

No. 81.

11342 Church Street  
Chicago 43, Illinois  
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My darling little wife,

Sweetheart, I am very tired tonight; so I shall be rather brief. There is much to write you tonight. So forgive me if I am rather abrupt. This morning I went down-town to the Swedish Consulate and then to the American immigration authorities. This afternoon I drove out to Wheaton and back. I am not sure the University of Washington has exactly what I want. Consequently I registered in Wheaton this afternoon, probably will begin Thursday. Keep sending my mail here at my home until I tell you differently. There still is a chance that I may attend Washington.

The Swedish Consulate didn't have much information to give me. However, I did find that if you apply for immigration papers in Stockholm, you will get them at least two months sooner than if you apply in Goteborg. So, if you can send the applications to Stockholm, things probably will go faster.

Darling, you said that you will apply for immigration immediately and if an emergency arises within the near future, you will come to the states as my bride. But, Darling, I have a little bit of bad news for you. The law that allows brides to come to this country and marry their boy-friend within three months is only for ex-service men. In other words, you can come to the States and marry me because I was in the Marines. If I were not in the Marines, the law would not apply to you. But here is the bad news: you must apply immediately to come to the States or you will not be able to apply at all. The

81 - 2.

81 - 3.

law goes out of effect on December 31. By then you will have to have had all the arrangements made and ready to come to the States. Darling, if you will come to the States as my bride, you will have to do nothing about it until I first apply for your admission to this country. In other words, I will send for you and fill out a number of papers here. Sweetheart, will you let me send for you? I know I love you and you know you love me. Therefore we must get married, and we must get married soon. If you have any doubts, read my last letter over again.

Here is what I want you to do. Apply for immigration papers. Then you will be sure of getting here within a year or so. Then write your parents and tell them that you are unable to continue training in the hospital and that it would be better for you to come to the States with Roy. As far as they are concerned, you are coming with Roy (but I want you to come sooner). We must not tell your folks too much, anyway at first. You tell them that it will be about a year before you are able to go and that you will work and earn some money during that time. Of course, ask their permission. I am sure they will agree it is a good idea. This is all you will tell them now. Just in a week or so write your folks and tell them that you and I have been going steady for quite some time. Tell them how we have promised each other that we shall be true to each other. Then tell them that because you and I have decided to be true to each other, we decided that we might as well get engaged. But, of course, assure your folks that we could not possibly marry for over a year because it will take that long to get to the States. Considering that we must wait so long, I am sure they will not object to our getting engaged. You might tell them that you were sure they would approve and so you told Bernie (me) that you thought it would be alright to become engaged. They may think you should wait; but I am sure they will approve, without

too much fuss. Then that is all you will do for awhile.

Then I will send for you as my bride. You must never tell your folks that you are coming to be my bride. I am sure they would never approve of that. And yet, I am afraid that if you didn't come, the world conditions would prevent your getting a chance to come to the States later. They want you to be happy. If you do not find happiness, they will feel far worse than they will when we marry. They also want you back in China. And if you get caught in Sweden by the Russians, you never will get to China. The Russians don't believe in Christian work, much less mission work. If you are forced to stay in Sweden under the Russians, I am sure it would kill your parents. So, Darling, this may seem hard, but you must do what your parents might not approve of in order to give them what they really want - your happiness and you. Yet, we must do what is best in a way that will not bother them. That is why we'll have to not tell them too much. When I send for you as my bride, they will immediately wonder how you were able to leave Sweden so soon. You just tell them that Bernie had arranged for your support in the States and had made arrangement in the States. You can tell them that when someone works on this end, things ~~run~~<sup>go</sup> faster. This is the truth. You need not say that you have agreed to come as my bride. Then when you do arrive in the States and are here a while, you will write them and tell them that we have decided to marry immediately. They will not object because your father will have already promised you to me and besides they would have gotten used to the idea of your marrying me. Sweetheart, I think I am pretty smart (a-hem) to have thought this up. Seriously, for the good of your folks, for our good, and for the glory of God, we must do this. In your next letter, I

want you to tell me that you love me and that you will come as my bride. Write it very definitely and very plainly so that I can be sure I know what you mean. Then I shall go down-town and apply for your admission to the United States as the bride of Bernie Holmquist. It still will take a few months. Otherwise, Darling, you could not possible get to the States before next October or November or December, and before we were married, it would be two years from now. This way we can be married in less than one year. If you are going to the mission field, you cannot afford to wait for two whole years.

Again, I'll repeat:

1. First letter - ask permission to immigrate to the States, telling them it will take a year for your papers to come through.
2. Another letter - tell your folks that we have decided we might as well get engages because we are going steady anyway, telling them that it still would be over a year before we could meet.
3. Another letter - tell them that I have made arrangements for you to get passage to the States much sooner than you had thought I could. Tell them that this way, you can start training sooner.
4. Another letter - (after you arrive in the States) Tell your folks we have decided to marry immediately. They can not object because your father already would have promised me your hand.

Sweetheart, I must close here. I shall answer your letters tomorrow if I have time. I was at the hospital tonight. Mom is feeling a little better. Tomorrow I am going to drive my aunt (Mrs. Carlson) to Bethany Beach, Michigan. She wants to look at a cottage there for sale. I'll be back in time to go to the hospital tomorrow night. Then I'll try to answer your letters.

Darling, read this letter over many, many times. It is very important. What I have said is true. We must act quickly.

*all my love*  
*Bernie*