

Jessie
Lower East Side
New York City
United States of America

Grandmother
Slanted Roof House
Poor Village
Far From Here

Monday, 20th October 1908

Dear Grandmother,

Oh, how I miss you! It's been so long now since I've seen you, I almost can't bear it. These three years have been some of the longest without your wisdom and guidance. However, I have exciting news: I have saved every penny that I have earned from working at Cousin Kay's dress shop and guess what! I have finally saved enough for a ticket to bring you to America! Although you might be nervous at the idea of coming, there are many reasons to be excited about coming to this extraordinary new land.

Most importantly, I miss you and worry about you living all alone in our poor, isolated village. I know the Rabbi will always look after you, especially as he was the one who decided I should come here, but who will continue to teach you to read and write? Who will milk Miss Minnie when your hands become too frail? And what will happen when you can no longer pull the carrots and potatoes from the garden? It will be so marvellous to see you again each day and to know that you are safe with me.

Secondly, although the streets aren't actually paved with gold (like we were told), America truly is the land of opportunity. The magnificent tall buildings here reach up to touch the sky - it's like nothing we have in our small village! The buildings and awnings are so colourful. Grand, wide parks reach out for miles, all surrounded by the happy bustle of city life; living here and getting to explore them is simply enchanting, like living in the best of both of our worlds. But Grandmother, the best sight of all is the view of the Statue of Liberty as you approach New York City and Ellis Island. It is awe inspiring; it commands attention. The whole boat stood hushed in wonder at it as we sailed past it three years ago; and it's something you simply have to see and experience.

Of course, the most important reason you must come is what's about to happen. Lou has made me so happy - he comforted me on the boat all those years ago and has made me so happy since that day I met him again in the park. I left something special with you when the Rabbi sent me here all those years ago; something which (along with you and Lou) means the world to me. Bring Mama's ring with you when you come, so I can have a part of my parents with me when I start my new life with Lou.

I can't wait for you to come. Say yes and come join me in this land of opportunity!

Love, Jessie