

LETTERS

1. TO: ANA

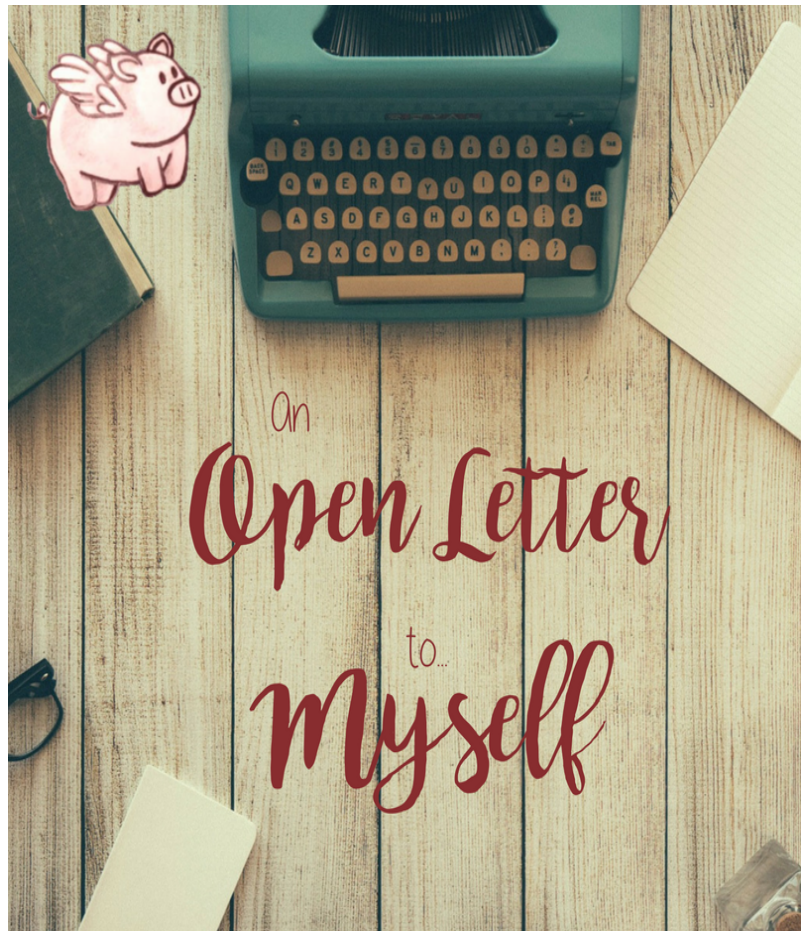
Dear Ana,

If you are reading this letter it means 25 years have gone by. I hope you have enjoyed them and that you are well, with some wrinkles perhaps, but happy as always.

I wonder if you came to fulfill your dreams. I'm sure you remember some of them: being in a movie, practice parachuting, volunteering in a distant country, dying your hair...

How is work? I don't know what you finally studied but I do hope you are enjoying it. And what about family? And Lucas? I suppose you get on well as usual. He's a good brother. Did he buy the car he wanted so much? Did you marry and have the large family you often talk about? By the way, don't forget that dress for your daughters we adored, you know, the white one with a leaf on one side, kept for so long. I hope it was worth the waiting. I can see them so pretty in it...!

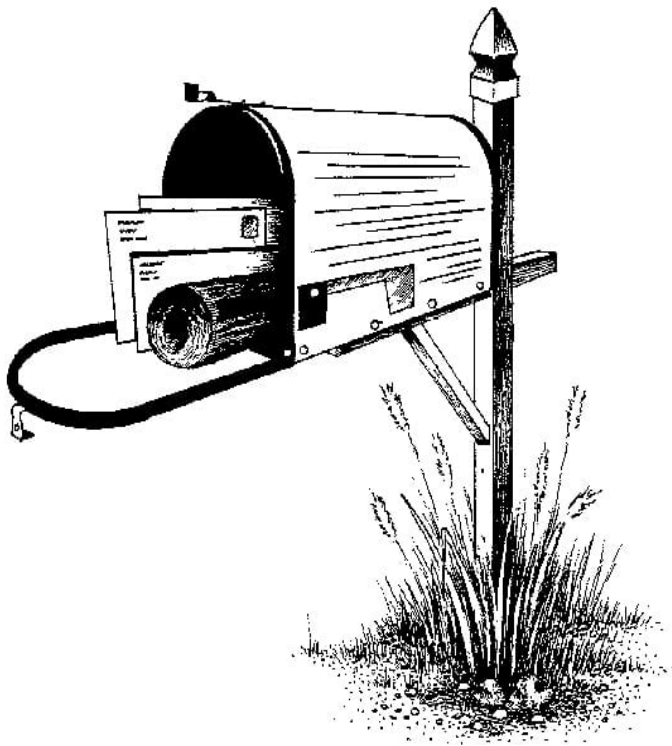
I hope you are still living in Zaragoza and spending the summer in Menorca. Summers have been so wonderful, all together as a big family. This year Ana, Iván and I have made new friends, boys and girls our age. The funny thing is that gramma introduced us. We are glad to have them. I hope you have kept those friendships. I also hope you still have the many good friends from school.



Many kisses and good luck for your next 25 years!

From Ana M.

2. DEAR LARA,



I am the Lara from your past, maybe the one of your mistakes and perhaps successes. You know that I had a lot of problems but those made me what you are. I hope that now you're reading this letter you're as free as you always wanted to be.

I'm frequently giving advices but I know we hardly follow them. I hope that at least you've kept these ones: "Forget about the past, don't ever think you have changed for the worst, mistakes are necessary to grow, don't destroy yourself by saying those words that hurt, over and over..." Did you put them into practice? Are you happy now? Have you found your place in the world?

The truth is that I still doubt about my future and I don't know what to do with my life yet..., so many possibilities! It makes me feel anxious and scared and sometimes I feel sad.

I hope you haven't betrayed the principles that took us so long to find: never judge anybody without knowing the reason of his actions; always protect the weak; guide those who are lost and broken by being helpful, because we both know how it feels to be broken and having no one to understand you. I hope you have kept your promises.

Have you succeeded in love at last? Are you living the crazy one you dreamed? Do you still want to get married and have children? If you are still single, don't worry, remember you always wanted to be free.

I also hope you've met the wonderful people you often talked about and enjoyed the magical landscapes you dreamed of. Do you remember when Kali told us how wonderful it would be to live together while studying at university? Did you spend at least a year in Madrid with her?

Remember, my dear Lara. There are two ways of living, being happy or sad, it's up to you. Be free.

Lots of love,

Lara

3. TO MY DAUGHTER

Dear Julia,

I'm writing this letter because I want you to know that since I was a child I'd always wanted to have a daughter. You are that girl, the one of my dreams. Julia, you're the most important person in my life.

Thanks for making it wonderful. Do you know why I called you Julia? I'll tell you. Since I was ten I love reading books. One day I read one about a fantastic girl called like you. She was the only child and she and her mum loved each other so much that I couldn't help it but to name you after her. Julia means love to me and that makes me smile. Julia means that we'll be one forever. I love you so much, my dear!

Your mum



4. TO MY GRANDFATHER

Dear grandpa,

I don't know how to start this letter...I've heard a lot of things about you, the good father you were, and I know you would have been the best grandfather in the world. I would have loved to know you, but that's all right, I know you take care of me from Heaven.



I've been told how hard you worked for your daughters and how good you were to them. It would have been wonderful to have you here, to enjoy your presence, to learn from your experience... Things are going well for me, so keep watching me closely and be always near me, please. I know one day will meet and I'll give you a huge hug.

I love you, grandpa

From your niece, Alicia

5. TO MY SON

Dear son,

If you are reading this letter it means that I am no longer here, celebrating your achievements and telling you about your bad decisions, but always by your side. This letter is for you to remember what life has taught me.

First, be nice to people, no matter who they are or what they've done to you. Your kindness is your best weapon against hatred and violence. Second, and most important, love yourself, no matter the hard times you go through, you'll get over as you've always done. That's what life is about, ups and downs, and endless and breathtaking rollercoaster. Be strong and be yourself.

One day you'll have your own family. It'll require efforts, sacrifices, and choices. No matter the mistakes, you'll look into your children's eyes and I hope you'll see love, hope, happiness, desires to live life to the full and you'll know then that it was worth the pain. I just hope this might help you because you were the best decision of my life. I love you so much!



From your mum,

6. TO MY GRANDMOTHER

Dear grandma,

There are so many things I'd like to tell you, but I'll begin by saying thanks, even if it is a bit late. I know that I wasn't always the best niece, but now that you are gone I miss you so much! We should have talked more often about solving our differences...

These past few months when I knew you were sick I tried to be at your side as much as I could and it was the best decision ever taken in my life. Sorry for not trying hard enough to

understand your loneliness. Thanks for the wonderful mum I have. I know now that my present and future achievements are yours too.

Now that you're no longer here I've learned not to judge people without giving them a second chance, to love myself more, to be kind to others around me. I've learned not to be afraid to love. You've made me stronger and I'll always be grateful. I love you, grandma.

Alicia

7. TO MY GRANDFATHER

Hi, grandpa,

I don't know why I'm writing this letter... well, yes, I miss you so much! I never imagined having to say goodbye, and worse, not to see you again coming home, going for a Sunday walk or going to mass...



We know about death but when, unexpectedly, comes, we aren't ready for it and get shocked. No guide to help you to overcome the hard moment. It shook my little fairy tale world of family and friends where everything was fine, where the worst fear was the pen running out of ink...

At first I couldn't believe you were gone. No more beach walks to the green lighthouse, no more bike rides, no more conversations about history and geography, no more jokes about my marks in maths... How could I get used to that? Now I know how it feels to lose the

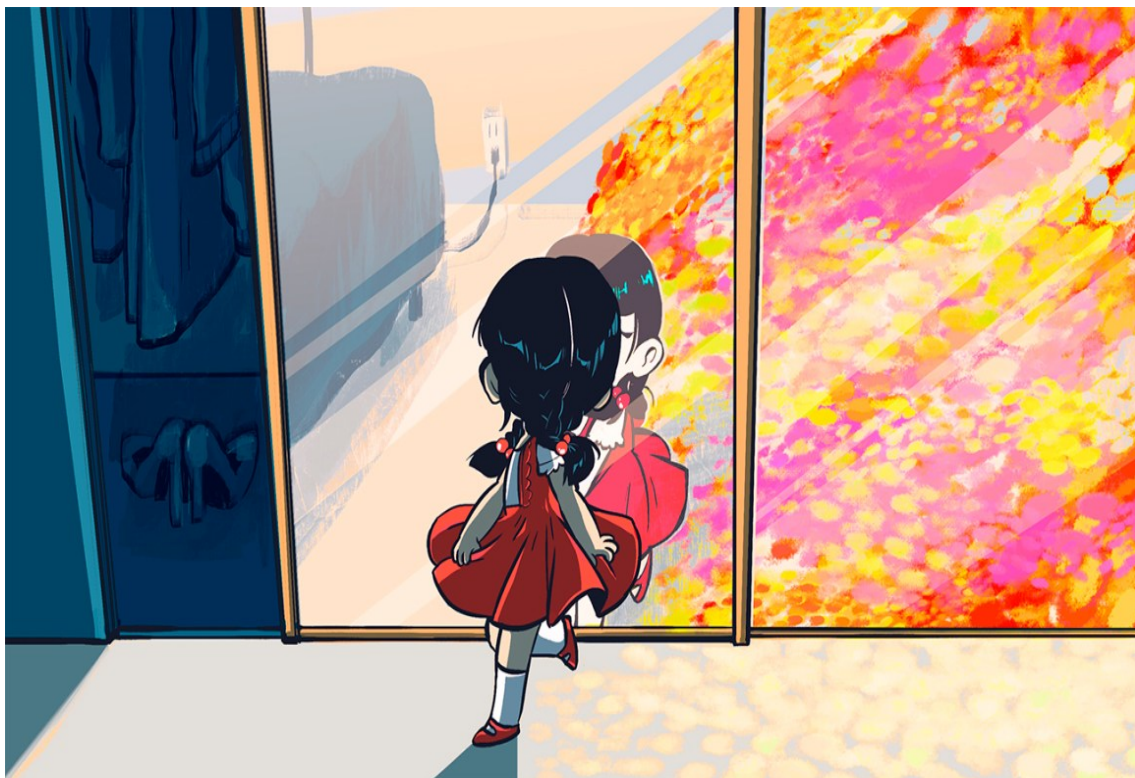
person you love most in the world, and it hurts a lot and differently from anything else. And now, as I am writing, to my mind comes a sentence that you and dad said all the time: “You don’t really know what someone means to you until he’s gone”

If there is something I regret is not spending more time with you to learn everything I’ve missed. Not having you here anymore makes me think that I want to be just like you one day. You will be the person who I’ll most look up to. There is no way to thank you for everything you have done. You’ve always been there, proud of me. I’m not going to see you again as your home is heaven now but I know you’ll still be there for me.

So thanks for everything you taught me. Think of me when drinking your daily glass of wine before lunch in Heaven. While I’m here I’ll think about plans and questions when we meet again. Take care up there.

Love you and miss you every day!

Inés



8.TO DOCTOR HAZEKAMP

Dear Dr. Hazekamp,

We met eleven years ago on Monday 13th, October 2008. To be honest, I don't exactly remember your face but your name has been part of my life ever since. I was four and I was in hospital because I needed an urgent surgery to save my life. I had a serious cardiopathy which had not been treated before in Spain and doctors were not sure how to proceed. Time went fast and my parents were very worried. Not me, I wasn't aware of the situation.

After several talks the doctors in Spain decided to contact you, who had already performed such type of surgery in Amsterdam. They sent you a letter telling you about me. They needed your help and I needed it too. It took a few days to get your answer, days full of nervousness, sadness and, finally, thanks to your decision, happiness. My parents were told that you had accepted to come to Spain to perform my operation as the main surgeon.

I suppose that these words have made you remember me. Everything went out perfect and eleven years later here I am, stronger than ever and enjoying every single day of my life. A life that you made possible. Now I am a daughter, a sister and a friend who leads a normal life so I will always have your name on my mind. I am grateful for what you did and I hope you continue helping other children like me.

Although my past was complicated it was my lesson. My life nowadays is a gift and my future, thanks to you, full of motivation. And who knows? Perhaps I might be able to help other children too.

Best wishes,

Paloma



9. LETTER TO THE LETTER INVENTOR

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ana and I'm a fifteen-year-old girl who just wants to know more about the origin of letters as not long ago the Universal Writing Week took place and I thought how little we knew about letters. So I'm writing to ask you a few questions about letters and then I'll post you with the latest news.

First, I'd like to know how you came up with the idea of inventing letters to communicate with people living far away. I'd also like to know who the first letter was addressed to and what the message was.

Moreover, as I've already said, I'm also writing to tell you what's happening to letters nowadays. They used to be constantly sent and received; however, with the rise of technologies, they've been replaced by e-mails, phone calls, text messages and whatsapp. Letters have lost popularity but that doesn't mean they'll disappear as there are still people who love sending letters because they feel it's a way of keeping traditions alive.

I hope you can answer these questions and even add more facts that may be useful and interesting. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Ana

