

Chicago - May 9<sup>th</sup> 1918.

My dear Dave:-

I certainly am a lucky and a happy girl today for I have two letters to answer and yet dear oh so lonesome for someone who is lonesome for me. Now to answer your letters of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of April.

I have been thinking all day about what happened nine months ago today and also on a Thursday. but dear its all with pride and joy and not a little mite of regret for I have a Sweetheart who means all the world to me. When I think of that night and how little I dreamed, that when you said it might be a year or more that we ~~would~~<sup>might be</sup> parted, that it would ever come true, but someday dear we will know it was well worth while even though it cost many and many a tearache and we can be together and enjoy one another's companionship.

No dear you will never be forgotten no matter what happens for you are too deeply engraved on my mind a heart to be forgotten. Sometimes dear when I think of the danger you are in it nearly drives me frantic with fear for your safety but I take it all to Jesus and I know He can and will protect you and bring you back safely to me thru all the shot and shell and danger.

Now to answer your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup>. Dont you know dear that if I could I

would be with you to love you and to cheer  
you? You don't know how much I long to be  
near you dear.

Dear how many times I have thought of  
that first goodbye. Dear I did not dare to  
hope that you would ever care even the  
least bit for me then but one year has brought  
us much happiness hasn't it dear - even with  
the ache of being parted? Is there any need for  
me to tell you I am the happiest girl and  
dear satisfied with such a sweetheart if I  
were not I certainly would be a mean  
sort of a girl for I have somebody who I  
know loves me and one whom I could  
trust always to be true and to be clean  
and good, such as Christ would have us to  
be. Dear the same question has come  
to me and is as yet unanswered - "Why  
must we be ~~separated~~ parted," Dear I believe time  
is going to answer it for I can't figure it  
out unless it was that I had to lose you  
and be parted from you before I would  
really love you the way I wanted to but  
did not dare for I knew my passions  
and I dared not let them get the better  
of me.

I have not heard any direct gossip  
about Joe and I lately but they are not  
letting it slip and no doubt are saving  
all the data to tell you when you come  
home to me. The other night I was out  
collecting for my advertisements for  
Spiran & Mildred Carlson was with me  
and on our way home we met  
Jerry on Chicago ave. He invited  
Mildred & I down to the drug store

for a dish of ice cream and then took us home. Somebody, one of the young people at church followed us all the way and then went and told Joe all about it; not neglecting to make matters sound as if it were something valuable he was telling Joe. Afterward Joe mentioned it to me but would not tell me who it was. He said he got that party one of the best raking over the coals he had ever had, so you see dear they seem very much interested in my affairs. I was not going to tell you this dear, but somehow it was out before I knew it. But dear I know you will understand and I can tell it to you with a clear conscience knowing that even if you had been there you would approve of everything said and done. You trust me that much I know dear.

You know dear the kisses are all for you and its up to you to claim them for as that old song goes "I am saving up my kisses and I guess I have saved a few & I am waiting for the time when I can give them all to you".

Now you broke a promise you made me when you were down in camp and really I ought to haul you out but I haven't the heart to do it altho it hurts me when I read it. Do you know what I mean? Here is what you wrote "Well darling I suppose you are tired of this prattle"

Would you like me to wind up this letter that way? I know dear that it was thatless on your part and not intentional so we will forgive and forget but do not let that happen again will you sweetheart?

I don't remember if I told you or not but when Lindbergs left I said goodbye for you and Bernhard and the girl & Mrs Lindberg sent their regards and good wishes for your safe & speedy return.

Last night was election and the meeting was held at Axel Nelson's. He just returned from a trip to Hot Spring where he has been trying to get back his strength after his attack of pleurisy. He was reelected Pres - Carl Ekdahl - 1st Vice - Joseph Peterson - 2nd Vice - Ellen Forsmark - 3rd Vice - Billy Berg - 4th Vice - Carrola Wallstrom Treas. - Alvin Berg organist. Oscar is still editor & Paul Carlson is business manager for the paper. After the business meeting was over they all called out surprise and Mr Nelson nearly fell over. It is his birthday with Friday and we as a league thought we would surprise him. They gave him a floor lamp as a gift and it certainly was a dandy.

There is no other news dear. I am going to the tabernacle tomorrow night so have to go to bed early tonight.

Folles send their regards and Billy sends his love and kisses. So you dear sweetheart I send all my love - trust and heartaches from a heart overflowing just for you and with the thought of you from your little girl  
Grace.

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Verified  
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CHICAGO, ILL.  
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