

Tuesday AM - 3:30 A.M.

Dear Bettylou —

Try as I could — and tired as I am —
I cannot sleep — even though it's cooled off —
considerably — IT is like so many other
sleepless nights I've had for so long — A
lamentable sameness — A queer heart sick feeling
in the pit of my insides — A long pang of
loneliness and despair reaching from here to the
moon and back again — Have you ever felt
it? — but of course you have — How stupid
of me to question — All right — so laugh at
me — You've been waiting these months just for
that I suppose — and to maybe even up the score? —
That couldn't be done by you — All the rotten —
foul — things you could do to me — still would fall
short of evening up for the many hurts I have
done you — Only one person can even up the
score and that's me — I brought about the
whole foul business — And God knows I will have
to make good for all the bad — that is the only
way the score can even up — through seeds of
goodness and righteousness for all the badness...
And wrongs

(2)

I know you do not want me around - or be bothered
by me - God knows I can see it in your eyes -
and I heard it from your lips Sunday evening - but
Honey - I can't help it - I keep waking in the
middle of the night in a cold frantic sweat from a
bad dream - and find myself - lost and afraid -
and wanting my Betty Lou - that I kicked away
through my blind - stubborn - and relentless pursuit
of unreality - I relegated a very fine girl
to a hard shell of ice and bitterness - and I am
thoroughly and painfully ashamed of myself -
And my lot is a shallow one - my happiness comes
only from striving to make every tiny wrong a right -
And - oh - how tough it is to make a right - to
displace a wrong - How easy it is to wrong -
and how much a struggle to right - Perhaps that
is why there is so much wrong in the world -
because it's so very easy - to wrong - but - after
all - why do I go on? - You told me - All is
dead - there is no more feeling - well - because -
Honey - (you cringe at the word) because - I threw
away and destroyed the feeling - and only I can
strike again the spark - through a sincerity and
honest effort that never existed until I finally

③ Awakened and found that I had made a shambles
of our lives and our children's — too late? —
No! — Never! — If I thought that for an
instant I could not go on — No — you think it
if you must — but I will never! — I told
you Sunday nite — as you paced the floor like a
wild animal — that I have nothing to live and
fight for but you — and Akana + Harry —
laugh at me — call me a liar — Do not say
what you wish about me — Say I'm a bastard —
A no good dirty son of a Bitch — I was —
Betty Lou — but no more — oh — never
again — I put all my heart into these words
of torment and anguish when I say — I love
you — I am ashamed for what I have done
to you — and I pray that God will give me
the strength to cause sunlight to dance through your
soul again — to bring you love and devotion and
faithfulness — to give you the moon we dreamed
of together so long ago — to make a home
for ourselves and our children that will be envied
by all but God — Oh — Betty Lou — I am so
miserable and so lost — and yet — so old —
and big inside with a love for you — that I
could never hope to have — I was so blind —
so much a big shot — I used to think you

(4)

didn't give a damn for my life and career —
Betty Lou — How ridiculous one's imagination
can be — when his his head is turned and false
unequal persuasion and flattery flows so freely
towards him — These things I learned —
But I learned something else — I learned that
Life is a fragile thing — and is not to be
toyed with — That to be a big shot — is false
and ridiculous — That to imagine is to play
with dynamite — That all the good you can
do can be erased with but one step in the
wrong direction — I think I learned most —
Betty Lou — that one cannot escape God —
and the fact that His will far surpasses all
trials against others — That one doesn't toy
with others lives — and the Good in faith and
righteousness — must one always learn the
right things in life too late — ~~I can't~~
believe that — If I did — Betty Lou — I would
now at this crucial time in my life — completely
fold and give up — and not care anymore —
I have even thought — it would be better for
you and the children if — somehow I could die —
and leave you my insurance so that you all could get
a fresh start — so that my children would grow up
thinking they had a father who passed on young —

(5) instead of growing up and finding out from others that their father was not fit to have begotten them — But Death is no release from our Sins unless we have been forgiven them through our own humbleness — IT was not meant to be used as a means of ~~erasing~~ erasing all — just for the simple reason of running out — There's eternity to face — and that in itself should make a weak person strong again — No — I will not run out on you — or those two cheeks — all of whom I have so much — Can you imagine me — the big shot — All of a sudden going religious? — It must be a big laugh to you — But I think — above all — finding my faith again in God and light will be the answer I so desperately need and want — I am starting back to church next Sunday again — for the first time since my boyhood — And I am praying earnestly again for the first time since my troublesome childhood — which church — doesn't really matter — for God is in all — It depends I guess — on how much we really want Him and the Good He can bring — I only know — that the great big shot — Alton Freed — is turning to prayer and God for the solace — the comfort — and the forgiveness — that was too ridiculous before

(6)

Somehow - through faith - things will be
right again - and He will help me if He
knows I sincerely want to make right the
wrongs I have done, I cannot say to Him -
"I am sorry - God - I won't do it again -
bring Betty home and my children back to me"
and found around and find you standing there -
but I can say "I am sorry - God - Give me
the strength to find my right way among men -
forgive me my sins - and help me to bring
happiness to those I have brought heartache and
despair - God - let me live each lovely Day -
So - I may know - that come what may -
I've done my best to live the way - you want
me to -" - Well - that's it - Betty -
except to say - Don't lose faith and heart -
this is nothing to you - After what I've
done - but - I mean it when I say -
I have never loved you as deeply as now -
lots of wrongs I am ashamed of - But I
thank God I am not ashamed to say to all -
I love you - and I will prove it in every
way - until I die

⑦ And these closing lines - I read to you -
on my T.V. show - even though you were not
listening - They were for you - last week -
"My Hand is lonely for your clasping - Dear -
My Ear is tired waiting for your call -
I want your strength to help - Your laugh to cheer -
Heart - Soul - and Senses need you - one and all -
I droop without your full - frank - sympathy -
We ought to be together - You and I -
We want each other so - To comprehend -
The Dream - The Hope - Things Planned - or SEEN
or wrought -

Companion - Comforter and guide and friend -
As much as Love asks Love, does thought ask thought
Life is so short, so fast the love hours fly -
We ought to be together - "You and I"

As Never Before -
Goodnight -

Alan

6/29/50