

1957

308 Bryant Ave.

Jan 9--Wed, 8:30 PM

Dearest Roberta,

I have just finished listening to your tape and and have just finished making one side of a tape to send back to you and to the parents. But as I went to turn it over and talk to you as to my precious wife I realized that it is quite possible that you will not get this in time to listen to it at home, and I am not at all sure you'll be taking the recorder with you to the hospital. I hope you do, for I would like to get tapes above letters of course, but you may not be able to do very much talking, and even if you do take the recorder to listen to it it would probably not be private enough to enable you to listen to really intimate things.

So, instead of even risking the chance of sending something which you could not listen to I am going to write. I will not simply re-cover the ground that I have covered on the tape since you will be out soon and will be able to listen to it then, and since it has no special news of any kind, and is not personal even, but to all of you.

I'll send it, therefore, addressed to either you or the parents, I mean both/and, so they will be able to listen to it even if you can't--I haven't sent them anything on tape yet anyhow. If you are still home you can listen too, of course. The half I have not gone on to finish I am erasing just now so that what you wrote to me will not be listened to even by accident.

This letter I am sending SD since I hope it gets to you before you get to the hospital--not that I have anything special to say but for the same reason that I would be specially concerned to be with you there as you went to the hospital were it possible.

Now I can't take a whole lot more time without getting to bed too late tonight again, but I do want to share with you one little thing...now please read the rest of this where no one will be looking over your shoulder!

By this time you no doubt have a letter in the mail telling me how we are coming with the possibility of a little boy. I have already said in one of my earlier letters how deeply moved I am by these thoughts, and how wonderful it all seems. It is all the more true now--just thinking of the possibility of it--that I just want to rush home and be with you, to protect you, to love you and to be a husband to you, in every sense. It seems like I am being cheated, too, for it appears to me to be a very wonderful thing to have a wife who is flowering again... I saw a beautifully pregnant woman just tonight and it made me so wistful to be with you my own wife.

What a beautiful and wonderful creature a woman is to her husband! Now here is the unusual thing I have done. I was in the Campus store today and happened to glance through a photo magazine and come upon a picture that almost overwhelmed me with recalling to me just what you look like--I don't mean the face, for it is out of the picture, but the body, it is just like yours, sweetheart. I am going to save it and show it to you. And you, seeing yourself in a photo magazine, physically, will be forced to conclude as I have done all along that you are a beautiful and wonderful example of the female physique. This experience was something stirring to me, and I pursued this further and found another very similar ^{picture}. And the thing I want you to know and to wake up to is that your physique is one of the classic types! In fact, though there are many other pictures of other "styles" they are all somewhat, well, almost repulsive to me. The girl God has given me is the one I know, and ^{her style} it is in here with the rest of them and looks worlds better, to me anyhow. And I want so much to prove to you that it is not I alone that have by some unnatural stretch of my imagination come to regard your physique normal and beautiful. It's in here! And it looks better than the other types. I would send these two pictures out to you so you could see except that I hate to part with them, for they, with the pictures I brought, are a more comprehensive reminder to me of the beautiful girl God has been so kind to give to me as my mate. Oh that I could ~~not~~ be with you and be that mate in all ways now that you are in special need, hospital, etc.

All my love, sweet girl. I want so much to rub my face in your tummy!
Your man, Ralph

1/57

Fri 11th

Dear Sweetheart,

This tape is all to you. The 1st half
about finances - I phoned the Board & asked
them to transfer funds to Princeton, Nothing
else very urgent.

All my love, darling,
Ralph

P.S. I do hope you over the operation -
the worst of it - by the time you get this.

Over

My throat is very very sore -

Mon noon

Well honey,

I can't help but be disappointed. This tape arrived special delivery, but was completely blank, on both sides. You'd better check your recorder. So I am in the dark about Frances & what other was on this tape. Try to remember.

I'm sorry, sweetheart -

Love,

Roberta

I'm sending back the pictures too since you have the negatives now

Betty likes the "Best as is" best -

So O.K. by me