



Darlings, these next few letters come with quite a story and one that was an eye opener on many levels.

In preparation for a Valentine's Day membership recruitment tea for the Tampa chapter of the National League of American Pen Women, I diligently gathered WWII-related items for the table I was hosting theme. One of the cherish items I added to the decoration of the centerpiece was a 9 page, very mushy, love letter that I purchased on Etsy. (see below.) Honestly, the sentiment of the letter made me cry. The fella writing the letter was so in love, even making little stick figure drawings of his sweetheart and him holding hands. So sweet how he called her honey and darling. My heart clenched. Did he make it home from the war? As I read, I kept thinking that he didn't, otherwise this letter would still be with family members. The letter, one of many others available, written by this fella, was postmarked Utah and mailed to Washington State. .

Jan 28, 1942

Dear Louise,

Well, I have not gotten any letter from you as yet, but I guess it will be coming soon. I got one from Dad and he said that he laid off again because he don't feel good and that's too bad. i also got one from Emmet and he said that he was glad to hear from me.

Well ole kid, how are you and are you back at work and also how is your cold? This is some place down here and I mean it. It is snowing again and harder than ever. I sure miss your letters but I guess that they will be coming by tomorrow. I hope.

I get a razzing from the guys down here because darn near every night in my sleep I am always talking about being home with the kid.

How are my fish doing by now? Are you feeding them as much as you were? Three days have gone by since I heard from you but I guess I'm going to get one of those long darn things. Ha Ha Ha

Say, I made mistake on one of the letters I sent you and it was about the ____ grades and it was supposed to be A- instead of 90 and it was also A+ and A. Sorry I did that, I got A- and the other guy got A.

Well kid, I can't think of very much more but will try. Today, I got to help the instructor put up some hydraulic system and he told me that I was a good student and I hope I can keep it up, because I sure would feel punk if I didn't. Well can't think of any more so will close till tomorrow.

So Long and Lots of Love,

Andy

February 16, 1942

Dear Louise,

Well here is another letter to you today, for I feel you might feel bad about that other letter and I don't want you to get the wrong idea. What makes me so darn made is what you always said about that Rocky. I guess that's the way you spell it. I did it different in the other letter but that's not important. You always said that she was no good and said that you won't have nothing to do with her and here you are out running around with her. I don't give a damn if Rosey was there. That is not the idea, for if you are just moving to get down to see that dame, you know what I have to say. You get down there with that damn drunken outfit and you know just what it will lead to. You did make me

worry once and I don't ever do it again, just because I am a long way from home. If you can't wait for me now you never will be true to me so don't start running around with that damn drunken outfit and ruin your reputation. I know what you think and I'm sorry but you know I don't like that bunch of bums anyway. So you had better watch yourself or you won't be any better than they are. So don't start me to worrying about what kind of girl you are up there because I will not be able to put up with it very long. So you can move if you wish, for I think you should know what you are doing but you know darn well I don't like that outfit down there and you used to be down on them yourself and don't forget that.

But I don't think you feel very well or I don't think you would have so much trouble. So just see if it isn't you that more or less don't feel good because it doesn't make any difference to me if you move or not but you will have it a lot better off by staying there but if it is a case of getting tough then do as you see best. But don't forget that I don't like that bunch down there and I never will. I don't get to go out and run around. I have my studies to do and I think you could find some kind of a thing to join and keep yourself busy

Because you know just as well as I do that it don't do you any good to sit around and think all the time. What would you do if you lost your job after you moved? If you find something to do at night you shouldn't have a damn worry about anything. Well it is up to you for I am not in a position to say anything and would just as soon not give any advice on what you should do. Well I guess that is all about that I want to talk about. Well right now there is a snowstorm going on outside and this is sure the place for crazy things to happen.

When I go to Hill Field, I may have to work the night shift and that will be just ducky. After I am there for 3 months then I can ask for a transfer home and when you go, which is real soon you get a raise to \$1,800 a year and are promoted to Junior Mechanic and I think that is worth staying down here for. What do you think of it? Well, I hope now that they send me to Ogden for they say that Salt Lake is a smokey ole lung and I don't think I would like it so well as Ogden. Ray is down and I sure would like to be where he is. He is a darn good kid and makes a good friend. Well I may be here for this week or for one more week or even 2 more for I don't know for sure.

Well I guess you had a good time out over the weekend and all of those guys out there are doing okay. I reckon that you seen Nora and all of those guys. Ah, well, I guess you will tell me all about it anyway. So I guess I don't need to ask you a bunch of questions. We'll, kid, when you write me, make your letters a little more cheerful if you can. Well, I guess I might as well close this one for now. I will say so long.

Love,

Andy



The mushy letter ♥

