

Dec. 27, 1917.

Oh dear Charlie Boy:-
Why do you feel the
way you do. I feel like
crying after reading
your letter you feel
that I'm all meaness
and I know I am
dear heart but won't
you try to over look
my horrid faults a
little longer maybe by
some superhuman
help I can over come
at least some of them
by-and-by.

As to writing short
letters dear, do you
realize you have nothing

to do all day long but
to write or do anything
you like when if I
did that. Oh - its no
use you won't under-
stand and I don't
know what to do. I
knew from the way
you left Xmas night
I had displeased you
again

I don't know whether
to tell you what I've
been thinking and
planning or not for
you may not believe
me or think I mean
what I said so I'll
wait.

I was almost sure
you'd get down to
the boat in plenty

of time because it
only takes about an hour
and a half to go from
here clear to the dock.

Did the boat rocking
(going across the bay)
make you sea sick?
If the boat rocks the
least bit my head be-
gins to swim like a
fish going down stream.

I do hope you didn't
get wet with the rain
dear. after you had
gone I worried about
it and that cough
you sometimes get
when you get cold.

As to your Xmas
gift to me, darling,
you could not have
given me anything

better and⁴ I think
you understand, or
I do hope you did,
how I felt about it
I told you and will
tell you again and
again that God could
never have given me
a more wonderful
gift than your dear
heart especially if
you want me to
have you.

I am so glad that
you have found a
friend in the Y.M.C.A.
fellow they usually
are of the best kind
and you can almost
always depend on
them.

Oh, please dear don't

use quite ⁵ so much
sarcasm even if you
are so displeased
with me you have
said this to me more
than once and I can't
help taking it as a
slam - "there fore I
always try to do some
one else a kindness,
it is the way I (but not you)
see 'Being a real
Christian.'" Oh it
hurts so, dear, even if
I do deserve it.

You don't need to be
so indebted to my
folks here for being
kind to us on Xmas
for they are glad to
do it and expect no

returns and as to
Uncle Otto liking you
I don't know what I
could have said to
make you feel he did-
n't for I know he does
because he has told
me so more than
once.

and I do feel so sorry
for him too. He said
just last night, "Well
Din getting pretty sick
of this business of her
being away. She
had sent him a
Kodack picture of her-
self and she look
fine and dandy &
he said there was
no reason why

she shouldn't come home now.

June has a little sailor friend who seems to think a lot of her. He is in Hampton roads Va. He has written to her several times but those little bats of a Robert + Otto happened to get the mail + gave the letters to Uncle Otto and he read them + wouldn't give them to her and even scolded her.

But the other day she happened to get the mail first and got a letter which she showed to me

and it couldn't have
been a nicer glutton
manly letter and I
certainly shrink from
the letter that he's
all right. He pardoned
himself for talking
the liberty to write
to her and told her
what he had to
do and the amusement
he took in etc. He
also sent her a picture
of his company and
from his picture he
looks to be a fine
clean boy. He's only
16 June says. To-day
came a little box
from him with a

9.

swiss wrist watch a
little beauty and
you ought to have
seen that girl. she
was simply tickled
to death, but shivering
in her boots for fear
uncle Otto makes her
send it back.

I do hope your
arm, dear, won't
bother you any more
and I hope you be-
lieve me when I say
it because I have
a feeling you don't
trust me a lick any
more. I hope your
dad gets better again
and you can tell
him so when you

write if you will
please. I certainly
feel sorry for that
poor man's family. I
mean the man that
was burned with
gasoline. Its so sad.
Please don't worry
about my folks I
think you couldn't
be so unkind as
to not understand
that they feel different
than you stated in
your letter. You know
you always expect me
to feel that way to-
ward your folks.
But I will stop right
here and mention
"folks" no more. except
that you needn't

11.
hurry the money
from Sam Hedges on
my account because
I can get along some
way.

I'm glad you have
not had to serve K. P.
duty yet and hope
you will continue
to stay off the list.

Well I must write
to the people you men-
tioned too to keep up
the correspondence
& that is all with
the exception of Kathleen
& Mamma. I know they
want to hear from
me and you too if
you would only be-
lieve it.

God alone knows
how I miss you, dear

husband, and may
He keep you safe
until you come.

Give my love to all,
from your devoted
wife and constant
lover.

Loveingly loads of kisses
Grechen Elizabeth

I got a letter
+ picture from
your mother

5344 Lawton Ave
Oakland, Cal.
Jan. 28, 1918.

My darling Charlie boy:-

I didn't get a letter from
you to-day dear but I
heard your dear voice which
in a way was fifty times
better.

Yes darling I'm an old
careless cat. I shouldn't have
taken that bag up to the
show that night but - things
like that do happen in a
life time.

How have you been to-
day dear? I've been freezing
all the time I'm cold

to the bone. and cough all the time
I guess I'm a regular bore to every
body. Little Otto came home sick with
cold to-day and so I'll have a job
rubbing he and Robert with terepen-
tine and lard.

Day dear, I've been chinking and
thinking about going to work to-day
and I expect you think I ought to
have gone long ago since our circum-
stances (financial) are so low. and
really its awful. - embarrassing
and if I did it would help things
for us so much but this evening I
mentioned to Uncle that I might go
to work and he advised me to wait
until Aunt Minnie came home. He
don't think its a very good idea. Of
course I'd I didn't tell him that we
were altogether flat maybe I should
have but I didn't. Any way, he said
that Aunt Minnie would probably
not stay very long but would go back

as she has the fever for
making good money now
and he wants me to be
here and watch things.
However he said they
would talk things over
when she came.

Well, sweetheart, so much
for that and more for—
that I love you Oh! so
very, very much and long
for the time when we'll
be in our little home on
the hill once more. You
and I

I have pleasant dreams
dear while I think of you.

With piles of love and kisses
I am your loving wife.

Gretchen



Jan. 29, 1918

My sweetheart and husband.

I'm real tired tonight
and so won't feel
like writing what is
in my heart. I received
your sweet letter this
A.M. and wanted to
see you and every
night I think of our
last evening together
and long for the next
to come. I do hope sweet-
heart you can get some
money for that was every
cent I had and this

Our friend will be the last letter until
I can get some sleep because I'm
using the last on this letter.

Uncle brought home a wild goose
some fellow at the works had given him
& I roasted it to night but it wasn't
quite ~~done~~ done. The worst thing about
it is that - well if you ever picked
a goose you'll know. Great guns,
I shot I'd never get them.

In your mother's letter I forgot to
tell you that she said Marie
met Mr. Ireland and he told her
they took in ^{\$}7000 in Xmas trade &
they were still working on some Xmas
sets. What do you know about that?

Well sweet, I think I'll take a
dose of castor oil to-night as I'm
getting very uncomfortable.

How I would love to see you dear,
Come to me as soon as you possibly
can.

Good night dear, I'm going

To wash to morrow.

With ~~with~~ oceans of
hugs + kisses and love
of every kind.

I am your

loving wife

Gretchen.



Feb. 4, 1918.



My darling Sweetheart: -

I expect you think I'm
awful for not writing
this morning but things
are different.

I'll start and tell you
everything from where
I left you at the car
yesterday. My! how I
missed you and how I
long for you when I
see Uncle Otto and Aunt
Minnie loving each other.
Last evening the lights
were out and every
one was sitting around
the fire place.

Everyone was interested in their next
aunt M + Uncle O. June + Ra + the kids were
out riding, and I sat there alone
and oh! I felt I wasn't wanted
and how blue I felt and that of
all sorts of things and then when
I shot that you went + talked to
Uncle O + Aunt M. (I don't know
what about but had my imagination)
+ didn't even tell me I felt bad but
dearie I know you could handle
things so much better if I weren't
around. but sweetheart may I
ask what you talked about?

I love you dearie. and want you
to always love me and I know you
will. I shot at first I would find
out + then tell you but I guess I
won't. I'll tell you. I think, as the
situation stands in my estimation
now that I will look into the
Civil Service examination thing
and do what I can about that.
Maybe, if ~~the~~ luck should happen

to turn my way &
could scrape enough brains
up to pass, and make from
sixty to eighty-five dollars
a month for a while
wouldn't that be fine
dear? I'm going to earn
my own living if it
takes the last drop of
courage I've got.

How are you feeling
darling I do hope your
stomach is better. Now
I would like to rub it
and kiss you. - and kiss you
Then I'd like planning
our little home like on
the corner. I believe I should
you and I really would
love to help buy a little
home.

Well, sweetheart I'm
very tired & weary and
So will close for to-day with kisses galore

Feb 5, 1915.

My darling boy:-

I must write you a few lines before the mail-man comes so I can give it to him.

Oh! how I miss you dear, and think of you all the time. Say honey-bunch, I received that \$5 bill O.K. sweet. and it was grand of you to send it altho. I didn't really need it.

I got 2 letters from Marie yesterday regular looks. All about Lawrence

of course.

Well darling. I must
close as I want to be
working. and must
get this off right away.

Goodbye honey.

With piles of kisses & love

I am your
loving faithful wife

Bretchen

