

Lev to Fenya, Voronezh, December 9, 1910

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Voronezh
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[Translated by Alice Harris]

Note: Alice told me that Lev wrote virtually without punctuation, as if agitated.

Most respected Mlle Ronen!

[I am] extremely thankful for the letter it made me very happy. Fenya allow me *[he is using the formal "you" with her here]* to defend myself a little bit. You accuse me of not thinking things through that as if I had forgotten that you live with a master above you and that your parents will not agree not knowing who this person is and what kind of family he has, that's all wonderful, well how can you possibly think so of me everything that you present here in the letter present as the most important I left for later, I didn't forget and know quite well, remember. But I cannot ponder now about things that don't interest me to know at present and truly how can I be interested in the latter when the most important, the first about *[his Russian]* which depends my happiness I cannot find out. When you Fenichka don't tell me anything fundamental that's it. Your words sound so cold that I truly can't find out/recognize anything. How many times have I asked, pleased to be open, express my feelings to share even a little bit of my love which I feel for You and You what *[And what do You do?]* always in a monotone always coldly

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let's take for example *[your]* last letter. After all My God "what a beginning, what an ending" *[as it begins, so it ends]* as if you had never known me you know this is horrible after all *[all the same word: ved']* it's not thinkable to endure such coldness, Fenichka, every word of Yours is for me law every word plays a large role in my life and always one and the same I don't know what I should do and how I should be the last letter killed me utterly thanks to the fact that in the letter there are several words which cause me to hold back a little which made me a little happy. But how *[in the world]* can I think anything good when the whole letter the beginning as well as the end rings with such a *weakness of feelings, with such coldness. I find myself in doubt/uncertainty].* How *[in the world]* can I think about any sort of parental barriers as if they not knowing who that man is will not agree when Fenichka the most important *[thing]* is your *[he switches to the informal "you" here]* agreement is missing how can I think about your parents when You Fenichka don't say anything to me I to you with an open soul ask to express my feelings after all it can't be that you Fenya didn't *[ever]* feel anything for me my feelings aren't fooling me they predict for me that you do love me. But for some reason you don't say

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avoid explanations. Fenichka if this so if my feelings do not deceive me then Fenichka why *[for what reason]* – why tarry/be slow don't tire/torment me my dear let there be an end to all this formality and be open with me if you for any reason don't want *[to]* maybe for principle's sake, out of feminine pride then leave all that, for the sake of all that's

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holy leave it. Forgive me for speaking so but several of your words worry me remember you said to me (You may love a person but will never tell him so) although this is a good tactic and fair it's very pleasing to me in a girl I am proud that in you there is such a tactic but together with that it is difficult, awful how difficult to be in uncertainty after all I am suffering, going crazy while you still with your tactic with a laugh/as if making fun as you expressed it that I still had not forgotten your meaning that *[I was]* a man of his word [a "molodec," *word of praise for someone who does/finishes what he's supposed to*] No, Fenichka, not with a word, rather with hot feelings And there Fenichka if I calm down You will tell me that you agree with me and when from your side there will already be no difficulties/obstacles (my God may you make me happy as soon as possible) *[this is the minuscule remark at the bottom of the page]*.

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Then of course I can turn to your relatives, then your father will find out/recognize/meet my father—may that not disturb you I will take everything upon myself, get everything straightened out and everything will be as we desire. Therefore Fenichka I correctly expressed myself that everything depends on you I ask you let the thought of your parents not worry you and don't ponder even how and what will be, this I take off you and myself will worry about/settle everything. I hope that everything is going well.

Fenichka I should tell you still that I await your letter according to it I will give an answer *[to]* abroad and in the near future our happiness may come to pass. Therefore decisively I can tell You You Fenichka can make our future happy for now all of my future life is in your hands so wonderful it becomes at the memory of the future with you I even am making plans about life abroad and therefore be healthy my dear be punctual as you have been until now with your answer.

Your Lev Batalin

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Letter to Fenya - Love letter, his
intentions, want to know more.
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Милоуважаемая Мелл Дорин!

Прескромного Радостяради за письмо оно мне, очень
оградоило. Я же, поведитесь неслиного факсимиле.
себя бы побуждаюте меня в неодолимости что
будет в дабы что вы можете над собой хожима и что
Вами радитеми не соображайте не знавши что тот
человек не какой велики, все это прекрасно, но кон-же
вы можете так факсимиле себя. Все это что вы будете
в письме восстановите. Иначе и это, иначе
послужа, и не дабы и прекрасно знала, неслино
но и не могу сейчас факсимиле о том что
меня в настоящей время не интересует. Знаю
и право над, и могу, и интересовать послужили, когда
самое главное, первое оно зависит мне счастья
и не могу факсимиле, факсимиле. Вот факсимиле, не по
смакательство не поварите мне. Вот. Ваши слова
звучат так же холодно что и право мне не
могу факсимиле. Скажите же и проси друзей факсимиле
сидящими всадайти. Вам факсимиле факсимиле хож
частичку той любви которой и. Вами питаю
а вы что же всегда факсимиле, всегда хожу

[illegible]

[illegible]

Моего конечно я могу обратиться к твоему
 родному, тогда уже твой отец про все узнает
 что и что и и как все и узнает само
 отца уже это пусть тебе не беспокоит и
 все беру на себя все узнаю все буду почитать
 так как Френка и правильно выражение что
 все забыть от тебе и про все тебе пусть
 тебе сразу в роду твоем не тревожит и
 не заботится, даже как и что буду, что
 и с тебе смелого и сам похвалю обо всем
 надеюсь что все обстоит благополучно
 Френка доверю тебе еще скажи что и про
 твоего невесту пошел и сам сейчас запер-
 мить и в своем будущем наше счастье
 может совершить так что значительно
 могу тебе сказать что Френка может
 осчастливить наше будущее что самое ве-
 мое будущее в твоих руках как прежде
 становится при возможности обдумать с тобой
 и меня даже так, устраиваются в
 заграничные земли и так буду здоров
 здоров будет исправна как и до сих пор об-

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Мра. с. Фантом