

11342 Church Street
Chicago, Illinois
October 16, 1948

My little Sweetheart,

It is a beautiful Saturday morning. This is the time of year that is called "Indian Summer." In the olden days, before America was settled, the American Indians were supposed to have waited until this time of year to harvest their grain. Every year during this season it gets just like a nice summer day and continues that way for a week or so. Everything is more beautiful than can be discribed. The trees and bushes have become colored with every bright color imaginable. Best of all, the beautiful coloring of nature will continue for a number of weeks. At this time of year I like nothing better than to be able to take a long drive through the country, looking at the bushes and trees and the large patches of country-side, each with its own color. Then too there are the fields of corn that has been cut and bound into shocks, surroundder by the farmer's supply of squash and pumkins. Sweetheart, why can't you be in the States with me at this time of year? I would give anything to have you with me.

Everything is quiet this morning, Elaine has left for her radio program on station W. M. B. I. Dad asked a few men to work at the factory this morning and had to go down there to see that everything is done correctly. My aunt is getting the house in order and her bird is singing his lungs out right behind me in the dinning room. In front of me is the wonderful prtrait of my gal that you sent to me. I take it out to school with me when I go out there, and bring it home with me when I come home here. Just can't go a day without seeing you, honey. Must

be love!

Last night some old friends of the family came over to the house. Was so good to see them again. Their name is Ida and George Carlson. We always call them Auntie Ida and uncle George. All our lives they have been very close to us kids. I can remember when I just was a very little boy, auntie Ida would send me all sorts of toys. She was my teacher in the beginners department of our Sunday School. Whenever I was sick or even absent, always would come a card or a little toy to our house. And all through the years Ida has been very close to my heart. She is swell. Yesterday morning I went back to school and got the notes necessary for the exams I'll be taking next week. Although I did get there in time for my 7:30 class, I ditched the class so that I could read all five of your letters (received a sixth one in yesterdays mail). I certainly felt terrible, having not sent more letters to you last week. But I know you understand, having been sick yourself. I shall try to answer all six of your letters right now.

Darling, it has been rather hard for me to keep my thought organized lately. I have tried to advise you on what to do. But half the time I was too mixed up to even know what I was doing, much less tell you what to do. Mother's going has been very, very hard on all of us. We loved her so dearly. Mom really still was young. Sixty-one is not very old. And she had every reason to live. Her family was just raised and we were very devoted to her. There was nothing we would not do for Mom. And no wonder; she was such a swell person that a person couldn't help wanting to help her. She was very, very sweet, and very gentle. I can't remember, for instance, when she scolded me for anything. Oh, sometimes she would joke with us; but she never seriously scolder us. Of course, if anyone should say anything about us kids, well, they had better watch out. Mom would not stand for anything when it would harm us. She was swell.

There was not one that she would not help. That is why everyone liked her so much. Although she was our mother, she also was our close friend, one we could talk to and one we could kid with. We know she is with the Lord, but we wish so that she could have stayed with us for a few more years. You cannot imagine how much we miss her. And, of course, I have been greatly depressed lately. All I can think of day and night is Mom. I suppose that even in my letters I have been rather confused. So, Darling, take care of your business the best way you can, about you buying rings and getting passage and everything. I am really too confused yet to help you very much. Sometimes I will tell you one thing and sometimes I will tell you something different. So, just use your own good common-sense.

I am so glad that the consul in Stockholm understood the situation so well and wanted to help you. It certainly is fine to find some people who actually are concerned with one's troubles, isn't it? And I am overjoyed to know that you really have passage booked aboard a ship. Sweetheart, it seems too good to be true, doesn't it. I hardly have dared to hope that you would finally obtain a way over before the 28th of December. How fortunate we are! And won't it be wonderful to spend Christmas together. I'll tell you, without you in Chicago for Christmas, it would be an awfully sad Christmas this year. But with you, I am sure everyone will be excited and will for get about Mom for those few days. No, we don't want to forget about Mom; but we still must live and must reconcile ourselves to the fact that she no longer is with us. But I am sure you will brighten things up a lot. What do you think? I think it will take you about two days to Chicago from New York by train. That is a guess; but I do think it is a good guess. We'll probably buy your train tickets here and mail them to you. That way you will be sure of getting a train during the busy Christmas season. That sure will be nice to travel on as fine a vessel as the Queen Elisabeth, Darling, I know you will enjoy

the ride. But, now, remember, keep away from all those swabbies aboard that ship. Don't forget! I have no love for the swabbies. If I had my way, the whole fleet would be sent to the bottom of the Atlantic. No, Honey, I'll just kidding, Though I don't admit it to many people, the Marines really are swabbies themselves. But, of course, they are the BETTER part of the navy. Am I right (your answer had better be the right one!).

I am puzzled as to what to do about paying your passage. Will the shipping lines take American money. What if I have an American money order made out to you. Then you could sign the money order over to the shipping lines. Would they accept this? Or do I have to have the American money changed to Swedish money? I think I'll call the Norweigen lines today and see if I can do that. In the meantime I'll send you some more American ten-dollar bills. That way you can have a little money with you. It won't hurt to give you plenty of money. I would rather that you would buy only what is absolutely necessary in Sweden. The clothes and styles in American are different. You will want to be dressed as they are here. So, what money you don't use, take it with you to the U. S. We'll need it later.

Darling, I shall call you on the 30th of October to ask you to marry me. Now, give me again (print real carefully) your phone number that day and the address and name of the people I shall call. You have moved around so much that I must make sure of this. Also print the name and address of the people. Sometimes it is very hard for me to read any names you write to me. Those names are Swedish and it is impossible for me to see what they are. So print them real carefully.

Ha, what a scrap that fellow and wife had! Sure wish I could have been there. How I would have liked to see them scrap. Bet the wife won. The women always pick on us poor helpless creatures and always beat us up.

We poor men! Why do you women have to be so hard on us, anyway? You ought to be ashamed of yourself. I suppose you expect to pick on me in the same way. Serious, Darling, that is a home without Christ as its head. That goes to show how dangerous it is to marry someone who is not a Christian. You can be sure our home will not be like that. It just can't be. You know, I can remember no time in all my life when my parents ever had an argument. All their lives that have been like a couple of love-birds. Let's make our married lives just as happy. Alright?

Your Mom still don't want you to quit training. What will she say when she learns that you ARE coming to the States and we ARE getting engaged? Wow! But we have to admit that your Mother's advise would be the best advise under normal conditions. But, Darling, it seems that the Lord has intervened and has forced you to stop training and has forced you to come to the States. Praise His name. I am sure that your Mom will not object when she hears all the details. And if she does, we still know we are doing right. Therefore we shall bet married anyway. I cannot find time to write them today. After exams next week I'll drop them a line, telling them that we plan on getting engaged on the 30th. By the way, I don't think you should ever tell them that you are coming as my bride. Let them believe you only are immigrating. Then when we do get married. we'll think of something else to tell them. Alright? Wow, that's only the end of letter one. When will I get time to study?

About the size of your finger, Honey, will you have the jeweler give you the size so that I can have Mom's ring made to fit you? Otherwise, I will be unable to have the ring ready for you.

Say, I sure would like to meet Marta. To hear you talking about her so much, I am sure she is a wonderful girl. Be sure to say "hello" to her for me, and to Roy also. Yes, Sweetheart, I realize how lucky I shall be to win you. Thanks, Sweetheart; I love you. Roy's girl

spells her name "Gull-Britt," doesn't she? Is that all one name or is "Britt" her last name? I should know, you know. O.K.? This is the number you gave me to phone: 471755. Is that still the number? And what time do you want me to call you (Stockholm time)?

Darling, I have quite a time with your writing when it comes to new words. What is your new address? Is this correct: Miss Doris Rinell c/o ?(can't read first part) Appelgren, Vivelvagen 4, Alvsjo. That is how it looks to me anyway. Dope!

By the way, something may happen so that I cannot get a call through to you in Sweden. The lines may be busy or something. In that case, although I may not reach you, let's consider ourselves engaged on the 30th whether I call or not. Alright?

Was glad to hear that you got a job. I know the time will pass faster for you now. It is not good to just loaf. One must keep busy to keep out of mischief. Not that I believe my gal will get into mischief, but... So, you can't wait till you learn what I have bought for you. Just like a woman. I never did see a woman who could stand a secret. Well, you'll have to ^{wait} because I'm not telling you.

Darling, because I am not sure of your address, I shall send the \$10 to R. K. Elevhem, etc. so that it is sure of getting to you. This one I'll send to the new address with out any money. So look to the hospital for the next letter, will you?

I am so glad that ^{you} will be able to get passage and get to the States by the twentieth. That is wonderful. And it will be swell to have another girl aboard the same ship with you. She is in the "same boat with you," getting married in the States.

Darling, I think that song you chose is fine. Let's make it "our" song. As a matter of fact, I was hoping you would choose that one. Darling, you are wonderful.

-7.

I must get at my home-work again. So must sigh off.

What are our three words? They are "I love you" (and I do!).

Sincerely,
C. Berne
X X X O O