

LOUISE - Side 1

JACK.
Dear Louise,
No, I've never told my parents about our letters, but I think Betty found out and she may have told them. There's a GI on my base who's from a town near Coatesville and he dated her once and I guess I bragged about you a couple of times at the hospital. I'm sorry about that.

LOUISE. What are you sorry about? It means you like me.

JACK. (*A little taken aback.*) I guess it does.
(*Beat.*)

Start:

LOUISE.

February 10, 1943

Any word yet from Colonel Ramshackle about your leave of absence?

JACK. No, not yet, but I submit the paperwork at least once a week.**LOUISE.** *Paperwork?* Are you kidding? Just put your finger in his eye and say "Rammy, old boy, I want that approval and I want it now or I'm putting my scalpel down and calling the *Pentagon!*"**JACK.** That sounds like it would work out beautifully.*(Beat. LOUISE sees a surprising envelope on her desk, tears it open and reads it with delight.)***LOUISE.** Holy Hannah and call the Marines. Have I got news for you. Are you ready? Your mother has just invited me to visit her in Coatesville two weeks from Sunday. Coatesville! Land of Legend! I've got the letter right here. She says she thinks I'd enjoy getting out of the city for a day. She also says that coincidentally some of her sisters will be visiting that day from Philadelphia and I might enjoy meeting them.*(JACK holds his head and murmurs "No, no, no, no...")*

So what do you think? I'd like to go, but it will do exactly what we've been trying to avoid - put pressure on our relationship. Of course you might say what relationship, since we've never met each other. Hint, hint. So what should I do? Go to Coatesville or not?

JACK. *No. Definitely not.* Too many things could go wrong and it makes me nervous.**LOUISE.** Me, too. I agree entirely. On the other hand, it might be rude to turn them down. I mean, what's the worst that could happen?**JACK.** You have no idea. Just tell them you're busy that day.**LOUISE.** Will do. But what if they suggest another day?**JACK.** I have no idea.**LOUISE.** "You have no idea"?! They're *your parents and I need some advice.* You're the only man I've ever written a thousand letters to and it's pretty hard to keep lying to them but that's what I'll do if it's what you want me to do, *now what should I do?!***JACK.** *Don't go. I'd rather take you there myself if I ever get home, and if you go without me it could be a disaster, so the answer is clear as a bell: DO NOT GO!***LOUISE.** *FINE!*Dear Mrs. Ludwig,
Yes of course I'll come.Sincerely,
Louise Rabiner**JACK.** *You said yes?!***LOUISE.** Yes, and don't bug me about it. I think it's the right thing to do.**JACK.** Then why did you ask me?**LOUISE.** To get your advice.**JACK.** *And I said don't do it!***LOUISE.** *You were indecisive.***JACK.** "Indecisive"? *I said no, don't go, how is that indecisive?***LOUISE.** It was the way you said it.

END