

This is a copy of my letter to Joe which I copied by hand before sending it off.

5th October /1947_

Joe my son, I better write to you now. Later, when I am in Toronto I shall see you and be able to talk to you, I hope. I have seen much of Kari in the last three weeks, more than in the previous 24 years (for we were both shy and not inclined to intimacy.) This changed in the last week. She has gone through unimaginable suffering. I saw her running into a state of the mind and the soul in which their fabric itself is in danger of disruption and no sooner than a decision is taken, it is reversed, and in which alternatives of life are no alternatives, because neither of them is found liveable, on closer inspection. Like a bird snared in a room with two windows, hurting itself now against one, now against the other. The matter, (as far as Kari is concerned) is now beyond entreaties, arguments, letters, telegrams, tickets. When a human soul is in a snare, there is salvation only in one thing, only in one: to achieve utter clarity about the nature of this snare. That such clarity can not be had on the cheap, is obvious. Nor was it. Not until all elements in the human situation which are secondary and incidental are brushed aside and the source itself from which man lives is laid bare, can clarity be achieved. With Kari it is this: You are the closest person to her in this world. She is not in love with you.

She could not bear hurting or disappointing you. She found herself drifting into marriage, while not in love. This is the bare truth, and this is what turns life and plan into so many lifeless schemes. She drifted, towed in the wake of a strong love, of your strong soul. But towed, not sailing.

The consummation of a fundamentally one-sided marriage is hell on earth, Joe, to which no man or woman deserves to be put. And the responsibility fell back on Kari.

When she decided, a few days ago, to go to Canada, she was clear about the following: "I am not in love with Joe." "I have an obligation towards Joe." "I cannot hurt Joe." She was going, and going on sentimental grounds. I fully backed her up in this

October 24th 1947

Dear Joe,

I understand from Kari that she is flying to Toronto at the end of this month. I know how you feel about her and can only hope for both your sakes that you will stand up to the situation. One of the reasons ~~for it~~ ^{of it} though, ~~I realise, one only is, this,~~ - On spite of her warnings, implicit and explicit, of the change in her feelings towards you, you did not ~~xxxxxxx~~ release her from the claims you had on her future conduct, but continued to insist them, or at least, to take them for granted.

From your personal angle, this appeared natural and legitimate. But eventually, it led to a situation, which I know perfectly well you abhor, in which she may marry you against her will, under the pressure of the force of circumstances.

Already the avoidable suffering- over and above the inevitable - the damage to life and work, has been great. Yet I fear that we have still to see the end. Unless you rise to the situation, whatever

(2)

it may entail for you, Kari (and yourself) are in grave grave peril. The only hope of a solution, as I see it, ~~now~~ lies in your giving back to her, by word and action, her full freedom, and leaving no doubt in her mind that you want her above all to maintain her own personal integrity.

You know how much Ilona and myself believe in refraining from any influence on our daughter's life. Of this we have given ample proof over a long stretch of time. But this is now an entirely different matter. It is she who is asking her mother for help, it is she who feels endangered. This must work out as a pressure on her of the "force of circumstances" ^{sincer, quite} _h quite apart from your appeals to her, she is being advised by others. Although from all descriptions, it is my conviction that she is no longer in love with you, and feels that her duty lies in following her own course of work and life, yet she fears that your love and circumstances will prove too strong for her., unless you stand by her, sincerely determined to protect her.

3

I am writing this as an act of last resort, in the hope of averting a catastrophe towards which things are now heading. For you, Joe, too, only misery can result from a marriage concluded at the price of the emotional and personal integrity of a beloved person. It is the simple truth, Joe, that, as you know, I am personally fond of you and I understand (therefore, you) only too well. You have been patient and suffered much. However, there is no time to be lost. Facing the facts courageously, may yet save you both;

I am clear in my mind that Kari's trip to Canada, in these circumstances, was a mistake and, moreover, unfair to you. That she meant well, does not, in ~~the~~ my view, set matters right. I had neither directly nor indirectly any communication with her on this subject. Yet everything points to the conclusion that the dice of fate are now being loaded heavily against you both - against your inner freedom of action. For I really do not know what would be

(4)

worse, for Kari to marry when she is out of love, or for you to marry her under the circumstances. I am confident that once you have realised the true state of affairs, you will not allow such a thing to happen.

This is my considered opinion. My blessing on you, you, my boy, God give you the manliness, the strength, and courage, to face the ordeal.

Affectionately,

October 24, 1947

Dear Joe, (1)

I understand from
Karl that she is flying to
Toronto end of this week.
I know how you feel about
her and can only hope for
both your sakes that you will
stand up to the situation.

One of the reasons ~~for this~~ ^{for it, though,}
I realize, ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~war~~ ^{war},
in implicit and explicit, ~~at~~
~~of~~ ~~you~~ ~~had~~ ~~not~~ ~~taken~~ ~~note~~ ~~of~~
the change in her feelings
towards you, you did not
release her from the claims
you had on her ^{future}
conduct, but, ^{continued to} insisted on
~~these~~ ^{them} ~~claims~~, or at least, ~~take~~
them for granted. (take

From your personal angle

leaving no doubt in her mind that you want to abuse all
our regard for her will depend on the to maintain ~~our~~ ^{in her duty}

~~at this appeared~~ ^{natural} ~~and legitimate~~ and legitimate. But
~~Actually + and objectively~~
~~it is not~~ Eventually it led
~~created~~ ^{which I must perfect, with you up to the} a situation in which
he may ~~confront~~ you against
her will, under the pressure
of the force of circumstances.
Already he ~~unnecessary~~ ^{avoidable}
suffering - over and above the
~~inevitable~~ - the damage to
life and work has ^{been} ~~done~~ ^{still to set}
yet I fear we have ~~not yet~~
~~seen~~ the end. Unless you rise
to the situation, whatever it may
entail for you, Kari (and
yourself) are in grave peril.
Your first duty ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~face~~ ^{face} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~only~~ ^{only}
~~hope~~ ^{of a solution} ~~is~~ ^{not} ~~to~~ ^{as} ~~you~~ ^{now} ~~swear~~ ^{they} ~~back~~ ^{to}
by word and action, her full
freedom, and assuring her that
your regard for her will depend
on the way she regards herself.

You know how much I and myself believe in refraining
from any influence on ~~Kari's~~ ^{our daughter's}

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and
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of
life

Of this we have given ample
proof over a long stretch of
time. But this is ~~an~~ ^{now} different
case. It is she who is asking her
mother for help; it is she who
feels ~~inadequately~~ ^{inadequately}. ~~She is being~~
~~subjected to appeals to her courage~~
~~self-sacrifice and so on from~~
~~all sides, and although from~~
~~all descriptions, it is very ~~clear~~~~
~~indeed~~ conviction, she is no
longer in love with you and feels
that her duty lies in following
her own course of work and
life ^{yet} she fears that ~~external~~
^{your love and circumstances} pressures will prove too strong
for her (unless you yourself
stand ~~for~~ ^{for} her freedom)
~~integrity~~ ^{integrity} ~~against all~~ ^{against all}
I am ~~now~~ ^{now} determined to protect
I am writing as an act of
last resort, in the hope of averting
a catastrophe towards which
things are now heading. For
you ^{will} ~~lose~~ ^{lose} not only ~~your~~ ^{your} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~share~~
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concluded


#1 personal integrity of a beloved ^{motherly} person. It is the simple fact, I believe, that I am, as you know, personally fond of you and I understand you ^{perhaps} only too well: ⁽²⁾ However, there is no time to be ⁽¹⁾ lost. ⁽¹⁾ If you have been patient & suffered ~~the~~ ^{my} ~~love~~ ^{love} for ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~both~~ ^{both} may yet save you both.

(3) Facing ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~you~~ ^{you} ~~face~~ ^{face} the fact, ^{circumstances} I am clear in my mind that Kari's trip to Canada in these circumstances, was a ^{unmistake} ~~mistake~~ ^{moreover} and ^{unfair} ~~unfair~~ to you, that he meant well, does not, in my view, set matters right. I had neither direct nor indirect communication with Kari on this subject. Yet everything points to the conclusion ^{that the dice of} fate are now heavily loaded against you both - against your ^{freedom} ~~freedom~~ of action. For I really don't know what ^{would be} ~~is~~ worse: for Kari to marry when she is out of love or for you to marry her under the circumstances. I am ~~still~~ confident that once you have realized

5) ^{true state of affairs} the ~~truth~~ you will not allow such a thing to happen.

Affectionately,

Dick

 This is my considered opinion.

My blessing on you, my boy,
God give you the manliness,
the strength and courage,
to face the ordeal.

done
2/20/51

5th October

For my son I better write to you now. Later, when I am in Toronto I shall see you and be able to talk to you, I hope. I have seen much of Kari in the last three weeks, more than in the previous 24 years, (for we were both shy and not inclined to intimacy). This changed in the last weeks. She has gone through unimagined suffering. I saw her running into a state of the mind and the soul in which these factors itself is in danger of disintegration and no sooner than a decision is taken, it is reversed, and in which alternatives of the life are no alternatives, because neither is forced to be tenable, on closer inspection. Like a bird snared in a room with two windows, ^{hurled, at all now against one, now} _(as far as Kari is concerned) against the other. The matter is now beyond entreaties, arguments, letters, telegrams, tickets. When a human soul is in a snare there is salvation only in one thing, only in one: to achieve utter clarity about the nature of this snare. That such clarity can not be had on the cheap, is obvious. Not was it. Not until all elements in the human situation which are secondary and incidental are brushed aside, and the source itself, from which man lives, is laid bare, can clarity be achieved. With Kari, it is in this: you are the closest person to her in this world. She is not in love with you.

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Aug 22nd
[1961?]

Dear Dicki:

It was good to talk
to you over the phone.

Here, besides the house,
I am excited also about the "Le Devoir"
of which I see close clippings.
The "Devoir" differs from the globe
in that its writers summarize
the world's events instead of using
the New York Times service as
the Toronto paper does. They are
very sober and analytical and
I think sensible. They sense
what's important about the world
and in their courage they devote
a much greater proportion of their
space to Latin America (Cuba and
the uncommitted countries than do
the English speaking papers. Perhaps
most significant is the fact that

since they have no access to a
stable of syndicated or political
analysts, they do the job themselves
and so they seem to have a corps
of very competent people who can
sense the shape of the world.

As I told you a the plane
its seems safe to say that Brudner
will get what he wants. Another
hopeful sign is the American
diplomacy. They seem very cool
and definite. I think they have
succeeded in establishing their
position with very clarity. By
not doing anything about the
borders they have recognized
the de facto sovereignty of East
Germany. By ending Johnson
to West Berlin they have committed
themselves to its defence.

Keir/psidra is pegged out in
such a way that the Russian
will find little difficulty, it
appears to me, to allow Kennedy
his concession for American
public opinion which he needs
while in turn obtaining and
American guarantee for the
present frontiers in central Europe.

Much love

Joe

Business morning
Dear Glauca and Bicki

This is an endless morning.
You cant get into the living room
for bike, punching bags, xmas trees
etc. The boys are like lions digesting
their prey - absolute quiet and serenity

The xmas tree looked very lovely
last night - with the lights of the
blue and red reflecting against the
angel's hair - below the real glow
of the christmas wrapping on their
knees. Still Kari wasn't there, no
fourselves which made over xmas a
little thin ^{family} ~~being~~ - wise - we missed all
of you

We have a full holiday program
So. day dinner at the Elens, to-norrow
a fantastic Treasure Island - Thursday
the wail, Swiss Family Robinson -

Kari writes from Trinidad about
the entirely new world of the Caribbean.
too many impressions to write here

but all exciting, and stimulating
and new, and unexpected as she fully
in ^{the} Council about the shape of
an underdeveloped area.

I'm caught up in this
paper I am doing on the Post War L.P.P.
I'm also trying to read the papers
book a Socialist that I have read
in years - its called "Conviction"
and put out by the New Statesman
Group.

Also the French men send
their sweetest love to you

Joe

July 1st

Dear Flora and Dickie

Everything here is remarkably well ordered - an unnatural quiet that is just ideal for work and I have been getting ahead very well -

I am quite intrigued by the Social Credit. I don't know whether you have been reading the articles in Le Devoir, but it is quite clear that this was in many ways a ~~profound~~ no way in which the urban masses outside of Montreal expressed itself. The counterpart in Ontario west for the N.D.P. - a real proof it seems to me that there are two nations in Canada and that each responds only to its own radical party.

This is not to deny the dangerous tendencies of
the S.C. bloc. For me it has a special fascination
because of my interest in the Bloc Populaire. It
is as if a play is being repeated with the
same characters but with the actors trying to
modify their interpretations. I hope by watching
the second edition to catch the spirit of the
first.

I have the Carr book a History and
find it going tough. It is abstract and
philosophical. I suppose that we ought
to read it first to understand what we are
doing. Ordinarily we never think of all the
assumptions we make.

What of the world situation - we seem
to have entered a localized area - no world
crisis - do you think the Russians and
Americans are negotiating

has
Jol