

To My Honey: Peggy Conrad to Jack

How Can I Be Happy -- But I Must

How can I be happy when you are not here with me -- but I must.

How can I be happy, when I turn to touch you at night and when I awake in the morning and you aren't there -- how can I be happy but I must.

*How can I be happy when I can't fix anything and you could fix everything -
- I must.*

*You are everywhere -
 upstairs working on your stamps,
 downstairs with your trains or at your work bench, perhaps fixing
something for a
 grandchild.*

You are outside feeding the birds or in your rose garden.

*How can I stop the tears from flowing when I'm in the den looking at your
planes and your easel with the unfinished garden scene of poppies and black-
eye susans.*

You were painting that for Suzie.

I see you in every painting on every wall -- how can I be happy, but I must.

*I hear your call, "Yo, Peg, look at this." Is it a rare stamp you have found to
add to your already huge collection? Is it a new bird at the feeder? Perhaps a
bud has opened on a rose bush.*

You are everywhere -- playing your keyboard and smiling at me.

*Honey, although you are everywhere, you are nowhere. How can I be happy
-- but I must, I must.*

*I must be happy when I hear the birds chirping, see the windmill turning
slowly in a soft breeze or spinning madly during a storm, a rose bush's bloom,
those simple things we enjoyed
together -- I must be happy.*

*Remember how we enjoyed walking along the lake and watching the
beautiful clouds moving across the sky.*

*I must be happy when I remember all the fun times we had -- celebrating our
anniversary floating over the Pennsylvania countryside in the basket of a
hot air balloon.*

And, I must be happy when I remember how we laughed when I could hardly walk after we rode the mules down the trail at the Grand Canyon.

Did we enjoy getting muddy digging for diamonds in Murfreesboro? Yes.

Many times you grabbed me and we danced around the kitchen -- remember.

I must be happy for those memories and for so many more -- I must.

*Now Honey, although no longer is it "we" but "I" -- I must be happy and thank God for you,
for us -- I must.*