

Friday, January 12, 1945

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Good Morning My Little Darling;

You look so very sweet and elfin so early in the morning with your eyes half full of sleep. I think you have a very special sort of beauty at this time, different from other times. You are so very beautiful that only a person who loves you as I do would notice these very subtle changes in you, especially since I am quite narrow minded as far as letting anyone see you just as you awaken. That is a privilege I want reserved for just myself so I can kiss the sleepiness right out of your eyes. Do you remember how, on those Sunday mornings after [scratched out word] we had sat up till about 2:00 AM or later that same morning. I would just sleep and let you get up first and you'd come in and wake me? I've a confession to make. I really had always been awake quite a while and just stayed there, with my eyes closed, resting so you'd have to come in to wake me. Then the first thing I'd see when I opened my eyes would be you, and the first thing that would happen to me would be receiving a kiss from you. I know that duplicity like this should not be rewarded but I just couldn't help it Honey, and in my case it was very liberally rewarded, as liberal a reward as I can imagine but for one. If you feel that you were cheated out of those kisses under false pretenses I'll return every one of them tenfold when I'm with you again.

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I've been looking at your new picture – the Wolverine one – sine I got up this morning and I can see where your mother might be justified in saying that you look a slight bit like a little chocolate colored pickaninny [sic] girl but I'm not letting that prejudice me a bit. You don't suppose there's something that you don't know about and that way back in the family history there was a dusty skeleton in your family closet? I'd better check up on that. It wouldn't influence my opinion of you a bit though. I love you Sweet Darling. You're just perfect for me just as you are.

At noon.

Since my buck slip did not come through, I had to go out on training. It wasn't too bad this morning though, we just had to sit through a couple of very boring lectures on the same things I've had drummed into me a million and one times before. I'm sure I could give the lectures now.

So you can type 46 words a minute can you. Well don't forget that my last test showed 27 words per minute with only one error. That's after only a few weeks too and I'm sure I'll improve. I knew that the only thing my studying typing would mean to you is that you wouldn't have to type my term papers and reports for me. Bunny Robson, you're lazy!!! Aren't you ashamed of you? – No? – Don't you think you should be? – What, you say "no" again? I'm certainly very surprised. You mustn't know that the only reason I was marrying you, practically, was so that you could do my typing. Of course there are

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many other reasons for marrying you as you will find out, soon I hope. The main one is because I love you so and just cannot get along without you.

Just who told your fortune anyway? Whoever was it didn't know his or her stuff too well although upon analyzing them I find that some of the statements made sound true. You will have a long

career – as my wife, and your life will be short – if our lives together lasted a hundred years they would still be considered too short by me. You will be married once, forget the “maybe twice” part that’s out. You will have four children, two boys and two girls and will have the best of medical care so you won’t have to worry Darling. Leave the worrying to me, I’m sure I’ll do more than enough for the two of us. You will have two love affairs – the first one you’ve already had with me as a soldier, at least in uniform, and not able to be with you all the time – the second will be with me as a civilian and your husband. I didn’t know about that mean streak before though but I’m glad I found out. I’m quite sure you’ll be too busy being made love to to ever have time to be mean with me. If this streak did manifest itself sometime, I could always turn you over my knee and get rid of it that way. Did I ever tell you that I beat my wives. Honest! At least once a week and on even weeks oftener. It helps keep them in line and nips any mean streaks right in the bud.

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Thank you very much for including the talcum powder in my package Honey. My prickly heat has just about gone for the time being though thank god. I used the g.i. all purpose and all curative foot powder on my back and arms to get rid of it. I can always use the talc though to keep my feet and other regions of my torso dry.

It was indeed a good idea of mine to want to plan things so that you won’t have to work at all in my last year of school. I want to come home from classes to find you there waiting for me. You can have all the work done and have a nice meal all ready for me. You will undoubtedly have opened all my letters and can tell me what was in them as we eat. That way we’ll save some precious time for one another. I do want to have a nice home to return to everyday though and that wouldn’t be too possible if you worked all day would it?

Too bad that man couldn’t get the lumber for your chest – I mean the chest your father was going to have made for you – what I really mean is the box variety of chest. [scratched out word] Your own is in no need of revision. It is fine just as is. Whew! Wheel!! Ain’t she sweet? The chest done in plain cherry would probably better since all the bedroom furniture will be done in the same [scratched out word] way. It would be slightly incongruous to have a painted chest amid all that other furniture. We could probably finish off the girl’s room in Pennsylvania Dutch and have

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chest in there.

Your grandmother is very nice to offer you her best chinaware. We could certainly use it and would have plenty if we have service for twelve. We could even afford to break one or two pieces occasionally. Of course I was only fooling Darling. Have I ever broken a dish while I wiped the dishes at your house? I haven’t have I? I hope. Why don’t you send me a sketch to show what the china looks like? You haven’t inserted a sketch in your letters for quite a while. They were getting very good too, so let’s see you continue the good work.

If, by any luck of chance, this war would last so long that before it was finished I returned home on furlough, you can rest assured that we would be married, no matter how short time we had to spend together. I just couldn’t stand being with you and not being married to you. It would be a physical impossibility. I am going to marry you at the very soonest date that we are together long enough to go

down and get a license and if that day comes before the war is over that is when the event will take place. I don't see how you could even suggest that I should spend any time at all with you and not marry you right away. Banish all those thoughts for good.

You know you little vixen, I think you really like the nickname of Bunny very much because of the way you sign an occasional letter that way as if you're hinting to me that it'd

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be a good idea for me to use that name. After thinking it over I've come to the conclusion that it is a very good nickname for you and whoever started it knew his stuff. You're small, soft, pink, and cuddly just like a bunny, and you have a way of wrinkling up your nose that also reminds me of your namesake. Yes, I think I like that as a nickname for you. I have to go to mail call now but will be right back, don't go away.

It seems that was a false alarm so here I am back with you again Sweet. I'm glad you enjoyed the map of New Guinea which I sent you. I thought it was quite clever. So now you know what I mean when I speak of the native women's embonpoint – the pendulous belles of the South Sea Isles. The verse which this seemed to call to your mind, the one about how the native some of Texas was begotten, was quite amusing. I'm going to save it to hush up some of these Texans I run into around here. It should shut them up effectively.

Don't you think that the word "Arriven" [sic] is all right. If you have any fault to find with it may I refer you to the Maurice abridged "Revision of the English Language To Suit everyday Needs". It is a time giving the English language a new lease on life by replacing antedated words with more zippy ones. You agree, I am sure, that the word "arriven" [sic] conveys the idea very well and the idea is what counts you know.

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Thank Mrs. Osgood for her sketch of Boots. It was cute. I think you're a better artist though, honest Honey. I'm glad that you and others like and enjoy my sketches because I enjoy doing them to send to you. We should have quite a scrapbook by the time I return although I'd settle for a small one if I could get home sooner. I'm glad your father likes them because I know that he is usually unenthusiastic about things like that just as my father is. I'll keep on sending them and should be able to do quite a few when I work nights. I'll have all day off the sketch, design houses, and write to you. This should keep me quite busy while my job lasts.

As I told you in yesterday's letter, I liked the Christmas cards you sent me very much. Are they the ones you intend to frame for Michael's room? They would be very nice put in a frame with a wide mat around the picture. [sketch of frame]

If you only work half a day when I first start school and don't work the last year I'm at school we should be able to keep a dog all right. Have you decided what knid [sic] you like; and it had better be a coker [sic] spaniel, preferably black? Of course you realize that you'll be morally responsible for the animal since you'll be with it most of the time. We'd better get one that's just only enough so he's [scratched out word] housebroken because it's quite a job if you get them when they're too young.

Before I forget it I meant to tell you

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that you'll have to lay off the sweets because your chin is breaking out again. As soon as I leave you you start right in and try to spoil your beauty. Let's just stop this stuff Darling. If you must eat sweets though, do it while I'm over here just stop before I return so you won't look as if you had measles on your chin. I'll promise to stop taking my atabrine just before I got home so I'll arrive home looking fairly white instead of high yellow.

I went to the show with Ludwig and Hoppy tonight. We saw the picture "Crime By Night" a fairly interesting whodunit story. While there Ludwig dragged out a manuscript designed to make the reader a lover par excellence. It is a rehash job of Havelock Ellis' work combined with other authorities pearls of wisdom on the subject of how to live happily when married, not that we wouldn't live happily when married, not that we would live happily anyway, but I may pick up a pointer or two in the reading. I'll make notes to save as reference for my return to you. I'll need them then Sweetheart, or rather I'll be able to put these hints to good use. If only thing were the first night of our married life I'd be perfectly happy. That day is the one date which I am looking forward to more than anything in the world.

I love you my darling.

Freddie