



2-13-1951

Letter from Linda Grace Hoyer to John Updike, February 13, 1951

Linda Grace Hoyer

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/hoyer_correspondence



Part of the [American Literature Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

[Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.](#)

Recommended Citation

Hoyer, Linda Grace, "Letter from Linda Grace Hoyer to John Updike, February 13, 1951" (1951). *Linda Grace Hoyer Family Correspondence*. 64.

https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/hoyer_correspondence/64

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Linda Grace Hoyer Collection at Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Linda Grace Hoyer Family Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. For more information, please contact aprock@ursinus.edu.

certificate of merit (national honor society) picture between two girls and needing a haircut badly. By the way, have you had a haircut lately?

mother
February 13, 1951

Dear John:

Under the impression that Ellsworth would keep Abraham's birthday holy, we did not write the usual Monday letter. Perhaps it is better that way. Satan was not only present, but prodding, yesterday.

Today, however, the birds are happy and I should be. The snow has gone and the odor of the ground is strong. Among my other blessings are two packs of Scott's bird seed, one pound of sunflower seeds, a fifty dollar piece in my purse, a bank balance, a pair of sleeping dogs, a wad of new typewriter paper, a day to live in the fifteenth century, and a son who somehow manages to learn his lessons. The last blessing, as far as I'm concerned, is a mystery. (With all this going and giving up, how do you manage to stick to your job?) But the seeds are due to your father's generosity, the money to the payment of nine and a half tons of hay, the dogs' behaviour, to a lull in doggiedom's business, and the day with Ponce to ignorance or bliss, I wouldn't really know. My Spanish friends gave me a bad time yesterday.

Since Fernando and Isabel have been married a little more than five years, I thought I ought to check on their marital progress. So, always the coward, I sent poor fourteen-year-old Juan to spy on them. Don Fernando, naturally, slammed the door in the poor kid's face. But he did a fair job of eavesdropping and relayed his observations to the archbishop of Toledo who, being old and always faithful to his vows, was no more competent to appraise the situation than Juan or I. History says that the archbishop deserted the cause of Isabel at this time and refused to remain in the same room with her when she tried to resume their friendship. His odd conduct, historically, has been attributed to his jealousy of Cardinal Mendoza. But why was he jealous of the cardinal? Actually, I'm sorry to have asked you to try to get any information for me. The historians, then as now, wrote what seemed best to them at the time of writing and probably no one who had any sense at all would try to give a true historical background. Yet Prescott's account of the first six months of Isabel's reign is about as tantalizing as history can get. And it seems as though I must go on with it.

We actually caught up with a pair of green slacks on Saturday evening. But we don't know what length you ought to have. So, will you please measure the inside seam of the pants that come closest to being the right length and add what you think should be added.addy's pants measure thirty-four inches and at Christmas time I estimated thirty-two and a half for you. You must be somewhere between. But where? Send your estimate fairly soon because the man who sold them is interested.

We wish we understood the Lampoon problem better. Do you mean that Gywnne left when he was within four months of his degree? It all sounds very sad indeed and I am torn between a picture of you trying to march with a gun on your shoulder and another equally sad one of you trying to get the Lampoon into print single-handed. And then, half-way between them I see you as you are on that certificate