

11342 Church Street
Chicago 43, Illinois
September 30, 1948

My darling Sweetheart,

Doris dearest, you cannot imagine how comforting it is to know of your love in times when it seems like our heart is about to break. I think of Mother continually and thank the Lord that she was such a swell Mom. But you cannot know how much she is missed. Mom and I were the best of friends. And the house seems so empty without her. Sometimes it feels like something is trying to squeeze every drop of blood from my heart. We miss her; but we know she is happy with the Lord. Knowing this is a real source of comfort. Another source of comfort is found in the knowledge that you soon will arrive in the States to become my little bride. More than anything, Darling, I am looking forward to seeing you. Even Dad seems to find great comfort in looking for your arrival. He said that perhaps you will kind of take Mom's place a little and give meaning to life for him again. Perhaps, Darling, if you care to, we can live at home after we are married and I can drive out to Wheaton each day for school. How does that sound to you. If you wish to, probably you can enter training at a large hospital near here. But perhaps it would be better for you to just stay around the house for the first six months or so and get accustomed to married life. You may do as you please.

Dad and I have been very busy for the last two days getting all the papers ready for you to come to the States. I mailed these papers just a few minutes ago. We had to put up a \$500 bond so that in the event we did not marry, there would be enough money for you to sail back to Sweden. When we marry, we'll get the money back. Dad payed

for the bond. Last night we went to supper at the home of a friend of Mother's and Dad's. Tonight we go to the home of another friend. Last it was the home of Oscar Stone and tonight it is the home of Raymond Brown. Don't you wish you were alone. I was going to leave for school tonight; but think I'll wait till tomorrow morning. Will have to catch the 5:00 o'clock train out of Morgan Park though.

I shall try to answer a few of your letters tonight. But I must be brief and to the point. Even now I should be getting ready for supper; but will take off a few minutes.

So I missed a letter after number 84. Well, Darling, you know you are not the only one who can skip a letter; ha, ha! Don't worry about it, Sweetheart, I probably just forgot how to count.

I am so glad that you are learning to love Bible reading more and more each day. After we become man and wife we'll have to set aside a special time each day for Bible study and devotions. Won't that be wonderful? We shall love each other with all our might; but we shall also put the Lord first in our hearts and lives. No, neither do I find enough time for as much Bible study as I care to have. I love the Word of God. Like you, often I read a chapter and just cannot stop reading. Darling, how can our home go wrong when we establish it on the Bible and on faith in God? Truly it cannot.

Darling, you need not come to take care of Mom now. The Lord is taking good care of her. It seemed that maybe it was His will for you to care for her; but we'll still keep you pretty busy caring for your hubbie. And at night your hubbie will take care of you (wow!).

Sweetheart, it will be wonderful to marry you. Not only will I gain a wife, but I'll gain a wonderful mother again as well. Do you suppose your Mother will mind my calling her "Mom" after we get married? I wrote to your folks today, asking for the hand of their beautiful daughter. I would have sent the letter sooner, but thought it would

not be right to do it until after the funeral. I wonder what your folks will answer me. I hope, I hope, I hope

By the way, in all the papers I filled out I said that we are engaged. And really we are. Of course we are not engaged "officially." We will not be engaged "officially" until I receive your parents consent to have you and until I telephone you in Sweden, asking you to become my own. But we are engaged "unofficially." You have agreed to become my wife and that makes us engaged. At the consulate when they ask you if we are engaged, you tell them that we are. Say, I forgot to tell your folks in their letter that I expect to call you in Sweden. Maybe you might mention it; they will be interested in knowing. In all the excitement the last few days I can not remember where I placed your telephone number at Goteborg and your number in Stockholm. Will you send me those numbers again? Also be sure to inform the hospital where you will be all the time. If you change addresses in Stockholm, notify the hospital immediately in case any papers come through about your coming to the States.

Just returned from Browns. They served a Ham dinner. Had a good time. It is now eleven-thirty. So will have to make this letter as short as possible.

About my engagement ring, if you already have not bought it, make it a wee bit larger than the ring you sent me. The one you sent is alright on my finger; but it is nearly impossible to take it off. Sometimes I have wanted to show it to someone and found it too tight. I don't want it loose; but a wee bit larger. Use my marine ring to determine the proper size. I shall give you Mother's ring (if you want her ring) as soon as you get here. In the meantime, will you buy a ring like you sent me with my name printed inside of it?

That will be a friendship ring that you can wear until you arrive in the States. When you know the cost of the friendship ring, let me know and I will send you the money. Also let me know the price of the wedding ring.

Darling, I guess this is all I have to say for tonight. I have mailed all the papers for your coming to the States as my bride by registered air-mail. By the time you receive this letter, you should have received those papers. But then, they may take a little longer because I sent them registered. If you don't receive them within a couple of days after this letter arrives, you had better notify the post office in Sweden. I am sure they will arrive though. There will be much for you to do yet. You must get your passport and visa, etc. Most of all you must be IN the States on or before December 28, 1948.

All my love to the gal I love,

Bernie XXXO1
