Thursday, 9 April 1992

Dear Mimmy,

I’m not going to school. All the schools in Sarajevo are closed. There’s danger hiding in these hills above Sarajevo. But I think things are slowly calming down. The heavy shelling and explosions have stopped. There’s occasional gunfire, but it quickly falls silent. Mummy and Daddy aren’t going to work. They’re buying food in huge quantities. Just in case, I guess. God forbid!

Still, it’s very tense. Mummy is beside herself, Daddy tries to calm her down. Mummy has long conversations on the phone. She calls, other people call, the phone is in constant use.

Zlata

Saturday, 2 May 1992

Dear Mimmy,

Today was truly, absolutely the worst day ever in Sarajevo. The shooting started around noon. Mummy and I moved into the hall. Daddy was in his office, under our flat, at the time. We told him on the interphone to run quickly to the downstairs lobby where we’d meet him. We brought Cicko [Zlata’s canary] with us. The gunfire was getting worse, and we couldn’t get over the wall to the Bobars’, so we ran down to our own cellar.

The cellar is ugly, dark, smelly. Mummy, who’s terrified of mice, had two fears to cope with. The three of us were in the same corner as the other day. We listened to the pounding shells, the shooting, the thundering noise overhead. We even heard planes. At one moment I realized that this awful cellar was the only place that could save our lives. Suddenly, it started to look almost warm and nice. It was the only way we could defend ourselves against all this terrible shooting. We heard glass shattering in our street. Horrible. I put my fingers in my ears to block out the terrible sounds. I was worried about Cicko. We had left him behind in the lobby. Would he catch cold there? Would something hit him? I was terribly hungry and thirsty. We had left our half-cooked lunch in the kitchen.

When the shooting died down a bit, Daddy ran over to our flat and brought us back some sandwiches. He said he could smell something burning and that the phones weren’t working. He brought our TV set down to the cellar. That’s when we learned that the main post office (near us) was on fire and that they had kidnapped our President. At around 20.00 we went back up to our flat. Almost every window in our street was broken. Ours were all right, thaank God. I saw the post office in flames. A terrible sight. The fire-fighters battled with the raging fire. Daddy took a few photos of the post office being devoured by the flames. He said they wouldn’t come out because I had been fiddling with something on the camera. I was sorry. The whole flat smelled of the burning fire. God, and I used to pass by there every day. It had just been done up. It was huge and beautiful, and now it was being swallowed up by the flames. It was disappearing. That’s what this neighbourhood of mine looks like, dear Mimmy. I wonder what it’s like in other parts of town. I heard on the radio that it was awful around the Eternal Flame. The place is knee-deep in glass. We’re worried about Grandma and Grandad. They live there. Tomorrow, if we can go out, we’ll see how they are. A terrible day. This has been the worst, most awful day in my eleven-year-old life. I hope it will be the only one.

Mummy and Daddy are very edgy. I have to go to bed. Ciao!

Zlata.

EXERCISES 1

1. 5ページから8ページまで読んで，次の問いに答えなさい.
2. ズラータの両親は，仕事を休んで何をしているか. [p.5]

( )

1. 取り乱した母は何をしているか. [p.5]

( )

1. 地下室の印象は初めどんなだったか. それがどんなことでどう変わったか. [p. 6~8]

( )

1. 地下室に逃れた彼らに，外で起こっている様子はどうしてわかったか. [p. 6~8]

( )

1. 見慣れた郵便局は今どうなっているか. [p.6~8]

( )

1. 次の各文を日本語に直しなさい.
2. He was beside himself with joy. [p.5]

( )

1. I keep some brandy here, just in case a customer doesn’t feel well. [p.5]

( )

1. The child was terrified of being left alone in the house. [p.6~8]

( )

1. The police were able to cope with the crowd. [p.6~8]

( )

1. He was swallowed up in the ocean of the crowd’s talk. [p.6~8]

( )