



3-14-1951

## Letter from Linda Grace Hoyer to John Updike, March 14, 1951

Linda Grace Hoyer

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March 14, 1951

Dear John:

Your father functioned last night according to the enclosure. If you can see him in my "super-mamma" sweater, one of Charles Kindt's derbies, white sneakers, and his own best navy blue trousers rolled half-way to the knees, you'll know why he has been regarding himself in the kitchen mirror after the fashion of the man you drew for the "ampoon (Boston issue).

Meanwhile Juanito nudges me and says (on page 221): "Nothing pleases a woman more than to have a son." Of course I might argue with him and say: "Only when he is younger than the mother." But then Juan might say: "When is a son not younger than his mother?" And I'd be stuck. "When he is older?" No, that kind of persiflage is beneath me. I have one son, at least, who is much younger than his mother and I'm glad.

So, happy birthday, son. You have given your progenitors a great deal of happiness, much more than any of them deserve. But they love it, and you. There should be a cake somewhere within ten miles of you and pink carnations on the altar to prove it. We wish there some better way to show the gratitude we all feel for your courage in facing life and us.

*Mother Pop Grand Pop Grandma*

P.S. I am tempted to taste the cake but your father absolutely forbids it. For several reasons, I thought it best to try a new recipe. It smells good now and should when you get it. But why can't I have a piece of it? Some of these rules people live by just don't make any sense at all. Good-night.