife. We belong right in each others [sic] arms each part of the other in a perfect embrace. You were just made to be my wife Honey, you're perfect. I am [scratched out word] quite sure I would not care

13.

very much for positions such as number 11 in the book. I want you in my arms with your lips on mine. Of course there may be [scratched out word] virtues in such positions which are not apparent, one never knows until one tries and it is the trying which I am anxious for.

Speaking of the form divine Sweetheart, I saw pictures of some French bathing suits which were really dillies. They consisted merely of G-strings and enough gauze to cover the nipples of the breasts. All else was bare. Large expanses of bare flesh. Many of them were not too sharp looking. The women in these suits were sun addicts. I still think the best idea would be for us to prepare a nice little private nook near the cottage where we can sun ourselves unencumbered by clothing and can get nice even tans. That way there shan't be any strap marks

or white areas of any kind. You may have white spaces on your body in the form of hands. I could fix it so there'd be a regular pattern of white hands on your tanned form. It would be very hard for me to keep hands off the promised land when you are in close proximity. Not only very hard but impossible. Every time I am with you my hands insist on wandering and exploring. It is something uncontrollable. You'll just have to learn to do the same in self defense. You had started on that track before I last saw you. A lot of women object to handling the male organs as our booklet explains but I am glad to see that you are not hindered by such ideas. Inhibitions of this sort prevent people from enjoying the sex act as much as they could, a throwback to the old attitude that sex is rather a shameful thing. It is anything but.

14.

Well Darling, I shall have to end this, my longest of recent letters because it is time for bed. I shall say goodnight now, [scratched out word] give you a great big hug and kiss and tell you that

I love you with all my heart and soul

Freddie