

Nice, October 4th, 1945

My darling Billy,

Today I had the great joy of receiving two letters from you one of which was dated from September 11th which to my great joy contained one of your very dear photos. Billy, my darling, I understand very well your impatience to return to America and seeing your dear family again. I wish with all my heart that it will be soon because my dearest desire is that you are happy. Last night, I went to the cinema with my mother and my father. [At the cinema] there was one of your friends with his fiancé. I was very sad to see them because I thought of the day where we were at the cinema together. Billy, my darling, I had great hopes of seeing you again. But your letters take away this hope my Billy. Believe me, my darling Billy, it is not without a lot of emotion that I read your letter from September 24th. This gentle letter even in its gentleness hurt me so much because in all your letters you only talk to me about your departure to America. Yet Billy darling, I understand you very well. But know that I love you so much. In this letter, you asked me to always write you. You have my promise Billy darling, I will write you forever and always. Billy, my darling, you told me that very often you feel the need to ask me to marry you.<sup>1</sup> I also very often have the desire to hear you say it. From the depths of my heart, I hope darling that our very dear little star which gave me the immense joy of meeting you will make us find each other again some day. At this moment, my Billy, I am still at my grandmother's [house] at 48 Lamartine Rd because my piano is at her house and everyday it is necessary for me to study my lessons. Thus my Billy, if you give me the great surprise of coming to Nice on leave, come find me at my grandmother's. But Billy, my darling, I leave you for today. Mother sends you all of her regards. With all my love and a thousand kisses.

Your faithful little star,

JANY

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<sup>1</sup>In this letter, both Jany and Billy talk about a potential marriage proposal but the proposal nor the marriage came to fruition. According to Billy, "at that time, the social and racial attitudes in the United States were too inhospitable to allow such a marriage to ever become reality." Additionally, Billy didn't know how a white French girl would be received by both other Americans and the Japanese people in Bill's community. Though Billy had the opportunity to "rebel against the traditions and prevalent views of American society, he chose to conform by not marrying Jany even though he expressed having enough love for her to do so at the time. [...] Additionally, at that time, interracial couples were simply not common place and often found themselves suspended between two communities, neither of which would be willing to accept the couple." Billy eventually married Tomi Nikano, a Japanese-American living in California.

P.S. please write me soon darling.