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Jack P. Bell World War Two Correspondence #035

Evabel Bell

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Mr. Jack Bell
51 Groveland St.
Oberlin, O.
Dear Jack,

I really don’t know how to begin this letter, but I have been thinking things over and some how things have simply got to turn one way or the other. I have been thinking and thinking and thinking until I believe if I think any more I’ll go crazy.

Any way I might as well begin on what I want to tell you. So far goes. Do you ever realize what a wide gap there is between us? No I don’t suppose you did. I don’t suppose you think that religion has much to do with it. It hasn’t when it comes to gentile people, I mean Protestant, Catholic, Methodist and so forth. They can change and it doesn’t mean to break but Jewish it different. There is just one law and that’s all. Either you are one or you are not one. Both you and I have grown up under altogether different back-
couples can get into fight that would show you.

If your love for me is so great that you can absolutely adjust your life so very much, I suppose you will say "why can't you go half way and I'll go half way." But it can't be done. You can't live your life half way. I know I couldn't become a good Christian because my bringing up has been too strict and if ever I did it wouldn't take very long before I would regret it. There are just little things that would hold me back. There's certain times a year when you're supposed to say a prayer for the dead and that I would never give up. And if we had children, how would they feel if you were Jewish? You can't raise children in a half way measure.

8 to 10 a.m. a thousand never things that will come easy little petty things and in the end, grounds. Do you think it would be easy to adjust ourselves to each other's lives? I mean do you think that you could become a Jew and have no regrets and have no bitterness, maybe you won't in a year or so, but you take the 10 to 20 years and the novelty will wear off and soon you will grow not only too to the Jewish race but me too, and how do you think you mother will feel if the son would become a Jew? Do you think she would like it, maybe she would not show it. But down deep in her heart there would always be an ache in it for her son that she has to be the majority of the people won't say any thing but that will always be a sort of a barrier. If they are Jewish it will be on account of me and if they are Jewish it will be on account of you.

And some how all the other things always creep into your life after you are married that you wouldn't think would happen to you, you think our love is too perfect.
you will still be a Gentile and I will be a Jew. You say you have no prejudice against the Jew but still and all when a Jew wants a person would do something wrong to you. What is the first thing that leads into your mind — Darn Jew! Could you settle down and live with Jewish people if you had to? Could you be happy. You say you could be happy with me. But don't you think in time our love won't always be so sweet and passionate as it will in the first time it's bound to wear off. I mean that real sweet lovely dolly will wear off. It does for everyone and we are no exceptions.

Please don't think I'm doing this just on the spur of the moment. I have been thinking about it for a long time. Answer me truthfully and if you think you can actually put up these things and if till me so, well I don't know then you are a better man than most people are.

I know this is a terrible letter to write you on our anniversary. But I had to write it.

Eveline
Mr. Jack Bell

51 Groveland St.

Oberlin

O.
12739 Linwood Ave
Detroit,
Mich
Dear Jack,

I really don’t know how to begin this letter, but I have been thinking things over and some how things have simply got to turn one way or the other. I have been thinking and thinking and thinking until I believe if I think any more I’ll go crazy.

Any way I might as well begin on what I want to tell you. So here goes. Did you ever realize what a wide gap there is between us? No I don’t suppose you did. I don’t suppose you think that religion has much to do with it. It hasn’t when it comes to gentile people, I mean Protestant, Catholic Methodist and so forth. They can change and it doesn’t mean so much but Jewish it different there is just one Jew and that’s all. Either you are one or you are not one.

Both you and I have grown up under altogether different back –
couples can get into fights that would shock you.

[[Image: scratched-out word]] If your love for me is so great that you can absolutely adjust your life so very much. I suppose you will say “why can’t you go half way and I’ll go half way.” But it can’t be done. You can’t live your life half way. I know I couldn’t become a good Christian because my bringing up has been too strict and if ever I did it wouldn’t take very long before I would regret it. There are just little things that would hold me back. There are certain times a year when you’re supposed to say a prayer for the dead and that I would never give up. And if we had children, how would they feel? Would they be Jewish or Gentile? You can’t raise children in a half way measure.

Oh there are a thousand and [o]ne things that will come up. Little petty things and in the end grounds. Do you think it would be easy to adjust ourselves to each others lives? I mean do you think that you could become a Jew and have no regrets and have no bitterness, maybe you won’t [sic] in a year or so but you take in 5 or 10 years and the novelty will wear off and soon you will grow not only to hate the Jewish race but me too. And how do you think your mother will feel if her son would become a Jew? Do you think she would like it. Maybe she would not show it. But down deep in heart there would always be an ache in it for her son that used to be.

You take the majority of the people wont [sic] say any thing but there will alway [sic] be a sort of barrier. If they are Gentile it will be on account of me and if they are Jewish it will be on account of you.

And some how or the other things alway [sic] creep into your life after you are married that you wouldn’t think could happen to us. You think our love is too perfect. Even some [[strikethrough]] thing [[/strikethrough]] times the most perfect
you will still be a Gentile and I will be a Jew. You say you have no prejudice [sic]
against the Jew but still and all when a Jewishish [sic] person would do something wrong to you what is the first thing that leaps into your mind – Dam [sic] Jew.
Could you settle down and live with Jewish people if you [[superscript]] had to [[/superscript]] [[Image: scratched-out words]] and could you be happy. You say you could be happy with me. But don’t you think in time our love wont [sic] always be so sweet and passionate as it [[strikethrough]] will [[/strikethrough]] is now. In due time it’s bound to wear off.
I mean that real sweet lovey dubby will wear off. It does for every one and we [are] no exceptions [sic].

Please don’t think I’m doing this just on the spur of the moment. I have been thinking about it for a long time. Answer me truthfully and if you think you can actually out do these things and if tell me so, well I don’t know, then you are a better man than most people are.
I know this is a terrible letter to write you on our anniversary. But I had write it. Evabel