

No. 74.

11342 Church Street  
Chicago 43, Illinois  
September 7, 1948

My darling little Sweetheart,

You know, Honey, we must be a couple of dopes - you a little dope and I a big dope. We are all the time worrying that we don't love each other. Are all the people in love as crazy as we? First I don't get a letter from you and I worry that you are out having a good time with some other fellow and too busy to write. Then I get mad and refuse to write you. Then you don't hear from me and worry that I no longer love you. And all the time both of us are deeply in love and longing to hear from each other. Well, Darling, to show you that I do love, I'm going to try to make up for those letters I failed to **send**. I already mailed one today and here I am writing another. Tonight I'll write another. Now do you believe that I AM in love with little Dodo?

Sweetheart, I don't want you to worry about that poem I wrote. I understand how you felt when you threw it away. I hate to say that I will forgive you because I am not sure there is anything to be forgiven. But if it is forgiveness you want, you know that even before you asked for it, I had already forgiven you. How can I do otherwise to the little girl I love? Yes, and I realize that you were very young in China. Already I was a man and you were still a kid. And besides, when a fellow sees as much combat as I saw, he is even older than his years. Out at school we have an ex-marine chaplain. Differing

from most marine chaplains, he is a fine man of God. His name is Chaplain Willard. He is a fine gentleman and a famous author. Anyway, Chaplain Willard and I became good friends. Quite often we would talk over old times in the Marine Corps. Then one day just a few months ago he put his hand on my shoulder and said, "Bernie, you're looking fine; infact you seem to be getting younger every day." So, Darling, even I am getting to be more of a kid each day. As time passes and I am able to forget the Japs, I feel a whole lot better. Yet, Darling, I am sure that you were in love with me in China. But you were a child and did not know your own mind. You loved popularity and you disliked being tied down to one man. I was ready to settle down and expected you to do the same. But as a child, you wanted to have a good time. Then H. came along and you imagined that you liked him. Right then I made a mistake. I tried to keep you and H. apart. I knew that I was deeply in love with you and was so sure you were ~~for~~<sup>with</sup> me. Just as sure as I was that the Lord lead me in Youth for Christ work, so was I sure that we were to be one. Yet I was not willing to let you "grow up." The more I tried to keep you and H. apart, the more you imagined you were in love with him. They always say that a cow likes the grass on the other side of the fense better. Now, Darling, I don't mean to infer that you are a cow, ~~but~~ you understand. That's just how people are. Always they want what they don't have. And kids are less stable than older people as a rule. Darling, let me tell you something: if I had not realized that you were a child all the time, I am sure I would have not returned. Usually even if a girl refuses me one date (and with good reason), I don't ask for another. That's just the way I am. Jeanne told me that she loved me, but got me mad. She has been trying to get a date ever since. Something inside of me

74 - 3.

will not let me go back to Jeanne. But with you, Sweetheart, I knew that I was deeply in love with you and I knew that above anything else I wanted you. And because I was sure you did love me all the time and were too much a kid to know what you had done, I was willing to take you back. I wish you had kept our poem, but someday I'll write a better one. Instead of "Will you accept my life and love, My valentine to be," I'll write, "Will you accept my life and love, My darling WIFE to be." How will you like that.

Did you ever wonder why you threw away the poem? Most girls would have kept it anyway. Even I have different notes from girls that I have kept. The other day I ran across such a note that a girl in our church sent me. At the time it was written, I was dating a very charming girl near where I live. Her uncle was our choir director. She was very pretty and a cheer leader. This gal at church always kind of had a crush on me and I never could see taking her out. Guess she got kind of jealous, seeing me out with Mary Lou. So, she sent a note. It read, "Mary Lou is a cute kid, but isn't she a little too young for you?" Actually Mary Lou was no more than two or three years younger than I. But I kept the note because it kind of made me laugh. And I have shown it to some of my friends for a laugh. Girls, more than fellow keep such notes. They enjoy reading them, seeing how popular they are and showing others how popular they are. In other words, it would have been the natural thing for you to keep that note. But you ask, "why did I throw it away?" Let me ask you, when you read it, didn't it make you feel a little funny inside and want to destroy it? In other words, it bothered you to keep it. What bothered you? I believe you were deeply in love with me and wanted to kill that love. And everytime you read the poem, it kind of stirred up that love again. You didn't realize that it was love; but if you think of it now, I am sure you will

agree with me. Whenever you read the poem, your conscience bothered you because you realized that you were doing something that you knew your heart was telling you not to do. Doris, it is wonderful that the Lord finally has brought us together. Despity yourself, He has caused you to ~~break~~ up with the one you thought you loved and return to the one you have loved all along. And despite all the fine girls I have been out with, it is wonderful that the Lord has kept my heart from loving them and has ~~kept~~ in me the hope that He would bring about the union of yours and my hearts.

Sweetheart, it is so important for you to come to the States. I do need you so. Even the Bible says that it is not good for a man to be alone. And Adam didn't have any other girls to fall for. I need you both for physical and spiritual fellowship. I never have laid with any girl; but I only am human and such an opportunity may be too much for me. Darling, you can take away the danger of my doing anything wrong and you know how you can do this. And then I need your encouragement. I cannot tell you what you should do when you get to the States. But, Sweetheart, let's take only one step at a time. When you get here, we'll know what to do next *(Concerning employment)*.

You say that you long for love; well, so do I. Darling, there is one I love. But if that one don't come to me, I might be forced to seek companionship in another. And when one goes out with another, one never can tell how often they will go out. They say out of sight is out of mind, and there is a certain amount of truth in it. Shirley Anderson is a swell girl - very beautiful and rather wealthy. Besides this they are old friends of the family. Shirley has been treating me very nice lately and so has her mother. This can mean only one thing. I used to like Shirley long before I knew you and who knows, perhaps that love can be revived. Darling, I am not trying to scare you.

I believe you love me without being scared. I am only telling you a condition that exists. Darling, the only way for us to be sure of the other in marriage is to get married.

You must ask your mother for advice and I must ask your father for your hand. But neither of us any longer are children. We must not be tied to our parents apron strings. We are adults and must think for ourselves. More than anything I dislike young people who depend too much of their folks. For myself, I love my parents and often go to them for advice. But they know that I don't necessarily accept what they say. Certainly I consider what they tell me; they are older and much wiser than I. But I am responsible to God and to myself and not to them. So, Doris, you must decide whether you are to marry me yourself and must not ask you parents if you will marry me. I am sure you will say "yes." And when you do, I'll write you an "official" proposal and I'll write your parents too.

'Nuff for now. Darling, I'm waiting every day for the answer to a couple of letters I sent. For your sake and for my sake, I hope the answer is in the positive.

Sincerely,

XXXXXX  
XXXXXO your own  
Bernie

