

Wednesday, April 22nd, 1945

Darling Billy,

What great joy it was for me to have received your kind letter with your marvelous little keepsake. I thank you with all my heart and I send you big kisses. As for the Motion Picture Magazines, I loved them.<sup>3</sup> If you can send me some of your photos, I would be very happy. As for myself, I don't have any photos yet, but you have my word that you will be the first person that I will think of once I have some. Darling Billy, today the sky was filled with clouds and to my sadness, this evening I cannot contemplate our little star. But without fail, my eyes are constantly on your dear photo, the photo you gave me at our second encounter at the Red Cross.<sup>4</sup> I prefer it to the other ones because on this one you have such a beautiful smile, a smile that I love so dearly. Have you been receiving my letters? Mother and I have some charming friends, a man, and his wife, whom we speak to often about you.<sup>5</sup> I wish with all my heart that you will soon return to Nice so that we may have you with us. When you come back, we will host a couple of little parties in your honor, and we can catch up on the dances we have missed. I regretfully finish my letter. I hope to receive one of your letters soon, give my sympathies to Bob. Mother sends her best wishes and I, hoping to hear from you and see you again, send all my love. Once again, thank you for that kind keepsake which filled me with wonder, please receive my a thousand kisses again.

Jany

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<sup>3</sup>Motion Picture Magazine was an American magazine that began in the early 1900s. The first copyrighted issue was published in January 1944. The magazine mostly focused on the art of film and the film industry and ran until 1977. The magazine was widely successful until its end and even highlighted female writers in its columns. Noting the success of the female-authored pieces, in 1914 the magazine shifted its focus to celebrities and Hollywood stars in order to gain a large female readership.

<sup>4</sup>The Red Cross was the chief provider of relief supplies for civilians in Europe starting in 1939. The Red Cross ran blood donation drives and was encouraged by Americans to increase their supplies in anticipation of America's entry into the war. The Red Cross is a volunteer program designed to provide aid to members of the armed forces and their families. Their role was not limited to providing medical staff and supplies but also to hosting victory garden parties, and dances while operating clubs and events for military families, these dances were held often and allowed American soldiers on leave to find some repose and joy.

<sup>5</sup>Jany is referring to Mr. Gilbert Lodin and Mrs. Gaby Lodin who become very close friends of Jany, Mado and Billy alike.