

Benyhe Vera

1025. BUDAPEST

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10. I. 1974. Budapest

Sensu per la carta pomposa, è
un cedacu del mio Suocero
(Pare che con il nuovo appartamento
incipit vita nova) Giovanni

Segue al fine

Dear Lisetta!

Forgive me for not having written you for a long time
But I'll try to explain you what has happened
since I wrote you my last letter. When we arrived
back from beautiful Spain I sold my flat at
the board of "Albania". It wasn't very easy because
it is very far from the city and nobody wanted
to pay much money for it. At last I found
a "bird" who bought it. After this I made up my
mind to invest our money into a little apartment
at Lake Balaton. I was inspired by László who
had bought a nice two-room flat at Balatonfűzfő.
It's being built and it will be ready next year.
So I began to search. It took about six months.
I was travelling six or seven times to Balaton.
I was corresponding but everybody who sells
properly wants to become very rich so it was
very difficult to find one on a moderate price.
At the end of the year I agreed with a family
who had a part in a twenty-one flat private house
It's very little (altogether 26m² - it includes the balcony too)
But it's very well situated - near to station and
to the lake too. It's on the second floor and we'll
have a very nice view from it. It will be ours
only after two years because the owner will
use it two years more as our money wasn't enough.
I think you'll enjoy it and you'll spend nice
summer time at us. The first act is over that means
the buying but the second act isn't easy either.
I have to go to different offices to get the permission
to "own" this summer apartment and to pay a lot
of money for registration of transfer of property in the

cadastre. As you know I attend an intensive French course. It takes a lot of time of me. The lessons are three times a week. Sorry I forgot everything what I knew from Italian. But when I finish my French studies I'll go on learning Italian. If I don't interrupt at last I'll know French. I teach at home too. I have seven students. And as I am a guide at IBUSZ I must participate every year in a course which lasts 3 months. Besides I must do shopping and cooking. So I'm really very occupied but since now I promise you I'll write regularly if you answer me. Imagine I haven't written so far to Carmen either. I'm very ashamed about it. János is all right. He works a lot for his publishing house but he hasn't much time for his own work e.g. he doesn't translate Lánlo and he got their scholarship to Italy. Lánlo is going to spend ~~a month~~^{two weeks} and János 3 months. We don't know yet when he'll go. I should like to accompany him at least for a month but I don't know how I can arrange it. I'll be very upset if I must stay at home. I hope the best. Then I'll see you. But anyway you must come as soon as possible and stay with us. János and Lánlo are playing a lot of chess. And they are still TV stars. We spent together the new year's Eve at a family. It was quite dull except Hernádi Gyula who was very charming. We decided not to go anywhere in the future. I hate when I must enjoy myself by command. By the way do write about yourself. I am speaking only about ourselves and I don't ask you ~~how~~ how are you. How is your mother, what news in Milan etc. How is your nice but wild cat? My "Orsino" disappeared during our stay in Spain. Maybe it happened some accident to him. Tzami is a big "boy". We enjoy his behaviours - his independent character. Now I'll finish and please do answer soon not as me. Many kisses Vera Ciao carina ti rivedrò quest'anno. Voglio scapparci di queste transazioni finanziarie (uno dei capofavoni di Vera) finché ci vedi innamorati. Forte
di me.

Budapest, 24th May 1974

Dear Lisetta!

I have been waiting for your letter, but it hasn't still arrived. I've made up my mind not to wait. János got a letter from you, but I suppose he hasn't answered yet. But he'll soon. My poor János suffers of pains. But at last today he went to see the doctor and maybe soon we'll know more. How are you dear Lisetta? How is your Publishing House. I've read your letter and I have understood more or less. So don't be afraid we'll take you some candies. But I hope you won't need it and we'll bring "some other useless things". Lisetta have you spoken to Carmen? Because you promised me to detect my absent-mindness. This week I'll finish my French course, so my life will be a little easier. But I've decided to learn driving. It's very difficult nowadays to pass this exam. and I can't understand any technical matter. I'll try my best - we are going to see. I hate carrying heavy bags up to the hill. I should like to have a little car. János is unhappy, he worries about our life. But nobody knows, what and when happens. Look up my horoscope, please, and if you allow me "that is my horoscope doesn't show any accident or violent death. - I'll try anyhow. Lisetta, imagine, after your departure something horrible happened in our house. One day, poor Mórtzi - the dog was poisoned and he died. I was crying for days and I wanted to kill the whole house. I noticed poor dog lying in the garden without moving.

I got a car and he was taken to the hospital - but in vain. His masters were sad but quickly survived and now only me who always remembers when I go home seeing his dog-house. He was an innocent and animal. In summer we shan't go anywhere. Well enjoy the view and we'll have sunbath. I haven't seen Lantó for a long time. But he is so occupied with ~~with~~ his social life. Once he came ^{to} us to see a match. Two weeks ago I met Zoli in the street and he was asking about you. He was kind and good-humoured.

Dear Lisetta I've told everything
do write as soon as you'll have
time

Many kisses

Vera

P.S. My best regards to your mother.

P.S. "Crami sends you kisses too." He is all right - a little bit thin, but he always runs after the girls. János pats him as he did it previously

September 17th 1974

Dearest Lisetta,

I imagine you can't understand very well I'm silent. Because János put my letter in his bag and kept there. Two days ago he left for South America (he visits three countries and holds speeches about 18th century's Hungarian literature and about the situation of Spanish literature in Hungary) so today morning I looked into János's bag (which is forbidden theoretically) because I suspected something terrible. He had promised me to send my letter dated about May but he had wanted to write you something. He ^{had been} was so occupied, that he had forgotten to do it and now I discovered my old letter. First of all thanks for your charming letter you wrote me in June. In summer I spent almost one and a half month abroad i.e. in Yugoslavia. I worked for IBUSZ as a guide. It was excellent. I had altogether four groups (Hungarian ones). So I was coming any going. I saw the peninsula of Istria and later Opatija and Fiume (Rijeka) and I enjoyed most Split (Spalato). The Adriatic sea was beautiful surrounded by high and mysterious hills. People were kind and polite. The life is very expensive. The coast was full of West German tourists. They tourist were pleasant or unpleasant. So it was interesting. János didn't like my voyages, but on the other side he was happy to be alone. Your stas told the truth. Because my new furniture can't be obtained. It's very difficult business. I really had problems with my parents. And it's true too, that my social and personal problems had some connection with women. And really I've a lot of friends and they are not always as good as they look. I hope that my health is splendid - as you wrote. And really I work a little bit too much. Now I've began attending the second course of French. It takes 3 days a week from 5 till 8¹⁵

I teach at home and my chas woman left me so
I have to do everything! Next week I'm going to
interpret for American businessmen who sold MALEV
a computer. If I can do it (I doubt because it's
special technical language and what's more they
speak American English which is quite strange for
me. But if I can avoid the open scandal —
who knows it — I'll be taken to Paris for the
same reason in December. ~~Next~~ Next week I'll
begin my driving lessosces János had already
finished them but he hadn't dared to pass his
exame and had postponed it until his return.
Now I should like to know about you? I hope you
really try to forget your unpleasant memories.
How is your life and your work. Don't you
want to see us in winter for some days.

I hope you are able to overcome your bad
memories and you should enjoy us and
nice Budapest. If you can arrange we would
be very happy to see you again. As far as I
know we'll go to Italy next year. Perhaps
János for 3 months and me 4 or 6 weeks. It
depends on my chief Dear Discetta, do answer
what Carmen told you about us, or my
letter. I remember now I sent her one last year.
I hope she isn't ashamed of us. Everybody is
all right in Budapest.

Many kisses to your mother
and love to you

Ps : Do write!! It will
help me to go through
these difficult days
"benca" János

Vera