

Chapter Fourteen

Philippine Islands: July-August, 1938

July, 1938

Manila, Philippine Islands

Ever since June 20, when the USS Canopus had been back at its Manila port, a sour mood had come over Herb. If he were to look back and reflect upon it, he would notice that his letters to Louise often included tales of dreary weather, criticism of his ship, the boring routines of Navy life, and disappointment with his boss in the Supply Department. He is becoming impatient for the ship to sail over to China.

Early Saturday morning Herb is responding to several of Louise's letters that had just come in. He explains that he plans to go ashore later in the day to visit Yoshiko and Gabriel. "Boy has it been raining out here. It rained four days straight so I hope that I don't have to wade through too many puddles to get to where I'm going this afternoon" (July 2).

On Monday July 4th, early in the morning, Herb writes about that excursion looking for Yoshiko and Gabriel. "Well, I've got lots to tell you about yesterday honey."

I left the ship at eleven o'clock and when I got ashore it was still early so I walked over to that Manila address that you had sent me. ... I asked for Gabriel or Yoshiko and the man there seemed pretty hazy about them at first but then I found out from him that they were not living there but that they were living out in the province of Obando at his mother's home.

I asked him where Obando¹ was and he said a long way out of Manila. So, I asked him to give me their address which he did; which was only the name of the street they live on in Obando.

Well, I was rather skeptical about finding the place but I got hold of the nearest taxi driver and proceeded to bargain with him. We were all set to start out when the man who gave me the address came up and said that he would accompany me and show me right to the place.

It turned out that this man was Gabriel's uncle and I learned that Yoshiko and Gabriel had been down to Manila yesterday. The ride took almost three quarters of an hour; that's how far it was. We went across several provinces and then up some dirt roads

¹ Obando is a municipality about 20 miles north of the center of Manila, along Manila Bay.

through jungle looking places and all the homes were Nipa huts so I had an idea of what to expect.

Well, when we arrived at Gabriel's home much to my disappointment Gabriel and Yoshiko were out, but Gabriel's sister who was very nice, told me to come in and wait for them; that they would be back soon.

The house is called a NIPA hut and is built on stilts above the ground and you have to climb stairs more like a ladder to get into it. But it was very clean and Gabriel's sister, who is a school teacher in Olongapo, speaks very good English so I was talking to her while waiting.

It wasn't long before a car drew up in front and a few minutes later two people which I surmised to be Gabriel and Yoshiko stood before me. It was rather an unusual introduction, introducing ourselves to each other; but they were glad to see me and I was glad to see them so it wasn't long before we were talking about everything in general and you in particular.

It's rather hard on Yoshiko out here because she hasn't gotten used to the change in climate yet which is awful hot and sticky to her. In fact, it also bothers Gabriel too. And when Yoshiko is home alone with the old folks, she can't talk to them because she has not yet learned Tagalog. Gabriel says that if he can't find work out here though in the next few months, they probably will return to America.

We then had a real Filipino dinner; rice, fish, some sort of chop suey and for the most part things that I didn't enjoy eating but I didn't want to appear impolite by not eating at all. It seems that Yoshiko doesn't particularly enjoy that kind of food yet either. If I'm not mistaken darling; you'll be seeing Gabriel and Yoshiko again.

I guess that we talked for a couple of hours and around that time the taxi driver who was waiting for me started getting impatient so my visit drew to a close. They told me to be sure to come and see them again and gave me directions so that I can go out on a bus the next time I visit them. (July 4)

After his visit, Herb went back into Manila, and saw a movie "Girl of the Golden West," which he didn't think was so hot.

After the show I wandered around a while; that was around eight o'clock; and I decided that I had all the liberty I felt like taking so I headed for the landing and home. Yesterday was the first time I was ashore in almost a month and a half but I'm just not interested in being ashore it seems. (July 4)

Later that afternoon, following the holiday dinner on board the ship, Herb begins answering Louise's latest letters. He describes it as "the best dinner I ever saw on the Canopus and one of the best I've ever seen in the Navy."

Gee darling, I know how much you love me but I sure do love it when you tell it to me over and over again in your letters. I just can't tell you how wonderful I think it is that I can have a girl like you for a sweetheart. In all my life I never dreamed that I'd ever run

across a girl with so many things that I could like about her as I like about you darling. Oh honeybunch, but I do love you so awfully much!

I guess that since you have been working with Pearl you have learned a great deal more about the Temple. It must all be very interesting too because I know what little I learned about it greatly interested me. Aren't you afraid that you might get so interested in the Temple work that you don't want to leave Halcyon to live wherever we will have to live? (July 4)

The weekend finally rolls around, and on Saturday Herb is eager to write a long letter to Louise. He opens by telling her how he's been feeling lately.

For the last couple of days, I just haven't had the energy to do anything at all. I've felt sort of tired and gloomy and lazy lately; why I don't know. Maybe its because I'm badly in need of a letter from you and woe is me, we do not get any mail before July 17th according to the latest schedule.

The trouble with this ship is that so little ever happens to it. Nothing of interest or excitement ever seems to be going on. I'm forever thankful that I'm no longer in the deck force and that I am now doing work that is of more interest to me; but because even that has been a little boring to me lately; it's all had me in a sort of quandary. (July 9)

He also writes about the division he now works with, and its political nature.

Because storekeepers have a drag in lots of ways in all parts of the ship we are jealously referred to as politicians quite often. You see we can always do a favor for anyone who does something for us; and they know it. However, it isn't that bad. We have to be very careful with the material in our storerooms because it is all closely checked and inventoried from time to time. We have thousands of dollars' worth of stock in this storeroom alone. (July 9)

Herb reflects upon his decision to come out to China, and on what might have happened if he hadn't.

Well, about a year ago this time the war was starting out here and it was then that the idea of coming out here first appealed to me. I pictured myself with bullets flying about the deck and on a ship seeing some dramatic action in Chinese waters. Alas, alack, and what have you; look at where I ended up and what little I've seen.

But what counts most, is this: When I decided to put in for China, I decided to go on leave before I left the states. And when I went on leave, after perilously almost doing otherwise, I decided to spend my leave in Halcyon.

Had I not put in for China it is hard to tell when I might have visited Halcyon next. I was planning to take thirty days leave and go back to New York and in that case, I would not have visited Halcyon at all last year.

Our whole love affair, I think will make such a wonderful story when it is completed; it just couldn't happen otherwise. It will be a fitting example to show so many of the people who were so skeptical about us from start to finish. Yep, we'll make them eat their words;

"It can't be done." Because we're doing it; aren't we darling; and its no trouble at all, not the way we love each other. (July 9)

The tone in his letter turns to disappointment as he tells Louise about the ship's schedule.

That was just a lot of bum dope about us going to China later on this summer. The schedule is out now, and it is supposed to be right, and we aren't going to China at all this year. Darn it! And the worst part of it is that every other ship in the Asiatic Fleet is going up there. But this old blankety, blankety tub; fooyey! Oh, I suppose that you are glad that we won't be in any danger whatsoever and I don't blame you in the least darling. The married men on here think this is a great ship because they have their families over here in Manila and the Canopus never leaves Manila so to speak. (July 9)

On Sunday Herb is beginning to feel a bit better, and he writes

I was on watch when the sun rose this morning and it was quite nice. The sky first gets all rose colored and gold just before the sun peeps out from behind the mountains which lie in back of Manila.

After the usual ice cream and chicken Sunday dinner I took a sun bath for about an hour and boy that sun was really bearing down. In just that short time I got sort of a reddish tan. But then I came down and took a shower and now I feel excellent my dear. (July 10)

Back in November Herb joined the Canopus basketball team. In this letter, he writes about playing basketball again.

Our basketball coach got a wire form the Black Hawk yesterday morning requesting a game with us that evening. And even though we have not been working out since we stopped last December the coach called a bunch of us up to his room and asked us if we would like to play them as sudden as it was. Naturally we were willing to; so last evening about ten of us journeyed over to the Y where we took the Black Hawk on after a few warm up shots. Of course, they beat us; but it wasn't such a bad score considering everything. I played about a quarter and that was just about plenty. It sure tired us out quite a bit but it was lots of fun. (July 12)

He continues in his letter to describe how he is feeling so much better lately.

I've been feeling swell and in the best of health. And now since we [the basketball team members] are supposed to go over to the Y and work out regularly from now on; I'll always be feeling in the "pink." Not that I don't get exercise in my work. (July 12)

Herb describes some of the hard physical work he does in the storeroom, then writes "Oh, I'm not complaining honey. I'm just showing you that this isn't such a racket after all. In fact, I like to be kept busy like that. Time goes fast; and it keeps you in better health" (July 12).

Herb writes about the delay in delivery of the U.S. Mail. "This mail situation sure is terrible! Why it's two weeks today since I heard from you. now I know how you feel darling when you have to wait for two weeks or more at a time" (July 16).

His attention turns to world events. "Japan, China, Spain, and others dash merrily onward. I wasn't at all surprised though about Japan having to cancel her Olympic Game plans. It

wouldn't have been in keeping with the true spirit of the Olympics to stage them in a country that is waging aggressive warfare on another country" (July 16).

Earlier that afternoon the ship's basketball team went over to the Y for a practice. He writes "This will be our second workout this afternoon. We have to practice rather irregularly; whenever we get a chance to." Afterward, Herb continues writing.

We had a pretty stiff workout and scrimmage game during which I collided head on with another guy but it didn't stop me any! I guess I'm hard headed! Then after the workout, the showers sure felt good. The pool at the Y felt like ice water though. But stuff like that really peeps you up and I sure feel swell tonight. (July 16).

Herb got into a conversation with a shipmate on the subject of Theosophy. He loaned this man his copy of *The Ocean of Theosophy*², because he thought the guy, a second-class storekeeper, would appreciate it.

Well, he is one fellow who I enjoy talking to because he believes in Theosophy to the extent that I do. He profusely thanked me for letting him read such an enlightening book; and we have some very interesting talks on the contents of the book. He is about the only fellow I've run across in the Navy yet who believes in it the way I do. And I do believe in it a lot, darling. It gives a person such a clearer outlook on life and everything in general. I always feel good after I read a few pages in it.

At times I like to think of how nice it would be to just go back and live there with you in Halcyon, after I'm out of the Navy; if only I could find a means for a comfortable income in that vicinity. (July 16)

The USS Canopus is in Marivales now, and mail from the states got delivered.

The Empress of Japan brought us about 40 bags of mail and I was the proud receiver of four letters from you.

When I receive a lovely flock of letters from you like that I just can't go right off in a corner and answer them. I like to think over all that you've written, and it all gives me so much happiness and comfort I just like to sort of bask in that sunny happiness for a while. This morning we left Manila for Marivales so now I have four evenings up here in which to write to you dear and answer your letters.

This one you started on June 1, and the four continued to about June 20. (July 18)

Herb learns that Louise continues to be concerned over the amount of time that is remaining on his current tour of duty. He responds "So, my honey is getting technical over a couple of months again. The reason service on the Asiatic Station is usually figured in terms of 2 1/2 years is because they allow six months for the time it takes you to come and go out here" (July 18).

² Written by William Q. Judge, the book serves as one of the foundational texts for the work of the Temple at Halcyon. Most members of the Temple are well versed on this subject, having read this book.

The delays in delivery of U.S. Mail also continues to be a subject of their letter-writing.

We are continuously writing to each other but still some times we have to wait weeks for letters. But that's mostly the fault of these screwy mail schedules. I can't figure them out at all anymore. It seems that we send mail out on Presidential liners but we only get mail on Empress liners. (July 18)

It seems to both of them that they only got each other's mail twice each month. "It is hard to wait that long, isn't it darling?" (July 18).

Herb continues answering her letters the following day. He writes how important she is in his life.

If I didn't have you, I wouldn't be very contented. I'd still be out here; but whew, what a life I'd be leading. There wouldn't be any doubt about it either I'm sure. You never will realize how much of a life saver you have been to me Louise. (July 19)

He again writes about the possibility that he might return earlier than expected.

You know, if you, and Pearl, and Bernard are always dreaming that I'll come home before I should; then maybe I will. Anyhow we can do some extensive hoping, can't we dear. I don't know; its barely possible that the Canopus might go back next year but it's very unlikely. What I'm getting at is, it isn't worth thinking of so much, that we would be the least bit disappointed should it not go back. (July 19)

Several days later, on a Sunday, Herb is writing again. This time he is in a different storeroom, and one with a radio. "It's nice to listen to a radio. There are only about three different stations out here too" (July 24).

He writes about the Canopus basketball team.

We had a game with a big department store team last night. They were a swell team with professional players on it but we played them a close game. I didn't play because I'm not one of the best seven or eight players. (July 24)

The team's coach had mistakenly scheduled a game the following morning with two different teams, so the Canopus team played each of them for a half game.

Our coach and most of the best players didn't even show up. So that meant that I saw lots of action; and I played most of the game. We played an Army team during the first half who were just about our size. They outscored us by a couple of points though.

Then the fun started! The other team were pro's; all big tall guys and most of the fellows on our team who were over there this morning were fairly short. Well, that half wasn't even funny; they must have outscored us by about 40 points. (July 24)

Herb sums up how he is feeling about his life in general. "I'm getting a fair tan since I've been doing that a lot lately. Between sunbaths and basketball workouts I've really been feeling swell lately" (July 24).

That Sunday morning, he also got another letter from Louise, dated June 29, which included her answers to his letters from Batavia, while he was on the southern cruise. He replies.

Gee Louise I'm glad you trust me so much. ... The fact is that I'll never even go near a place offering a lot of temptation again; as I did in Batavia. I don't blame you at all dear, for not particularly liking what I did then. ... I knew darn well that I could walk right up to temptation, look at it in the face, and sneer at it; which I did, instead of doing anything wrong. (July 24)

A couple of days later Herb writes about how busy he has been, and that he doesn't have much time to write anymore.

Here is one of my typical days lately. I get up about 7 a.m., stow my cot away and eat breakfast. At 8 a.m. we "turn-to" on the metal [handling large shipment of metal bars in the storeroom] and work until 11:30 and clean up for dinner at noon. After dinner I take a sun bath until 1 p.m. when turn-to goes again and work until about 4 p.m. Then clean up, take a bath, and get ready for supper. After supper, either write to you, or sometimes go to movies; or neither if we have to go over and practice basketball. So, you see Louise with a schedule like that; the days couldn't possibly drag. (July 26)

Louise had written with bewilderment and with a touch of defiance about his promise that he would or could spank her. He tries to explain what he means. "I guess I might spank you; but not "seriously," darling; only jokingly! Of course, the effects would be the same; but you wouldn't mind, as long as it was me, would you dearie??" (July 26).

The next day Herb continues answering her letters. He responds to a question about "boundaries" within their relationship.

Well, as to that one question; of loving me if I did something very wrong; but not trusting me anymore. No, I wouldn't blame you a bit Louise. Because as you say, were I to slip once; there would be a big probability of my slipping again. But thank heaven there isn't any danger of my slipping; you know that, don't you honey? I just couldn't ever be untrue to you. (July 27)

He also tells Louise about the hard work he is doing in the storeroom.

Gosh but I got awfully tired somehow today. Maybe it was because I was sawing metal bars in two all afternoon. We took them out of one rack and because they were too long for the place we wanted to put them in; it meant that I had to saw them up. I'll be glad when we are through with that metal. (July 27)

A few days later Herb tells Louise about a small airplane that went down in the Pacific Ocean not far from Manila. Herb writes about the U.S. Navy response.

Right now, we are weaving in and out of the islands heading eastward at full speed bound for the area of the Pacific Ocean where the Hawaii Clipper is believed to have crashed yesterday afternoon. Someplace between here and Guam!

All was peaceful and quiet on board last evening as we lay at anchor in Manila Bay when all of a sudden things started happening very fast. In the middle of the movie lights came on and the word was passed for all hands to handle stores. Liberty was cancelled and a recall was sent out for all men who had gone ashore yesterday afternoon.

You see all the Asiatic Fleet is up in Chinese waters except three destroyers and Sub Squadron Five. So that meant that we were the only ships that could rush to the search. ... Yep, the old Canopus, doing her full speed of about 11 knots, is on her way to help look for the clipper too. We don't know exactly what happened to it, but it is supposed to have hit rough weather about four or five hundred miles out of Manila.

I hope that it didn't sink because there were six passengers on board it and I think that it carried about a crew of nine. It looks bad though because there have been no radio reports from the Clipper although they carry all kinds of radio apparatus.

Another thing that I don't like about this emergency trip of ours is that we were supposed to get mail today. And now we might not get back to Manila for a couple of days yet at the least.

We expect to run into some rough weather and the ship has been secured for rough seas. Three of our storekeepers didn't get back off liberty so we are rather shorthanded now. This morning we were up on deck lashing some of our gear down. I didn't get to sleep until around 1:00 a.m. so I'm a little tired this morning but I'll make up for it tonight. (July 30)

The next morning Herb gives an update on the progress of the search.

Well, we are still steaming south-eastward now at full speed. This morning we are nearing the area in which the Clipper is supposed to have been forced down. ... An Army transport, several Army planes, and the ships that I told you about yesterday are engaged in the search. And so, Sub Squadron Five steams along to the rescue, the Pigeon on one side of the Canopus, and the submarines spread out on the opposite horizon.

He describes what he sees, out in the wide open Pacific Ocean.

The weather continues to be perfect, too. Its calm and a nice cool breeze is blowing. Right now I think that we are on the outer edge of the Philippines, almost out in the open Pacific, and really it is a large body of water. No land in sight; just acres and acres of nothing but water. Blue, ripply, salty water that looks awfully inviting. Lots of times I feel like just jumping into it; it looks so cool and clear. (July 31)

August, 1938

On August 1 the Canopus was still heading eastward, and over half way to Guam. Nothing had been discovered yet.

Yesterday we passed through the area in which the clipper is supposed to have crashed and last night we turned about. We are now coming back through area X, zig-zagging and circling back and forth, and around anything that looks like it might be a bit of debris from the clipper crash. ... It must be that that spot of oil must have been the result of the clipper crashing. (August 2)

There were 14 Navy ships involved in the search, and they covered about 70,000 square miles of ocean. The Canopus had traveled to within 600 miles of Guam, then on August 5 the

search was called off. They were to proceed to Manila immediately, about 1,000 miles from where they were at the time. (August 9)

The Canopus finally arrived in Manila Bay on August 9, and later that evening Herb writes "Well, upon waking up this morning we were at anchor in Manila Bay. And as I expected, I got a long sweet letter from you. It was your letter of June 30" (August 9).

Herb got some really good news, and he is eager to share it with Louise.

This morning I became an office worker. I work in the supply office on a big bunch of ledgers. I'm going to be kept plenty busy making hundreds of entries into them every day and I must do errorless work lest my ledgers wont balance when I check them at the end of the quarter. I'll be much busier than I was down in the storeroom and that will be good because time will go even faster now.

Then there are some additional good points about this job. I have a great big roomy locker in the office here; and as the office is up on the main deck we can always work in the fresh air. Also, we can sleep in the office here which is just like sleeping in the open; with the doors and windows open.

Right now, I'm (ahem), writing this at my desk! Yep, I have my piece of desk, my chair, and my cubby holes. Oh yes; and my books. Mustn't forget them! And now I have to wear my glasses all the time I'm working. ... I've never been as contented in all my naval career. (August 9)

It's Saturday, and Herb starts another letter. He explains to Louise "I sure haven't had any extra time during these last few days. Last night I worked until about 8:30 p.m. and tonight I worked until about 7:30; getting my ledger straightened out. (August 11). A couple of days later he continues "I even had to work late again on my new job last night. I can't seem to get out of working overtime if I want to keep up with incoming work" (August 13).

Later that day he got five letters from Louise, dated July 4 to 22. Then Sunday morning he begins answering them. "I was so happy I just felt like turning handsprings and cartwheels" (August 14). He settles in to write a nice, long letter.

First he responds to the letter in which Louise described what happened at the dance she went to with her brother Bob. He writes "It's no difference to me how many dances you go to, or anything else; just so you don't endanger your health." And "Oh, honey I do want to see you happy all the time. Always please be sure and do anything that brings you the least bit of happiness" (August 14).

Then he responds to her brother's question, about whether or not they are in love with an ideal, or with each other.

It seems to me, that in a way, he answers his own question. I mean, we wouldn't love each other quite so much if it weren't for the fact that we are, in the eyes of each other, a representation of each other's ideals. ... I'm terribly in love with you because you are my ideal; my conception of what I always wanted the girl I loved to be like. Tell Bob that I am in love, with an ideal - girl! (August 14)

Herb learns that Louise's mother was using astrology to try to predict events in his life with the Navy. Louise told Herb that, according to her mother, he will get his transfer to a better job. He writes back "I didn't think that anything was amiss about astrology just because I got transferred sooner than we expected. ... and you see I did get transferred again, in a way" (August 14).

Herb feels the need to apologize for not writing more than he has been.

Darling, this job of mine is going to slow down our correspondence a little I'm afraid. Here I've still two of your letters to answer. I really must finish your letters tonight.

The next few nights I'll have to work pretty late and won't be able to write. You see, they are taking inventory these days; and I have to make an entry in each item's account. ... Another thing is that working all day long gets my eyes tired before I even start on a letter. (August 16)

He continues "Well the place (office) is empty now. Everyone went up to the movies. Now I can listen to the radio and write in peace. I always seem more like writing when I'm alone" (August 16).

It is now Friday afternoon, and Herb tells Louise about all the mail he is receiving. "Whew; honey but I am snowed under these days. Yesterday we got mail again; and I hadn't even answered one of your letters, and Bernard's letter, from last week; and yesterday I received two more letters from you, another from Bernard; and one from my mother" (August 19).

Then he explains why he is so far behind answering her letters. His boss, the Chief Pay Clerk, was "rushing things" during the inventory process.

I'm the guy that takes a beating because when the results of the inventory are sent up, I have to go all through my ledgers, adjust prices, and fill in hundreds of cards. So, with that to do lately, I haven't even had time to do my regular work lately. (August 19)

Herb relates his new job to his Navy career goal. "I'm doing my darnedest because I sure would like to get rated this quarter. The exam will be early in October, I think" (August 19).

Saturday afternoon finds Herb struggling to finish answering her latest bunch of letters. He tries to write thorough responses to each of her questions or report of activities. He promises to finish answering them all this weekend.

He reads again that Louise is concerned about finances. He decides to explain in detail.

Don't worry, hon, I always have plenty of money for whatever I need. Let's see where does that \$54 a month I'm making go now. ... It will be \$6.60 a month for insurance, \$20 a month home [for his stepmother], and about \$15 aside for us [for their savings], which leaves me about \$14 to get along on, and I can easily unless I go ashore a lot or start buying things. Anyhow I figured it all out some months back, and we should have that \$500 all right [savings for the start of their marriage]. (August 20)

Herb's new job continues to keep him very busy. Four days later he has time to write again.

I have to work late every day and when I get through my head is just about reeling and my eyes are tired and I can't force myself to pick up a pen and write some more. ... But even though you won't get as many letters as you used to Louise, that doesn't mean I love you any less.

Damn that guy in charge of me; he keeps pushing work on my desk day and night. Pretty soon now I'm only going to work regulation hours; the heck with him. And if I don't get rated this quarter he can jump in the drink. (August 24)

Thursday evening Herb does not have to work overtime, so he has time to write.

Tomorrow is a busy day as we have stores coming aboard, and I'm in charge of the traffic of the stores on the 2nd deck. I hope I can get some thick deck hands to listen to my orders.

I figure the way I can give orders is by working right along with them, and if a leader of men is to be respected, he must respect those who work for him. You see a petty officer is supposed to be a leader, and when I make third class storekeeper, I'll be a third-class petty officer. So, I have to get in training for it. (August 25)

He explains the significance of him being rated a Storekeeper, and the shore duty he will be eligible to receive.

A storekeeper's shore duty is better than most other rates. You do four years at sea and rate three years shore duty. So, when I start back from here, I'll be a rated Storekeeper, and I'll have four years at sea; so, I'll put in for shore duty. You don't get it right away though; they put you on a waiting list. You get extra money when you are on shore duty if you live at home. \$1.95 extra a day. Boy what we couldn't do with almost \$60 a month. (August 25)

He asks Louise where she might like to live, when he finally gets shore duty.

I haven't decided on what naval district I want it in yet. The Frisco area is one, as is San Pedro, San Diego, Seattle, etc. Naturally I'll put in for one in California. Which one would you prefer? Either one, we could run up to Halcyon over a weekend. (August 25)

Saturday evening Herb has time to write again. "Gee but I was glad to hear from you hon. That's what I live on; your letters" (August 27). Then he answers her letter, point by point, paragraph by paragraph, late into the evening, and he continues the following morning.

At the end of his long letter, he cautions her about her perception of him; and he makes a promise.

I hope that I can always be the good sport that you are, honeybunch. Really, darling, can't you see the dozens of my faults that I've outlined for you. So, don't come around with the "wonderful" stuff. The glove won't fit. But I love you Louise for thinking so highly of me and I'll do my best to be all you think I am. For you dear, there isn't anything that I wouldn't try to do. (August 28)

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