Josephine Reinhold's Taped Letter

Track 02 - To Lawrence Reinhold
American Embassy, Bonn, Germany

Speaker: Josephine Reinhold, Lawrence's mother
Recipient: Lawrence Reinhold
Recording date: not yet confirmed
Duration: 5 minutes, 56 seconds

Transcript wording approved by Lawrence Reinhold on November 7, 2026. Prepared from automated transcription; timestamps are approximate. Speaker identities and recipient context were supplied by Lawrence.

[00:00:00]

Josephine Reinhold: is an extremely long day and I'm exhausted. Well, for this one class that I stay at night, uh, we have to write a paragraph. It's actually an English class. We have to write a resume, a data sheet, you know, and an application letter, and we have to... a research paper, and, uh, we have to write a paragraph weekly so we know where to put our commas.

[00:00:28]

I don't know whe- what we need this in nursing, but they insist we have to do it. So when I came home that particular night, I was extremely exhausted, and Dad wasn't here. And I like to have him around when I come home, but he was called away to work. And, uh, now I became irritated because why didn't he leave a note?

[00:00:51]

And then the girls told me that he did leave a note, but they had thrown it away. So I was irritated, and, uh, I promptly went to the phone and I went to call Dad at the guard house, which is really a no-no, and the line was busy. So I, uh, hung the phone back up, and two minutes later I went back to, again, to dial the number and the phone rang.

[00:01:15]

It was Dad. And, uh, now he let me know that he was there and why and how come and the wherefores and such. And I told him how I was missing him quite badly. So I promptly decided after we talked a while to write my paragraph, and I decided to write it on a song. Uh, you know, probably knew I liked the song Little Things Mean a Lot.

[00:01:41]

And, uh, I, uh Was writing about this song and, uh, I wrote the paragraph, and you know how Dad always got me these necklaces and this and that, and flowers, and wrote little notes. I don't know if you kids know, but anyway, I was tired now and I decided I'd go to bed. I'm still feeling rather depressed, and when I came in the bedroom, here was a note on the pillow, a big note, and it says, "Hello, sweetheart.

[00:02:10]

I'm going to be gone for almost all week that I won't see you, and love, Daddy," you know. And I started to cry, and I went back to the phone again, and I called him again at the guard house. And, uh, but I couldn't quit crying because I was, you know, lonesome So anyway, here I go again Um I won't make a good widow, Larry, that's all.

[00:02:43]

Um, where was I? Rambling on here. Um, oh, another thing, you and your undershirts. Your father's in the same situation. Uh, he was telling today, uh, or this evening when he got dressed to go that how bad off his undershirts are, and he says, "You know, I don't think I w- bought a new undershirt in 10 years." So I guess he has a birthday or something, I'd better get him some undershirts.

[00:03:10]

Um, Valerie and Cathy are going out for track, and, um, I, um... Yes, they had to have a physical. Tonight they came home, they were really exhausted. They're, uh, not in condition for all this running, but they passed their physical beautifully. Uh, speaking of those shots, I had to go for these shots. First time in my life I had to take these s- silly diptheria and tetanus shots, but that's the only way that I can work in a hospital or nursing home.

[00:03:44]

Uh, I had to get mine, and I don't know about the girls. They'll eventually have to get theirs too, I suppose. Um, oh, yes, we recognized your background music on that tape. Sounded so familiar. Oh, Larry, before this shuts off, Marvin Hankey was killed in a car accident back in Medford. Uh, uh, Jeffrey Bloom, if you know him, um, he, um, come tearing down North Second Street in Medford and, uh, 90 miles an hour in a rainstorm, lost control of his car, and banged into these other cars where these people were, whatever.

[00:04:23]

And Marvin Hankey was killed, and a Ted Nybauer's wife was killed due to this idiotic lunatic Bloom. He barely was hurt. Um, highly intoxicated. Um, okay. Golly, that's an awful short tape. I promised the girls I'd leave one side for them. Anyway, I don't get any letter-writing done anymore. And, uh, you say you're not lonesome and you're happy and all that good stuff.

[00:04:57]

You know, actually, Larry, you would have a good time. You're the type of a person that would have a good time anywhere, even if you have a Peabody brain and all that stuff. You're just a very prince of a guy, and we really think... We think, as your mother and dad, we think you're okay, um, so are your s- well, your sisters.

[00:05:18]

Oh, what else can I... That darn tape is going to end. Let me see what I've got left. Oh, it's going to end pretty soon. Oh, are these girls ever going to be angry with me to think that I- I don't, uh, leave them any tape. You know what? I think I'm going to say good night, Larry, um, because the girls would like to say a little something.

[00:05:45]

Besides, you like hearing their young voices. So bye-bye, Larry. Hang in there, and in a year and a half, we'll see you