

Evely Laser Shlensky

Lincoln, dear
Little by little I'm
making my way through
long un-touched cabinets
and drawers. I found
these letters from Dad
and thought you might
enjoy seeing them.

Much love,
Mom

9/26/61

DEAREST EVELY,

HOW LIKE A WINTER HATH MY ABSENCE BEEN
FROM THEE, THE PLEASURE OF THE FLEETING YEAR!
WHAT FREEZINGS HAVE I FELT, WHAT DARK DAYS SEEN!
WHAT OLD DECEMBER'S BARENESS EVERYWHERE!
AND YET THIS TIME REMOVED WAS SUMMER'S TIME,
THE TEEMING AUTUMN, BIG WITH RICH INCREASE,
BEARING THE WANTON BURDEN OF THE PRIME,
LIKE WIDOWED WOMBS AFTER THEIR LORDS' DECEASE:
YET THIS ABUNDANT ISSUE SEEMED TO ME
BUT HOPE OF ORPHANS AND UNFATHERED FRUIT;
FOR SUMMER AND HIS PLEASURES WAIT ON THEE,
AND, THOU AWAY, THE VERY BIRDS ARE MUTE.
OR, IF THEY SING, 'TIS WITH SO DULL A CHEER,
THAT LEAVES LOOK PALE, DREADING THE WINTER'S NEAR.

WRITTEN BY R. SHLENSKY M.D.

COMPOSED BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

I WAS VERY SELF CENTERED TODAY. I THOUGHT
ONLY OF MY OWN GROWING EMPTINESS AS I SAT WITH
YOU AT THE AIRPORT. AND WHILE I STRUGGLED WITH
MY BUT APPARENTLY STOIC SELF, I HARDLY GAVE
THOUGHT OR CONSIDERATION TO HOW YOU MUST HAVE
FELT. I WAS ONLY STRUCK WITH THAT WHEN

I RETURNED TO THE HOSPITAL AND READ THE GLOWING LETTER YOU WROTE THE OTHER NIGHT. PERHAPS THERE IS SOME FORTUNE FOR YOU IN THE FACT THAT I DIDN'T SEE THAT LETTER UNTIL AFTER YOU HAD FLOWN. FOR MY THOUGHTS WERE, AS I READ AND REREAD IT, THAT I SHOULD HAVE NEVER LET YOU GO. I LOVE YOU, EVELY.

I CALLED HOME FROM O'HARE. MY GRANDMOTHER WAS THE ONLY ONE HOME, AND SO AS NOT TO SLIGHT HER BY WITHOLDING ANYTHING, I TOLD HER OF OUR UNDERSTANDING. SHE WAS ECSTATIC. TONIGHT, DURING THIS WRITING, MY FOLKS CALLED ME. THEY ARE PLUM-PLEASED, TO SAY THE LEAST.

I SHOT SOME GOLF WITH GEORGE KATZ TONIGHT AFTER DINNER. IT SEEMS THAT I NEED YOU AROUND TO DO VERY WELL. THE COURSE WAS A BIT WET, I MUST SAY.

EVELY DARLING, I LOVE YOU MORE THAN THIS POOR HAND CAN GRAPH ON PAPER. MY THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU EVERY MOMENT. YOU ARE MY LIFE.

I TRUST YOU HAD A GOOD FLIGHT BACK TO

3.

SCHOOL. THIS FELLOW MIKE (WAS THAT HIS NAME)
SEEMED TO BE A GOOD LAD. I'M HAPPY THAT
YOU HAD SOMEONE TO BE WITH ON THE TRIP.

AS I DIRECTED OUR CORA BACK TO
DOWNEY, THE BRIGHT FUTURE SEEMED TO
BE, AS THE HIGHWAY, STRETCHED OUT BEFORE
ME. WE HAVE SOME MONUMENTAL DECISIONS
TO MAKE THIS YEAR. MY PARENTS ARE OPPOSED
TO THE CALIFORNIA IDEA, AS WOULD BE EXPECTED.
THEY FEEL THAT NORTH WESTERN'S TOO GOOD TO
TOSS ASIDE. AT LEAST THAT'S THEIR SURFACE
REASON FOR OPPOSITION. I STILL THINK THE
IDEA HAS POSSIBILITIES.

PLEASE DROP A NOTE TO MY FOLKS:

MR. & MRS. I. SHLENSKY
6530 S. SACRAMENTO
CHICAGO 29, ILLINOIS

EVELY, MY DEAR EVELY, I LOVE YOU VERY
MUCH. YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY WIFE, AND
I WANT TO TELL THE WORLD. THOUGH I HAVEN'T
GIVEN YOU A RING AS YET, PLEASE CONSIDER
YOURSELF MY FIANCEE, WITH ALL THE RIGHTS
AND PRIVILEGES ATTACHED THERETO.

LOVE Roney

DEAR EVELY,

9/28/61 MIDNIGHT

I HAVE JUST SPENT 3 OF THE MOST GRATIFYING HOURS OF MY LIFE TALKING WITH YOUR FOLKS. I'M GOING TO CALL YOU TOMORROW NIGHT AND TELL YOU ABOUT IT, BUT I WANT TO WRITE IT NOW, AT LEAST IN BRIEF.

ESSENTIALLY I TOLD YOUR FOLKS HOW I LOVE YOU, MY POSITION PROFESSIONALLY AND FINANCIALLY, OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, AND ASKED FOR YOUR HAND. THIS WAS GRANTED WITH GREAT JOY. SEVERAL CIGARS AND SEVERAL HUNDRED CIGARETTES WERE SMOKED. I SHOOK YOUR FATHER'S HAND VIGOROUSLY AND KISSED YOUR MOTHER'S FAIR CHEEK. WE DISCUSSED PHILOSOPHY, SEX, AND LIFE IN GENERAL. WE TALKED ABOUT YOUR PRESENT UNHAPPINESS AND ITS UNDERLYING REASONS IN ADDITION TO WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT. ESSENTIALLY, EVELY, WE TALKED ABOUT YOU, WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU, AND HOW TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.

NOW FOR A FEW DICTUMS. YOU ARE OFFICIALLY MY FIANCEE - MY FUTURE WIFE! YOU ARE TO SHARE YOUR EVERY PROBLEM, YOUR EVERY DOUBT, YOUR EVERY SOURCE OF DISCONTENT WITH ME. I AM PART OF YOU. YOU ARE NOT TO BE SEEN IN THE COMPANY OF UNATTACHED MEN - YOU ARE MY WOMAN!!

YOU WILL PUT IN ONE MORE SEMESTER AT
BRANDEIS—THIS SEMESTER, THEN YOU'RE
COMING HOME TO BE AT MY SIDE WHERE
YOU BELONG! ON THE OTHER HAND, I AM
NOW YOUR PROTECTOR, GUARDIAN, CONFESSOR,
PARTNER, AND FIANCÉ. YOU CAN DEPEND
OR RELY, WHICHEVER YOU WISH TO CALL IT,
COMPLETELY ON ME. I'M A BIG STRONG GUY
WHO KNOWS HIS WAY AROUND AND CAN HANDLE
ANYTHING THAT COMES ALONG. I ALWAYS HAVE
SO FAR, AND ALWAYS WILL! AND I'M YOURS,
EVENLY. I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART. I'M
GOING TO BE THE BEST PSYCHIATRIST KNOWN TO
MANKIND AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE BEST
WIFE AND MOTHER (WITH ^(BA.) B.S. DEGREE, AT LEAST)
A MAN HAS EVER HAD. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LIFE TOGETHER, A COUPLE
HAS EVER HAD. WE WERE BORN FOR EACH
OTHER, DARLING. WE'RE ONE OF THOSE ONE IN
A MILLION COMBINATIONS, AND THE GOOD LORD
BROUGHT US TOGETHER.

I LOVE YOU WITH EVERY CELL IN MY BODY.
I LOVE YOU, I LOVE YOU.

LOVE Ron