

YOUNG CLARA

From *Silver Belles* by Lauren Grove

Young Clara, late teens - early 20s, writes a letter to her soldier fiancé Tommy while he is away at war.

YOUNG CLARA: Tommy, guess what... I found the dress! THE dress. Mama and I were walking by Holbert's department store and there it was, in the window. I tried it on, and it was a perfect fit! Mama says that's a sign, like it was meant to be. It's so lovely, darling. Ivory satin with little pearl buttons, and... well, I guess I should let you see it for yourself on our wedding day. I can't wait to marry you, Tommy Rhoades. I'm counting down the days until I'm in your arms again.

I can't believe you've been gone for three months now. It feels like three years. I miss you terribly. Mama says hi. Daddy says... well, nothing, but I think he's finally accepted that we're engaged. At least he's stopped turning red and muttering under his breath any time your name is mentioned.

I wish you would write more, Tommy. I know it's difficult to write every day, but when I don't hear from you, I worry. Remember your promise. Come home to me. I'll be waiting for you. Love always, Clara.