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Letter from Linda Grace Hoyer to John Updike, March 22, 1951

Linda Grace Hoyer

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Dear John:

At a total cost (20) ten pages of Mr. Southworth's four star bond, I have just typed page 246 of Dear Juan. And I can't blame your grandfather for it either. He has gone to his room without protest and I can detect only a faint rumble from that direction. So, knowing it could not possibly be my fault, we may assume that Juanito needs a bit of a spring vacation, too.

Your father's vacation begins tomorrow and, since he has no capacity for relaxation, I frankly dread it. He had planned to do some outdoor painting, because I think he dreads having time on his hands even more than I dread seeing him with time on his hands, but this morning we have a thin blanket of snow and a real winter temperature. However, we always have bushes and trees to destroy and if I can achieve the almost impossible business of getting him away from grandpa before they exhaust each other, all will be well.

Dean Leighton sent one of his little form letters to Mr. Weik with a hieroglyphical footnote which Mr. Weik takes to be your rank in relation to your class. I hope he is right because it is very good, much better than your fond parents had ever hoped it would be. Of course it could be that the dean was only doodling and we'll have to apologize to all your boosters again, as we did last fall when someone got the idea that you were number two man. You are not number two, or are you? It could be 11 or several other things and it is very wonderful, in any case.

Unless something unusual happens, this letter ends the winter series. If I can find it, I'll enclose a little plug Mr. McDermott gave you with a slice of Reverend Snyder's church bulletin. The socks are indeed dismal. So dismal that I have neither washed nor darned them. If the situation is desperate, buy enough to get you home and perhaps Jaddy will be able to go to Mohnton with you to get some. Don't expect me to send these back.

See you soon.

LL
Dear John,

At a total cost of $120 for the room alone, and I can't afford to pay that kind of money, I have just found a place to live here. He and I are sharing a room with two other people, and we can't afford only a faint, musty room that allows us to have a few minutes of quiet, so we moved into a room next door, possibly an attic, and I took a picture of a quiet spot on the water, where we can see the beauty of this region. I can't express how beautiful it is.

Your letter's exciting news about the magazine is fantastic. I was delighted to see your name mentioned. I think to be an editor for the magazine is very exciting, and I have been reading the latest issue with great interest. The articles are very well-written, and I think you have a real talent for writing. I hope to hear more about your future plans and projects. You work very hard, and I'm sure you will succeed.

Xaragua in Espanola is a great place to visit. The countryside is beautiful, and the people are very friendly. If you ever come to visit, I'll be happy to show you around.

Take care, and I'll write soon.

Best regards,

[Signature]