

8-21-1937

1937-08-21, Evabel to Jack

Evabel Bell

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Subject Terms

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Keywords

August, 1937; 1937; United States; Oberlin, Ohio; Elyria, Ohio; Detroit, Mich.; correspondence; postal service; wife; husband; women; love; romance; war bonds; savings bond; finances; money; religion; faith and religion; Jews; race; family; mother; son; marriage; children; prejudice; swear words; swearing; racial slur; anniversary; Christianity; discontent; fear; anxiety; prayer

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Mr. Jack Bell
51 Groveland St.
O berlin
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's 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.

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 one things that will come up, little petty things and in the end

grounds. Do you think it would be easy to adjust ourselves to such other 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 in for 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 won't say any thing but there will always be a sort of a 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 always 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 something time the most perfect

you will still be a Gentile and will be a Jew. You say you have no prejudice against the Jew but still and all when a Jewishish person would do something wrong to you what is the first thing that leaps into your mind - Damn Jew.

Could you settle down and live with Jewish people if you ~~had to~~ and could you be happy. You say you could be happy with me. But don't you think in time our love wont always be so sweet and passionate as it ~~will~~ is now. In due time it's bound to wear off. I mean that real sweet lovey dovey 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 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.

Evelyn

[JACK P. BELL CORRESPONDENCE – EVABEL COLLECTION SEPT 1936 – AUG 1937 #34]

[Page 1 – Front of Envelope]

[[Image: Circular postmark stamp with text “DETROIT, MICH. 8 / 1937” encircling date: AUG 21 / 9 – PM”]]	[[Postmark Stamp Text: “BUY U. S. SAVINGS BONDS ASK YOUR POSTMASTE[R]]]	[[Image: Brown 3c postal stamp with image of George Washington.]]
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Mr. Jack Bell
51 Groveland St.
Oberlin
O.

[Page 2 – Back of Envelope]

12739 Linwood Ave
Detroit,
Mich

[Page 3 – Letter]

[[Image: Scotty Dog holding a letter (part of the stationery)]]

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Both you and I have grown up under altogether different back –

[Page 4 – Letter continued]

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[[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.

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- 2 -


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And some how or the other things always [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

[Page 5 – Letter continued]

- 4 -

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be a Jew. You say you have no prejudice [sic]
against the Jew but still and all when
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leaps into your mind – Da[m] [sic] Jew.
Could you settle down and live with
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could you be happy. You say you
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you think in time our love wont [sic] always
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