

Thurs. night

My dear Chester:-

I am curled up by the kitchen fire and you would shout if you could see me. Everyone else is in bed. The girls came up and we shot the last firecrackers. Our lawn looks as green as the Cortland House corner. I will tell you all about my Fourth when I see you. I hope you had a nice time.

This is the last letter I can write dear. I feel as though you were not coming. Perhaps this is not right but I cannot help feeling I am never going to see you again. How I wish this was Mon. I am going down to stay with Maude next Sunday night, dear, and then go to DeRuyter the next morning and will get there about ten o'clock. If you take the 9:45 train from the Lehigh there you will get there about eleven.

I am sorry I could not go to Hamilton dear but papa and mamma did not want me to go and there are so many things I have had to work hard for in the last two weeks. They think I am just going out there to DeRuyter for a visit. Now, dear, when I get there I will go at once to the hotel and I don't think I will see any of the people. If I do and they ask me to come to the house I will say something so they won't mistrust anything. Tell them I have a friend coming from Cortland & that we were to meet there to go to a funeral or wedding in some town farther on. Awfully stupid but we were invited to come and so I had to cut my vacation a little short and go. Will that be all O.K. dear? Maybe that won't be just what I will say, but don't worry about anything for I shall manage somehow.

Only I want you to come in the morning. I don't want to wait there in the hotel all day for if they should see me there, and all day, they would think it funny I did not go to the house. You must come in the morning for I have had to make - you don't know how many plans to fit your last letter - in order to meet you Mon. I dislike waiting until Mon. but now that I have I don't think anything only fair that you should come up Mon. morning. But dear you must see the necessity yourself of getting there and not making me wait. If you dislike the idea of coming Mon. you can get a train up there Sun. night and be there to meet me. Perhaps that would be the best way. All I care is that I don't want to wait there all day or half a day. I think there is a train that leaves the Lehigh at six something Sun. night. I don't know what I would do if you were not there or did not come. I am about crazy now.

I have been bidding good-bye to some places today. There are so many nooks, dear, and all of them so dear to me. I have lived here nearly all my life. First I said good-bye to the spring house with its great masses of green moss, then the apple tree where we had our play house, then the "Beehive" a cute little house in the orchard and of course all of the neighbors that have mended my dressed from a little tot up to save me a thrashing I really deserved.

Oh! dear you don't realize what all of this is to me. I know I shall never see any of them again, and mamma - great Heavens - how I do love mamma. I don't know what I shall do without her. She is never cross and always helps me so much. Sometimes I think if I could tell mamma, but I can't. She has trouble enough as it is and I couldn't break her heart like that. If I come back

dead perhaps if she does not know she won't be angry with me. I will never be happy again dear. I wish I could die. You will never know what you have made me suffer, dear. I miss you and want to see you, but I wish I could die.

I am going to bed now dear please come and don't let me wait there. It is for both of us to be there. If you have made plans for something & think Sun. night you must come Mon. morning.

Please think dear that I had to give up a whole summer's pleasure and you surely will be brave enough to give up one evening for me. I shall expect & look for you Mon. forenoon.

Heaven bless you until then.

Lovingly and with kisses

The Kid

I will go right to the Tabor House and you come for me there. I wish you could come up Sun. night, so as to be there and sweetheart I think it would be easier for you. Please come up Sunday night dear.

For the the full text of all of the correspondence between Grace Brown and Chester Gillette in 1905-06 see *Grace Brown's Love Letters*, edited by Craig Brandon. Surry Cottage Books 2006 ISBN 978-0-9793067-3-4 \$19.99. Available at better book stores or from the publisher or North Country Books in Utica, N.Y.