

My Darling Effie

I have just received your letter and want to add some more to follow the one I sent this morning. In that one I couldn't write any thing but the cold facts for the students would now & then come to my table to ask questions about the exam & I was afraid they might see something. But there was lots unwritten that went with the letter. I am sorry about the unfinished letter. I didn't foresee the anxiety it would cause you & sorry for the one of Friday too & yet when I had written it[,] it seemed best to send it rather than none. Let us try & forgive it. I feel the worse because I fear that it is responsible for the nervous paralysis in part & they are the very things I would most guard against. Whatever our explanations show us Darling I can feel pretty sure of one thing & that is that my complainings have hindered rather than helped the very thing I strove so much for[,] for the feeling that I wasn't satisfied has depressed you as you say in this very letter & made you feel all the more helpless. I don't know how I should have stood as much complaining as you have had you written it. I have at times felt that it would have been good for us both had you written plainly & criticized me freely but you haven't done that [ill.] & your letters never do complain of me & as mine have of you_ I think Effie Darling that perhaps[,] no I believe that certainly[,] you have followed a wiser course in that matter. If you when hurt so had turned from me[,] I can see that I should have deserved it & could not have blamed you. Your faith in me & your love of me have been true truest love, more unselfish love than mine. I have wanted things my way so[,] in spite of your ability to do them my way[,] that it has caused this trouble we have had & I am sorry afterward & yet I fall back into the old selfishness & want love letters that I ought to know by this time it isn't your nature to write. Darling I often think of poor Cordelia in Lear & her silence when asked to tell how much she loved her Father. I know Effie that it don't come from lack of feeling. You are right. If we hadn't the strongest feeling & hadn't built it up on our old acquaintance this would certainly have wrecked us in this long separation. As it is it has shook us & torn us but only to make us take fresh grip. I think that my piloting in this hasn't been a success. I have tried to run us straight & tried to lay out your course too but this was more than I was competent to do. The year is over now or practically over & the harbor is in sight. We have gotten through all right but you could have managed the vessel better if I had not tried to run it for you. Some time when we both command the same ship & can be together for consultation we shall not have these stormy passages__ If you have been able always to feel that my troubles did not grow out of lack of confidence in you[,] if you could see these troubles & feel that I couldn't manage & yet not lose faith in my faith & I believe that you have[,] you have true love. You often sign "with truest love" & Darling you have it. Your love is truer & less selfish & I begin to believe that there is the difference between mans love & womans love that some people say there is & that men are selfish. At any rate whatever we may decide but the responsibility for our troubles I shall deserve just blame for this selfishness & yet I know you won't say so to me or even admit it. You will lay it to our misunderstanding of each other. O the joy of never being again separated. It will be the only true solution. We shall do better next year. We can't fall into the trap we have fallen into this year. We shall find some way but however we run we can't run happily apart. If I believed in that sort of fate I should believe that we two were created expressly to be together. People who always get along easily together seem so but

how about us who stick so in spite of all the tendencies that would separate ordinary lovers? Nine months, that is a long long time. It seems a long time as I look back across it & it has been a hard trial[,] a fiery trial it has been to me for I have had more of a trial than I have ever told you anything about & I asserted on faith what I believed but hadn't proved. I have proved it now & know that I was right but the test did cost me something & was a hard one too[,] harder than I had expected. You will not understand all I mean till I can tell you. Perhaps it will help you to understand me too & why I want more demonstrative letters. You can't answer this letter in the ordinary unsatisfactory way for you will answer it in the happiest way in Albany day after the day after tomorrow. 72 hours & of them 18 or more in sleep & hence passed fastest. I have some times thought that you might wish I wouldn't write so fully about my feelings. I couldn't help feeling that perhaps you didn't like it but it was my natural way so I did it. I am glad to have you tell me that you do like it since it is my natural manner and that when I try & behave with propriety, for I think I do some times get out of all bounds, you feel that there is something wrong. It is as natural for me to send you love & think kisses & caressing names as to think at all. I always feel them even when I don't send them _ I do often wonder when I see your enthusiasm over ordinary things & people that you arent more demonstrative but begin to believe as you say that it is due from too strong feeling. Never mind my precious I shall make you come out of that shell & you will have a changed nature if you don't find it natural when we are together to show fondness as well as have it inside. I am not afraid of your behavior when we are together & we shall then begin to fit together better as we should have done long ago but for this separation. I shall come up to your level & you will come down some to mine & we shall be the most perfect fit. All the places when there has been so much soreness from the chafing will be well again. Won't it be comfortable! O Darling I know it has been largely my fault & you are good to me not to blame me as I believe it would do me good if you had & strongly shown me just how my complaints have worried & hurt you as you have in this letter before me. I want to get this off if possible at once so I will end this & then there wont be any risk of my not sending my love. Poor Effie I am sorry I didn't end that letter & carry it to the office myself__ Did you think Darling that I didn't love you & therefore didn't send my love. That was a great mistake. O you poor long suffering girl. You asked me in one letter a long time ago after you had been telling some woes if I still thought the epithet angelic appropriate. I can truly say that I do think so & you are far too good & sweet for me to have your love_ But I am mean enough to rejoice in it. It is my best treasure & can & has given me the greatest happiness I have ever known. Now Darling goodbye for just a little while. My own Darling you are so good to me. O how I do love you_ Forgive me Darling for being so mean & selfish & help me to get out of it & to be better & nobler. You can & will help me & I know you pity me & are sorry for me. How can you keep on loving? I want you. I long for Friday. These last days can't help be happy & yet there is such a longing. One more whole day & then I can say today I start. May I kiss you darling & be forgiven, my precious Darling Effie?

With deep warm love always[,] tho I am so blind & selfish. I shall grow better. With fondest tenderest love

from your own loving

Harry.