



10-30-1950

Letter from Linda Grace Hoyer to John Updike, October 30, 1950

Linda Grace Hoyer

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October 30, 1950

Dear John:

The coat story continued:
Daddy mailed your raincoat this morning. And he would have sent you one of these coats from Whitner's if he had known which one you would have wanted. We haven't seen these coats but they sound allright to me if they do to you. Take your pick. The upper one comes in two lengths, the lower one in two colors. I think Daddy could arrange to have it returned or exchanged in case you decided not to like it. The lower one probably is not quite as warm as the one with interlining. That factory below Elverson in going bankrupt. So there may be a chance of picking up a new dressier coat when you come home at Christmas time. Or have you decided to come on the eleventh?

All this is pretty involved. Is it always that way when you talk about coats? That must have been horrible when you couldn't find yours. I suppose you are right in feeling too poor to own a tartan jacket. Money is something we don't even mention anymore, the back of the one living room door being almost papered with lists of our various obligations.

Yet in our visits for the church we found no one who seemed to be any richer. Mr. Love has a good job with three small children, one plump wife with bad teeth, one Shetland pony, five smallish pigs, two cows for which he is going to buy two tons of hay from us, and numerous chickens. I forgot the very fat dog. Their house is bigger than ours and lots neater. But it has shabby furniture, too, and wallboard where it should have nice smooth plaster. Two of the homes were much worse than ours and three about the same. But none of them had a son at Harvard College. You'd be surprised how much confidence that gives us. Daddy is going to make a writing room for me where the milk house is now so that I will never again have an excuse for not writing regularly. If you weren't where you are, he'd simply have said the with it.

So, either go down to Rogers Peet and get a coat for between forty and fifty dollars, water resistant and warm. Or return this advertisement with your choice carefully marked.

Good luck with your exams and love from

All the Plowvillians