

2020 International Essay Contest for Young People

【Youth Category – Honorable Mention】

It gets better

(Original)

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Dear me,

I imagine right now you're thinking about your future as much as I'm thinking about my past. Remember how when we were little we used to dream about travelling the world? Yeah, I did it. It was terribly hard to leave mum behind, probably the hardest goodbye we will have to face, but I put myself together and I did it. I travelled for a year and it was the best decision ever. Honestly, I wouldn't even be writing this letter if not for that trip full of challenges that I thought I could never face and people without whom I couldn't imagine my life right now.

It's 2030. I live in a megacity, I have a great apartment and a job I love. I made another of our dreams come true – I became an author and I think I'm doing a pretty good job. I can't believe we used to think that doing a job that involves writing will be easy and we would just sit in bed all day and drink a lot of coffee. Of course, it involves being at home a lot, but its way much more. I get to travel, I get to talk to people and even do all kinds of projects. My favourite one so far was a contest where kids sent me their ideas and stories and I made a book out of them. Not my best selling creation, but one that I really enjoyed making.

So one of the things I'm trying to teach you by writing this letter is motivation. I want to show you that all those time where you randomly got inspiration and spent all night writing instead of sleeping is worth it. It's definitely worth it and it will bring you that thing that you desire so much right now. A place in this world. I promise you, those few years will pass fast and you will feel like you belong. Like there is something worth living for. You have to trust me on this one.

The world has changed. Mostly for the better and I am so proud to say that I helped and took a part in it. But with all good things always comes a price. We don't have as much freedom as we had. Nature is mostly closed down and we can't really leave our cities anymore. I'm really happy that I got to travel and make that life-changing trip before the closedown happened. I got to see all those places that we dreamed about – India, South France and Italy, Alaska and Iceland. I went there. And then a few years later humanity made a choice to let earth heal itself. We all moved to the biggest cities and we only travel between them. You wouldn't believe it, but that quarantine that we had ten years ago helped society realise what would happen if we would stop crushing everything as we walk towards our destination. It would seem that pollution should go even up, considering the fact that all humanity is living in "containers", but somehow we make it work and the pollution has gone down so much, that scientists believe we will be able to walk the earth again soon. It was predicted that we're doing this closedown for our grandchildren, but now it is possible that even our kids will have the chance to walk in nature again. It's truly amazing.

So time travelling is not possible yet, but if one day it happens and I will get the possibility to send you this letter, I want you to know that I remember how you feel. Sometimes it's still hard to believe that I'm not you anymore. I'm not a teenager whose mood changes depend on whether she has a lot of homework or not. But I push myself forward. Just like I did last ten years. I couldn't be happier with where it took me. Just be patient and remain yourself, rely on people that you love and enjoy everything that life gives you. It's the best gift you could give to yourself.

Sincerely,
You from the future