

Wednesday 12 September 45

[11]

Hq 14th AA Command

APO 75, Frisco

Sweetheart;

No mail today. I thought that the letter I received yesterday presaged a flow of mail from you but I guess I was wrong and that the postal service is going to make me wait a while longer. I think I have just received letters from you twice in the past week, and the last letter took eleven or twelve days to get to me. That ain't very good is it Honey? They should give us better service than that.

You should have received that booklet I copied from Ludwig's Advice to Mortals – after all you and I are mortals, and damned glad of it too because mortals have even more fun than rabbits and if you don't believe me you just wait and you'll find out because, whether you do or not, I [scratched out word] think that little booklet contains ideas which are very worthwhile and which are an opening wedge that can and shall be used to pry open the door of happiness for us if it needed any prying which I doubt because I am sure that we should have discovered all the secrets mentioned in the book anyway and It would merely have been a matter of trying and trying while this way we can have something to go by which will simplify things considerably for us and make our preliminary experiments much more pleasurable and thrilling, and wont it be wonderful Darling to be doing all the things which now we can only read and dream about and you are digesting the contents of that thoroughly aren't [sic] you so you can give [scratched out word] me your views and criticisms of it as I'm very anxious to get them as I love you more than anything in the world, and isn't this a hell of a long sentence?

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I just got back from visiting Paul Katona in town. We tried to get in the show but got there just too late, there was standing room only. The picture was "Casablanca". I have already seen it but wouldn't have minded seeing it again. We went to a coffee shop instead and has another long chat. Paul has a new job. He got out of the Adjutant general's office and got into the Judge Advocate General's office where he is helping some Filipino lawyers to codify the Phillippine laws. He likes the work very much. He is very bitter about the way the Army seems to be trying to delay the release of soldiers. He, as well as myself, is anxious to get back to the States.

It's time for lights out Darling so I shall leave you now. Goodnight Sweet Darling.

Thursday –

Here it is Thursday evening and I have just showered, shaved, and generally prettied myself up. I'll bet you noticed the difference right away. You are very perceptive in such [scratched out word] matters. In case you find this letter to be scented, you will know that it is because some of the after shave lotion I used got on the paper. Do you like it? I don't think the odor would last too long so it will be all gone by the time you get the letter.

This is symphony evening when I go into town to pick up Gene Goldfader, Ryan, and (if he gets into town) Mac, to go to the symphony. I don't think Mac will show up but I hope he does so I can get

things straight about that three day pass. I put in for it this morning and think I will get it all right. I asked that it start Monday. If it does I'll also have Sunday off so it will really be four days. I'll be able to get a

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lot of sketching done and can work out my Christmas cards. I can also get in some swimming and sun tanning. It will be a very nice life, just like being a civilian for a short while. I'll be able to do what I want when I want to. A preview of freedom. It needs you though, because, without you, nothing has any substance. You are all the reality in my life, everything that counts.

This afternoon being my afternoon off I decided to go into town and try to track down the Engineer Supply Depot which controls the paper supply. I was quite unsuccessful however, and discovered that, to find anything in this town, one needs a jeep and a goodly supply of gasoline. I could have found it but it meant trudging all over town and I felt in no mood for that.

I did manage to get something for us though and I'll send it along to you posthaste [sic]. It is a luncheon set of the kind I described to you once. I don't know if you know what Bagnio cloth is, but this is what it is made of. I think it will [scratched out word] wear quite well. The pattern I selected was quite colorful [scratched out word] and I think it will look very nice for use in summertime particularly. There are thirteen pieces in it. One runner, six napkins, and six doilies. It is hand woven by the Igorots [sic] of the northern part of this island. I like it and think it will look good. I hope you like it also. This means that I'll have to put off buying the jewelry I told you about in my last letter because this purchase today left my fund rather depleted. I paid 40 pesos for it but feel

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that this is not bad because I have seen very few of these sets around lately and the few I have seen were not too nice. They cost 60 pesos down town, but I went out to the outskirts of town and got the set for 40 pesos.

During my shopping tour I had some fun in the Chinese shops. I went into several of them and tried my bargaining. It works wonderfully and I found that anything they sell can be bought for about 75% of the original figure they quote. That is about as low and they will go and this cut rate is accompanied by some of the most anguished expressions you ever would want to see; it is as if you were taking a part of them. This bargaining is fun.

The shop at which I made my purchase is a very nice little place run by a German woman who was quite pleasant to speak with. She did not go in for the regular souvenir trade with Manila and Philippines embroidered on everything, instead she just sold the regular products of Chinese and Filipino craftsmen. Her prices were very reasonable. A Filipino woman, a saleswoman and seamstress combined, waited on me when I made my purchase. I had some fun with her when she was showing me the stuff because she was very earnest about making the sale. I asked her about the quality and durability of the cloth and she immediately started telling me how some samples of Bagnio products had been in use in her family for years and years – "ever since I was a little girl we used the same things," and she must have been about thirty five. She was very pleasant. [scratched out word] I did buy one finally. The other designs were also quite nice but the one I got seems very cool and appropriate for a summer table, and I do love its bright color.

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Back from the symphony. It has been rather a moist evening. It started to rain just as I got into town and didn't let up again until after I got back to the barracks. I didn't get too very wet though. Gene and Ryan were there but Mac didn't show up. I didn't think he would because the weather became threatening early in the afternoon. I wish he had come in so I could make arrangements to spend my three day pass there. I will anyway, but now I'll have to do it without previous arrangement. They'll have to feed me and give me a place to sleep anyway. Gene and Ryan are going up Saturday night and will stay there over the week end. I'll undoubtedly get another burn. I should tan quite well now because my last Sunday's burn has started to peel a little on the shoulders. I feel like a snake shedding its skin.

I received a letter from you in this evening's mail and it was one which gave me the idea that you want and need me every bit as much as I want and need you. I think you know just exactly how I feel now Honey. It seems that, if I don't have you soon, I shall just burst. It is the worst feeling I have ever had and one which can never be gotten rid [scratched out word] of until I have you in my arms and make you my wife. You had better have an awful lot of will power in matters such as these when I return because I [scratched out word] don't think I shall be in any mood to desist at all in my efforts to consummate this union as soon as I return. I assure you that I do not intend to just ruin you and then refuse to marry you, but, if I'm going to have to wait a month or more before we go through [scratched out word] with the ceremony, and you want to wait until then, you are going to have to talk very fast or have a chastity belt welded on. We should be married now so that we could just walk right into one another's arms just as we should. I just couldn't feel any more like your husband than I do now because that is just

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what I consider myself to be. You are so very desirable Darling. A perfect beauty in every respect. I shall do my best to rid you of that cold and empty feeling you complained of. I have the very same feeling of emptiness and coldness, and emptiness which will be filled by the warm closeness of your body against mine, [scratched out word] held there very tightly by my arms, your arms around me, and your lips pressed close to mine, relaxing only to tell me how you love me and allowing me to tell you the same. I want to tell you how very much I love you over and over all my life because that is the only way I could ever begin to let you know how great my love really is. My every moment is going to be spent making you a happier woman than you were the moment before. I know that you shall make me the happiest man in the world, being your husband would make me that.

Last night I heard a joke which was a new one to me. It seems that the newly wedded couple were finally before the hotel at which they intended to stay so the groom turned to the bride and asked, "Shall we get the bridal suite?" The bride looked up at him and said, "We won't really need one Darling, I can just hold your ears when I start coming".

Say my lovely little dove, just what shall we do about our honeymoon if I return in the winter months? That is [scratched out word] one thing which we did not take into consideration. We have figured on my getting home in the spring or summer but just suppose I got home in January or February instead – just suppose I said – what would we do then? We could spend a couple of weeks in some large city such as Chicago, Boston or New York and just get ourselves a nice hotel room. The only trouble with

that is that for the first part of our honeymoon I don't even want to see another person. I just want to be alone with you

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making you my wife very thoroughly and completely, and if [scratched out word] we went to a large city, and did spend all our [scratched out word] time right in our room, we might just as well have gone to some small out of the way place. Is there any provision for heating [scratched out word] your cabin or is that just a summer affair. After the first few weeks, or months of our exile we could go to one of the cities and take on some stage shows, night spots, and generally do the town. I do definitely think I'd only want you around during the early part of our honeymoon. I want no crowds or other people anywhere around. I have gotten thoroughly sick and tired of people in the army. You are with them all day in the barracks, at the office, at meals, and everywhere. I almost hate all people, honest. It will take a little time and you to help restore me to [scratched out word] a frame of mind where I can accept other people again. Even if we did go someplace where it would be quite cold we could keep warm very nicely by staying in bed. That would serve as a good excuse (as if we needed any) for remaining in bed, for that is where we shall be during this readjustment period of mine.

If you have gotten over that last joke, I have another to tell which I heard a long time ago and which came back to mind when I saw my copy of Shakespeare just now. It concerns a great party planner who decided to have a "Shakespeare party at which everyone was to appear in a costume [scratched out word] symbolizing one or the other of Shakespeare's plays or the characters therein. All went well and Romeo + Juliets, King Lear and Macbeths, and all the other were there when in walked four fellows in evening clothes with sandwich boards on. Each sandwich board had just one word on it. [scratched out word] The four words these four men bore were, "hard, soft, wet + cold."

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The hostess, very indignantly, came over and demanded to know just what they were supposed to represent. The spokesman for the four stepped forward and gave this explanation: "We four, madam, represent four of Shakespeare's plays. Hard stand for "AS YOU LIKE IT", soft for 'TWELFTH NIGHT', wet is for "MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, and cold for "WINTER'S TALE." (Harry, to whom I just told this joke tells me that, instead of cold, "the word should have been "dry", it stands for the play "Much Ado About Nothing") I guess it is OK either way. Now don't you tell me that you've heard it already. If I do get back in winter, our selection would undoubtedly be "cold", and definitely, "As You Like It".

Darling, I have to leave you now. I love you more than anything in the world my beautiful Darling and I am

Yours Forever

Freddie