

No. 84.

September 16, 1948  
Chicago 43, Illinois

My darling little Wife,

Sweetheart, instead of writing you in the evening when I am so tired, I should get wise to myself and get up a little early in the morning when I am fresh enough to write an intelligent letter. But I know I shall never have the willpower to get up in the morning. So, Darling, you will have to be satisfied with these letters written in the evening. You know, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Yep, I sure have a crazy gal, writing so I get four letters in one day. But you'll never catch me telling her to write more seldom (sounds funny, better to say "less often."). I value each of your letters more than you can know.

Darling, to my question of whether you agree to be my very own, you gave the answer "yes." Does that mean we are engaged? Actually I do not want it official until I telephone you and ask you to marry me. But if I do call Sweden and ask you to marry me, what will you say. A telephone call will cost me about ten dollars and that certainly would be an expensive "no." If I pay ten bucks (dollars), I must be buying a "yes." Understand?

As you know by now I did write your Mother and Father last Sunday. But I did not mail the letter because I did not have a chance to finish it. But last night I did finish it and tomorrow I shall mail the letter. I told them that I am in love with you and hope to have you as my bride eventually. Also I told them that for some time

we have been going steady, mentioning that perhaps they didn't know this because we have been trying to keep it a secret. I said that it requires over a year for your immigration papers to go through. After the year, I said, we would meet and decide whether we should really marry. The reason for waiting for so long was that it took that long for the papers to come through. Now, Darling, I want you to write them the same thing and ask permission to take out immigration papers. I am sure they will say "yes." So, I want you to take out the papers immediately anyway. Alright?

I am sure that you will agree to become engaged to me, Sweetheart. So, as soon as I hear from you, I shall ask your father in another letter for your hand. I shall tell him that we are going steady anyway and would like a closer bond than just going steady. I'll remind him that it takes a year for the immigration papers to come through anyway. I am sure he will see no danger in promising me your hand, Darling. After I once have the promise of your hand from your Father, I'll telephone you in Sweden. In the meantime, will you order the rings for both of us and have the names engraved inside of them. Then immediately write me and tell me the price of the rings. I'll send you the money as soon as possible. You must have your ring in your hand when I call so that you can slip it on your finger for me. Darling, I love you and want you for my own. I not only want to be engaged to you, but I want you for my little wife.

Another thing, I believe you should get reservations on the first ship possible. Remember, I want you to come to the States as my bride and I expect to have you as my wife a long time before a year is up. It will not take very long for the papers to be arranged when you give me permission to file them. And I want you to have passage as soon as possible.

Oh boy, so you had pictures taken, did you? That's swell. I must say that it is about time, dopie. I sure hope they turn out alright. Be sure to send some as soon as you choose the right one. I can hardly wait to see them.

You had better not write me a Swedish letter. I would not dare to have Mom read it for me and it would take me forever to translate every word. I'd rather stick to good old English if you don't mind.

Ah, our home-life, how I do long for it. No, Honey, we shall not have paper plates; I don't like them. And as for my stockings, I am very easy on them and seldom have to mend them. When they start to wear out, I just throw them away. I find that a mended sock is half rotten and will only get another hole in it right away. I seldom wear a pair of sox more than one or two days without washing them. Washing sox really is no\$ trouble. They need not be pressed and they wash easily. And by wearing them only once or twice, they last longer too. Also I never wear a pair of shorts more than one day. I can't stand dirty shorts and hate to smell any sweat. Mom usually irons my shorts; but this also is not necessary. So, Darling, you need not worry about darning anything for me. Around school I wear mostly sweat shirts and slacks. These I change either once or twice a week. I find that I can wear a white shirt for two Sundays before they are in need of being washed. Of course, as soon as I get home from Church I change into the slacks I had worn the former week. So, for each week I usually have five pairs of shorts (wear the Firday's shorts around the house on Saturday and the Sundays at school on Monday), five pairs of socks, a pair of slacks, a sweat shirt, and a half of a white shirt. I don't believe I am too hard on clothes, do you?

Darling, the ring is wonderful. I value it very highly. I believe it really is about perfect. And there is nothing wrong with

the way the name "Doris" is ingraved. I am very proud of it and have been showing it to everyone. Yes, Darling, I do want you to wear one with my name in it. Will you do it for me? And be sure to tell me how much it will cost. You have given this ring to me and I must give you one too. Unless I pay for it, it will not be a gift from me. Soon I hope we'll be engaged; but we then can change this to the other hand. Darling, oh how I love you!

You little rascal, so I need to put the old ring on my key chain where I can see it when I come home from flirting with some other gal. Well, Darling, I try with all my power to not flirt with anyone. Sometimes it is hard; but you are the only one I want. You are the only one I love.

I am glad that you are broad minded about the movies. Of course there is nothing wrong with a clean show. In the States the people are only afraid of the movies in a theatre. It is not the movie that they consider wrong, but the type of movie. To a certain extent they are right. But of course, they should not condemn all theatres. Some movies in a theatre are alright. The folks see nothing wrong with a moving picture. They only disapprove of theatre movies. They thought your Father's pictures were fine.

It is after eleven and I must get up tomorrow at six and get out to Wheaton for a 7:30 class. Good-night, Darling; remember I want you for my little wife.

All my love for the  
one I love,

Bernie XXX1100