

11342 Church Street
Chicago 43, Illinois
September 10, 1948

Dear Mrs. Holmquist,

Darling, Darling, this afternoon I received two letters from you, one answering number 70 and the other answering number 72. I have been waiting for the mail-man all day and when he did come, I "flew" onto the front porch and picked up your letters.

I am glad that you have considered the question prayerfully, Sweetheart. It was prayerfully that I asked you if you would become my darling wife. It seems strange, and yet it is not strange at all, that the Lord seems to have lead both of us the same way. I was lead to believe - to be so sure - that you were to discontinue training and come to America and become my wife. And now after much prayer, the Lord apparently has lead you to do the thing you originally did not want to do - to discontinue training in Sweden. Darling, I am sure you should come to the States as soon as possible. I don't know why I feel that way; but I do. Maybe it will not be possible for you to come later on. Many scholars expect war with Russia very soon and conditions do look real bad in Berlin. If war comes, I am sure we never will come together. Even before you knew it, you would be a Russian. Darling, somehow I feel that you must try to come to America immediately.

I am sure that you can remain in America longer than three months on a visit. Something happened the other day that I kind of wondered *abou*

Last week I took Mother to the doctor. While I was waiting for her, I went into a drug store. In fact, I went into the drug store to call a number of hospitals concerning your transferring training. While I was looking in the telephone directory two women came to where I was standing and started talking. One of the women was about thirty. It is not often that one sees such a young woman speaking Swedish in America unless she is a Swedish citizen. Quite often one hears an older person talking Swedish, but never a younger one. Of course I spoke up and asked her if she was visitation from Sweden. It so happened that she was, and, as a matter of fact, was from Stockholm. She was seeking a job in Chicago because she was not allowed to take much money out of Sweden. I asked her how long she was visiting and she said for a whole year. I helped her look-up some Swedish restaurants, but thought little more of it. However, later I kind of wondered if there was a purpose of my meeting her. Now I am almost sure the Lord lead me to her. She was able to visit here for a year and so why can't you? I'll tell you what I'm going to do. The first chance I get next week, I'm going to the Swedish and American Consuls (Councils) and ask all the questions I can, and see how soon we can get you into the States. Maybe you can file immigration papers immediately, then come for a visit. Or maybe you can get here sooner if you come as a student. And if you do come as a student, your friends in Sweden will think nothing of your coming before Roy. It is easy to go to school and work too, so as to pay expenses. Many fellows and girls do it. Then even if we don't marry (and I KNOW we shall), you can be in the States until your papers are complete.

Darling, here is what I want you to do. Immediately apply for immigration. And as for now, do nothing more. I'll try to get all the information necessary; then I'll tell you what to do. As

soon as I see the Council, I'll give you further instructions.

Sweetheart, I want to call you on the telephone and personally ask you to marry me. Somehow, I am sure you will say "yes" to me. I don't know why I should be so sure; perhaps its for the same reason I'm sure it is the Lord's will you should be mine. Darling, you have promised to be "true" to me until you can get to the States. You can't imagine how I appreciate this. I love you so. You also said that we should be engaged for awhile before we get married. I agree with you. So, Darling, why not get engaged right now? Really, this would be the most sensible thing we could do. We don't know how the Lord will lead in the weeks and months ahead of us. But when the Lord works, He often works fast. Maybe the only way for you to get to the States will be for the purpose of marrying me. Maybe this is the Lord's way for you to come. I don't know and neither do you. If so, I'd certainly like to be engaged for longer than two or three months. If we become engaged right now, and if the Lord brings us together and makes it necessary for us to marry real soon after you arrive in the States, it will not look so bad. You have agreed to be faithful anyway; so why not become engaged. It is the only sensible thing to do, Sweetheart, It would have been nice if we could have gone steady for a long time and then been engaged for a long time. That is what young people do in normal times. But today one must do things differently. One never knows whether there will be a world a year from now. We must act fast or not at all. Darling, the only reason for not getting engaged is your worry of what people will say. Considering the circumstances, people will understand and say nothing. This is particularly true in America; and after all, you are to become an American. So, Darling, will you tell me if you will become engaged to me. If you will, do you want to wear a

Swedish or an American engagement ring? You suggested a Swedish one before and I think that is a wonderful idea. I have a Swedish bride and I think it would be nice if she wore a Swedish ring. Besides, many American girls are beginning to prefer a band for an engagement ring. And don't you think you should do the buying yourself. The fellow usually buys it; but in this case why not get a real Swedish ring in Sweden? So, Darling, will you tell me the cost of a Swedish engagement and wedding ring set? Pick out something nice that you really like. Don't choose something too cheap. I want my wife to have a ring she is proud of and that I am proud of. As soon as I know the cost, I'll send you the necessary money. I'd appreciate it if you could give me both the cost in American money and Swedish money. O.K.?

Before I telephone you in Sweden, I want you to have the ring bought. And when I ask you to marry me, I want you to say "yes" and then I'll tell you to place the ring on your finger. Howsdoes that sound to you?

Darling, I'll write to your folks on Sunday. I'll not ask for your hand just yet. First of all I must get your answer.

Sweetheart, I should have taken a lot of time with this letter. But Dad has been waiting to go to the farm. He and I are going alone this time. Last week-end we did not finish the painting and have to go back this week. We hope to be home by tomorrow night (Saturday). One of my pals at Church is getting wed and I am invited.

Wish you could be here with us even now, Honey. We have a lot of fun together. There's always something happening. Like last nite, for instance. Dad was packing his lunch for today. As he stooped over I dumped a glass of water in his back pocket. Did he ever jump! That sort of thing goes on all the time. No. I must run. Hope you can make sense out of this letter. Remember, I love you.

Your hubbie