

Dear Israel Honey,

I just want you to know that I love you very much and I'm very anxious to see you again soon. It's sad to me when I think of you spending your birthday alone (at least without me). But then again, a lot of things have been making me sad lately. Not the wedding at all, babe. Just know that I'm enjoying making plans. There's some things which, you, would be easier if you were here - like gown colors (which ones will match your tuxes?) and I do want you to help pick out the flowers - March would be great! Everytime I think about the wedding and our plans I get so happy. Please believe that - the plans are not a hassle really. I know last night on the phone - it sounded like that was the problem, but really not. I'm even looking forward to having all my sisters in it - it will be a rejoicing! The thing is that there's just so much tension here at home lately - now, not every day, but most days, my dad gets mad at everything, and then my mom gets real quiet and nobody's happy. It's a tense atmosphere then. And then I feel guilty when I do something. I have really been trying to talk to my dad and reach out, but I get yelled out for everything and treated like a little kid. Then I'm like anxious about everything. I really tire of always hearing my dad yelling and criticizing.

Oh babe then I think of our marriage and life together and my heart rejoices! I think of going out looking for dresses and planning all we're gonna do and I'm very happy + content I guess the big part of it, is that I'm very concerned about my mom - all the hassle she gets just isn't good for her. She tries not to say anything about it. I had some real close times with her though - shopping for dresses, and also last night while it was still snowing, around 10:00, we went out for a walk, just her + I. It was so peaceful and quiet and beautiful. I enjoy being with her - I feel at ease and myself cause I know I won't be criticized. Also, I feel bad for my dad - my mom thinks it's because he doesn't work as much as before and he gets irritable cause he's frustrated with himself - she told me when we went out walking. I felt so good then - but when we came back in, right away daddy was yelling. Babe, I don't say any of this so that you hate my dad - I only want you to understand that it's not the wedding I'm bummed out about (quite the opposite), but this situation. Please pray for my parents. Also, they're not too

good financially. I want to pay for as much as I can for the wedding.

Hen, sometimes I get so scared when things get bad around here. It's so hard to explain. Just pray for them. You calm my spirit, Henry. When you called last night, I was all upset cause I thought daddy would be mad you called cause he was mad earlier that night (that's why I sounded like that-mad), but then just talking to you, you calmed me and cheered me up and I love you for that. For knowing me so well and being so nice to me. Sometimes I wish you were here so bad I could just scream. I love you so very much babe.

I felt bad last night cause on the phone I gave the impression that it was the wedding plans that was bothering me and getting me all upset, but then I didn't straighten you out by telling you it wasn't that cause you would've asked what was bothering me and I couldn't talk about it then. I don't know, I just feel like that was selfish of me ~~not~~ to only talk about my problems. Oh, babe forgive me, my love. I don't know if what I said made any sense. Mostly babe, understood that I'm thoroughly enjoying making plans and I thank you for trusting my judgement in doing stuff. I'm trusting the Lord for all our plans. I do feel a bit concerned over if we'll have enough money cause I want you to be able to go to school without worries. But I have prayed about it and it will work out. Also, wherever we live is fine

with me - just for I live with you - I'll have all I need.
I do need you Henry, I know I need to trust more
fully in the Lord about my home life situation.
It's easy to get pulled down when you live with it
everyday.

Later; Tonight I went out to gym night. We played
Volleyball all night. We had good games. I played
decent - I had 2 spikes. I really think my
reaction time is quicker since I've been running.
Today after work, I drove down to the running
course near the rose garden. All that clear fresh
snow couldn't go to waste. I had my hiking boots
on and I ran through the fields in the snow.
It was beautiful. The sun was just right, making
the snow sparkle and the snow covered trees
were so pretty. I just love being outside and I
love the snow. This snow is real powdery - doesn't
even seem wet. My boots are amazing - I can
walk in the wet for hours and come in and
my boots are completely dry. I drank the
spearmint tea. Thanks - I like it - didn't try
the lemon yet. This morning, going to work was
fun. The roads were all snow covered and it
was so quiet. I love driving on snow covered roads.
Wasn't really that slippery at all. The streets look
so pretty when they're white with snow.

I feel so good when I get a lot of exercise in a day. At work lately, we have a lot of patients we have to lift like in + out of bed and in and out of the whirlpool & feel good after a hard days work - hard physically that is. Then running in the snow was such fun (cross country ski's would have been cool to use there) and then volleyball tonight. Now, it's late (I know it's late) and I don't ever feel tired, but I better go to bed anyhow. so I can get up tomorrow. I do love you and I wish I could go to bed and find you there. I keep you warm babe - and satisfied. Goodnight. Waiting for you.

Friday 2/19
Got your letter, babe. I love reading your letters - it encourages me. I wish so bad you could be here. Sherry + David were supposed to come tomorrow for the day. They called tonight - David's sister, Karen, died tonight. She was 26 and 7 months pregnant. I think it was an aneurysm. So they came up tonight for the night and will be leaving early tomorrow morning for Ohio. David had been in an accident ~~at~~ last week with the Dodge and it was totaled. They bought a Saab, and just picked it up yesterday.

Tonight I went over to your house. I enjoyed talking with your mom. Diane is excited about this wedding. I feel close to them. They said you had called and your knee is bad and you

might have it taken care of there. Oh, babe, I
hate to think of that. I want to be with you!
This is the loneliest time of my life. I wish I
could take care of you, Henry. I hate to think
of you suffering. I'm praying about it a lot
and I'll talk to you about it soon.

DO NOT FEAR, FOR I AM WITH YOU;
DO NOT ANXIOUSLY LOOK ABOUT YOU,
FOR I AM YOUR GOD.

I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU, SURELY I WILL
HELP YOU. SURELY I WILL UPHOLD
YOU WITH MY RIGHTEOUS RIGHT HANDS!

Isaiah 41:10

→ That is true. He is God - nothing is too big for
Him to handle (and that applies to all I've
said in this letter; all my problems) and
He is God only wise!

yours,

Valerie