

VII After 2 weeks and 5 letters without comment.  
Finally - this!!!!  
A.R. MARR



Can you blame us for being  
flabbergasted?? Interesting that romance + <sup>passionates</sup> love came  
later, didn't it. This was to be a socio-economic-cultural  
partnership. Well, I  
Dr. Donald Chasman  
Surgeon III.  
Boston City Hospital  
Boston  
Massachusetts.  
suppose my letters weren't  
much better.

125 E. 18<sup>th</sup> ave.  
Jan 17, 1943

Dearest Don,

It is Saturday night again and I am sitting propped up in bed trying to put the letter which has been in my mind for so long onto paper. Have you ever written a letter in your mind so that it conveyed everything you wanted it to, and then lost it completely when you went to put it down on paper? This is the letter I have wanted to write to you every night since I left South Station for Washington and I have kept postponing it because I wanted to be sure that my idea could stand up to all different climates and environments. Briefly, I should like to get married when you finish at the City instead of waiting until the war is over.

This, of course, provided it is what you want. The more I think about it the more I feel that your suggestion to wait was due to your concept of my reaction to Dale's marriage. It is completely you - the most unselfish, thoughtful approach - but you see, Don, I'm not Dale. I am not completely mature nor stable, I know, but on the other hand I am no where near so highly strung as she. Furthermore, I have watched Dale grow

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in stability and understanding, since her marriage. Even with Bob away she is far more content and happy than she ever was before. So, if your attitude is due to looking at it from the point of view of protection, me, I appreciate it, but I'd rather not be protected, please.

It all goes deeper to include our interpretation of marriage - it is far more than the romantic notion of the young prince meeting the young princess in a rose-covered bower, from whence they depart, after various episodes, to live happily ever after. Marriage is the realization on the part of two adult people that with the other person they can create the type of life they believe is right, establishing together the values they believe to be permanent in a world which often denies them. It is a creative process, as you so beautifully put it, a building together and the more we face together, the better, I believe, the final product will be.

The war is part of the lives of our generation, a part which neither you nor I can accept as a positive force. I think we would both be much happier if we felt that in spite of its destructive influence we

were doing, something positive toward building the type of world we believe in. You and I have been forced by circumstance to be apart a great deal of our growing-up process. The war is another part of this process and I should like to accomplish it with you. Furthermore, I have a feeling that the sense of loneliness that comes from separation will decrease as we are together more. The more time we spend with each other, the easier it will become to project the other person into what we are doing.

I think I could probably get leave of absence from my job to get married. In any case I do not think it would be hard for me to get another job after you had left. We could have nearly four months together - the two months you have free and the two months on shore base.

Perhaps I misunderstood what you really wanted. If so, give me a firm little pat on the shoulder and tell me to be patient and wait. If this is so, however, I would like to at least have the family officially announce our engagement. The main thing is this, Dad - I don't want you to feel, as you put it at the end, that

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you are waiting for me. I would rather  
that from here we went on together.

With my love

Thirum.

p.s. This is a very stupid request but a  
letter takes an awful long time - would  
you mind, very much, telegraphing, yes or no?