

4th of July #2.

Dearest Tomoye -

Fourth of July has come and gone but when we awoke the next morning which is today it was still the 4th of July. Having two 4th of Julys in one year may be quite a thrill for some people but for me, it's just putting the calendar back a day - also a day away from the sweetest girl in the whole wide world.

This trip feels very long - just as slow and tiresome as my last homeward journey on the Asama Maru last February. You ask me what and where my home is, my darling. I consider my home where we shall be in the near future. So far, it looks like San Francisco. Until last year I had the wanderlust. I wanted to travel to go places - to do almost anything but settle down. As you already know, I had not given any thought to things matrimonial. In the past I had given much of my brain matter on subjects feminine. No girl had interested me longer than two dates at the most - and such I had dated could be counted with my toes. But then, that was last year. Well, some day I'll be able to do all the things I dreamt when I was still in my teens, and early twenties - before the love bug got me. But who knows, a woman might be worth more than the idle dreams. Maybe the woman will prove a comfortable companion when I go out for adventure and travel. If you can't read my writing that's all right for you haven't missed anything, dear.

I received your two letters addressed to the Takemura Maru mailed on June 8th and June 11th as you as the boat sailed from Yokohama. According to the letters, I gathered that you were rather peeved at me for not sending you a letter via clipper. But that I am truly sorry. I had heard that the clipper would not leave until almost a week had elapsed and that a steamer was sailing the next day etc. So I thought an ordinary letter would get to you just as soon. But I was mistaken. Also, the letter I mailed from Honolulu last February to Japan arrived via the Hawaiian Postal service mailed 10 days late. You also expressed doubt as to whether I would mail you any letters from Japan. ~~I am sorry that I~~

The food has been wonderful on this boat. At least the improvement over Japan meals is quite marked and duly appreciated. I have gone to the pool almost every day since we sailed. It is small - but rather good - 68°. However, it is refreshing and aids in the appetite.

Got my ticket on the day I sailed. In fact, when I got to the boat, I was ~~surprised~~ in a 1st class cabin - #164 and all I paid was \$9.20 - less than the cost of a typewriter. It's a small cabin, and I was lucky to get it too, since there are more second class passengers on this boat than ever before - something like 140 - a new record for this boat. We have two calls for our meals, there being no many 2nd class passengers due to 15 Keio baseball players who are going to Hawaii and a lot of Germans, Britons and other foreigners at board. Mr. and Mrs. Nakashima of Grant Avenue is on the boat - Eat at my table. Very few Japanese second class. About 50 third class passengers are getting off at S. F. including Mary Hirata of Mary's Barber Shop on Post Street. She went back on the Osama Maru when the Yoshida sailed. That's why we saw her at the pier darling. Jim Ajari came to see me off at Yokohama. So did my aunt and yours and uncle and my mother. I seem to be parting with someone everywhere I go. Next time I hope I won't have to part with me person.

I enjoyed every one of your letters to me darling. Makes me feel like a fool to have gone to Japan when I could have been near you. By the way, Jim Ajari asked me whether we were engaged or not. Won't take no for an answer.

Oh, yes, have you heard that May Watanabe died two weeks ago. Around June 21st, Friday. That's what Jim said. Died of pleurisy or something like that. Too bad, ne? Marjorie sent you some things. So has your uncle. Don't know what they are. Hope you like them.

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A.T.

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