

March 5, 1945

Dearest Tommie,

Tears rarely come to my eyes but tonight I'm full of them. Since I have no one closer than you, you will have to bear with me.

Thank you for your cards. I received three today, written on the 1st, 2nd + 3rd. Thanks so much. I wouldn't know what to do without your letters - they do mean so much to me, more than you'll ever know.

Papa wired Saturday and I received ~~your~~ his letter today which he wrote ~~sat.~~ Friday night. He must have been angry because of the wire + letters I sent him concerning train reservations. I already sent letters to hotels as soon as I got your letter + his saying he would rather stay at those but I am cancelling everything now as he told me to do. In a way I am relieved because it would have been a hard trip for me. However, I did want to go through it for his sake alone. I've been East and had no desire to go again - only to please him, but he evidently misunderstood my good intentions and I am sorry. I just finished a letter to him trying to explain my feelings but letters are inadequate and when there is the language difficulty on top of that, it is even harder to put feelings across.

I want him to be happy and if he thinks he would be happier with another woman, I think he should go through with it. He says in his letter that you are married and I too would be getting married and he will be alone, and doesn't want to die alone like Alex's father. I don't blame him in a way because I know how it feels to be lonely. I may not ever get married, Tommie, and there will be lots of others like me -

it's inevitable. It would be good if I find someone suitable, but I couldn't be happy with just anyone, and I don't think one should get married just to avoid being single. That's the wrong approach. There are those who like me, and will marry me if I encourage them, but I won't be happy, and that's not fair to either party.

If papa should marry and there is no room in his new home for a step daughter, I will be on my own, and may have to ask you to let me live with you. However, I have been doing a great deal of thinking about the situation and feel I should go to San Francisco for about a year & work there, and then come back to the Mid-west again where there are more friends.

Your letter of last week concerning Ken, disturbs me still. You may have gotten such an impression from Johnny, but certainly it must be rather exaggerated. You make him sound like a very dishonorable person which he is not. I saw him that night - Friday, and listened and watched him quite objectively - (how could I help it after your letter) - he didn't seem as insincere as you seem to think. He has never lied to me, and doesn't commit himself so that I have no reason to feel he is fooling me or stringing me along. I've had enough opportunity to go out with others and he's told me that I ought to or should. Tok still phones me and I can go out with him if I only had time - which I don't anymore with finals & reports due. I've gone out while Ken was down in Alabama and I've told him about them so he knows he's not the only fellow I know. He is just a good friend and I don't expect anything more

than that from him. It is too bad that it can't be more than that, but his plans do not have any room for me.

I still write to those fellows ^③ in St. Louis, Bill in Cincinnati, Warren, and once in a while to Jack. I feel it a wise plan to keep in touch with everyone, and not slough them off just because at the moment someone else looks appealing.

No, I wouldn't consider teaching at Stanford. I may work there if they have any lab job which pays as well, or elsewhere down the peninsula, but would prefer to work elsewhere where I'd have pleasant surroundings, opportunities to meet other nice, and pays well. If I'm just looking for good pay, I ought to be able to do better than 170 or 190, since even civil service pays more, while universities pay less. I should pursue my own line of work & I will be happier in it - it's a stimulating field - growing & changing - a field where even a beginner, even an assistant has nearly the same chance as an experienced Ph.D. I'm glad to have such a field. There are many here in the farm camps - old maids, but an alive & ~~support~~ definitely happy - career women who are not old maids. There are also others who are married and still pursue their careers & seem to be getting along alright. In such a field, even though I never get a chance to get married, I'll not get stale, and at the same time be satisfied that I'll be contributing something.

The ideal situation is for me to meet someone in the same line of work with whom I could work and help - perhaps someday in my travels or in my work I will meet such a

person.

Do you think I should go straight to San Francisco or stop over in Topaz? I want to see how it's like, but don't want to waste any time if I'm just going to sit around there. I don't know where I'll fit into papa's plans if I fit in at all. If he marries Mrs. Karada & she doesn't even keep track of her own children, she certainly wouldn't want some one else's child around. That of course wouldn't concern papa a bit. He feels he's done enough for me by sending me to school.

I'm sorry there won't be anyone at my graduation, but I'll have to get used to things like this I guess.

Please understand or try to.

Love,
Martha

later same eve.

P.S. Still can't understand why Johnny said those things about Ken, they may have been true when they were together, that is before he went down to Basic and since then I've seen a lot more of Ken than Johnny has. Ken called me tonight, right as I was finishing this letter. He usually calls me two or three times a week and I see him two or three times a week ~~when~~ ^{on nights} he doesn't call, so I don't see where he gets the time to see other girls too, and I think it's only natural that he knows other girls anyway, just as I do other fellows. He may be just a good friend as I said before, but I don't want you to get the wrong impression of him. He is no "dashing caballero" - I've been out with far more "dashing" people than him and I think that type is extremely obnoxious.

Martha