

January 24, 1946

Dear Miss Lovers,

Sorry I haven't written to you for such a long time. It adds up to about 2½ years doesn't it? I guess you have almost forgotten me by now. I was one of the boys in your B11 English class way back in 1942. We were evacuated to Manzanar and I wrote to you from there as you probably remember. I still can not forget the last grade you gave me on my last day in school. It was a "B" and I'm still wondering why you gave it to me when I deserved at the most a "C", as you can see by this letter.

I presume you are wondering as to my unexpected letter, my new address, the censure stamp, and why I am still in camp while everybody is outside. I guess the best way to answer these questions is to relate to you my story from the beginning.

At the outbreak of war my father was interned due to his connections with the Japanese school. He were in Manzanar for two years without him being released so we assumed that he would be paroled if we went to Tule Lake since it was a segregation camp. He went to Tule and as we expected we were united again. Well, Tule Lake was entirely different from other W.R.A centers as it consisted only of disloyal people as the paper put it. The majority it seemed were loyal to Japan. They began Japanese schools, organized clubs, held Japanese sports, celebrated Japanese National Holidays and even sang their National Anthem. There I was in the midst of pro-Japanese people, lost, it seemed at that time. Soon I was caught in this turmoil and before I knew it I was also doing whatever they did. I guess it must have been the boredom of two years of camp life and the craving of new excitement that compelled me to do these things. As is common in war time with everybody waving back and forth ^{"m"} distrusting each other, there began a neverending chain of rumors, many of them undoubtedly false, yet people were willing believe anything at that time. There sprung a rumor that all aliens will be deported and with it, there occurred a possibility our family being separated. I was utterly confused as to what I should do. But my bitterness towards my country for depriving us of our Constitutional rights made my citizenship ^{and} unimportant compared to separating from our parents. Then and there I renounced my citizenship. That was my great mistake but the pressure we were living under at that time was tremendous. I guess my father's bitterness towards this country in losing ^{all} his life's work had a great deal of influence on me too. Then I joined an organization of pro-Japanese young men because they said that it was the only possible way to have your citizenship renounced. This organization was just a cultural group at first but soon it gained momentum

until it finally became a great pro-Japanese group indulging in military marches and practices. We were ^{now} interned in this camp as troublemakers. As you can see one thing led to another and here I am. It all seems like a bad dream and sometimes I wish I would wake up and find it that way but the bare truth is that I am here, classified as an Enemy Alien, facing possible deportation. All the others have repatriated to Japan, leaving only those who were, like me, caught in the turmoil and who's sole wish is to be given another chance to remain in this country and regain our citizenship.

We have as our attorney, Hayne M. Collins of San Francisco and through his efforts we have prevented deportation. He has taken every possible step to ask reconsideration but Mr. Collins states that our status depends solely on the outcome of the San Francisco test case, which you might have heard about. But we are scheduled to have a mitigation hearing very soon which leads to the main purpose of my letter. Mr. Collins stated that any character reference or letters of recommendation from caucasian persons, would help a great deal at these hearings. I would like to ask you, Miss Tower, if you will kindly write such a letter for me. It does not have to be long. Be it a paragraph or a sentence or two, I will be very grateful. I have one letter already but they say that the more you have the better the chances so I have written to ask this favor.

My sister is engaged to an American soldier and plans to remain in this country. My mother intends to remain also. My father is returning to Japan and my brother has gone back to look after him. I guess it was only natural for my father to be loyal to his own country. But then my mother is staying and I have to support her which is another reason I wish to remain.

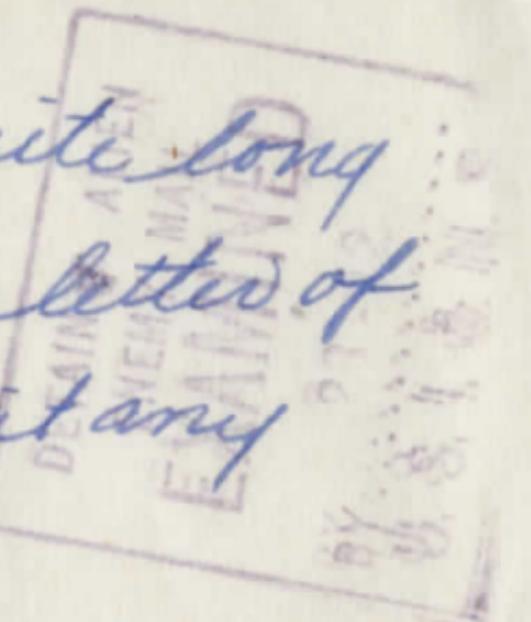
Please excuse me for writing so much about myself but this is an urgent matter.

Sincerely yours,
Masaru Teshiba



Dear Mr. Censor

Will you please pass this letter although it is quite long because it is of utmost importance. I am asking for a letter of recommendation to my teacher and could not condense it any more and still have her understand. Thank you.



AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Masaru Tsubita

Box 300 Rm 30-N Ft Lincoln

Bismarck, N. Dak



VIA AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

Miss Lowers
% University High School
11800 Texas ave.
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HOLLYWOOD