Monday, 15 March 1993

Dear Mimmy,

I’m sick again. My throat hurts, I’m sneezing and coughing. And spring is around the corner. The second spring of the war. I know from the calendar, but I don’t see it. I can’t see it because I can’t feel it. All I can see are the poor people still lugging water, and the even poorer casualties－young people without arms and legs. They’re the ones who had the fortune or perhaps the misfortune to survive.

There are no trees to blossom and no birds, because the war has destroyed them as well. There is no sound of birds twittering in springtime. There aren’t even any pigeons－the symbol of Sarajevo. No noisy children, no games. Even the children no longer seem like children. They’ve had their childhood taken away from them, and without that they can’t be children. It’s as if Sarajevo is slowly dying, disappearing. Life is disappearing. So how can I feel spring, when spring is something that awakens life, and here there is no life, here everything seems to have died.

I’m sad again, Mimmy. But you have to know that I’m getting sadder and sadder. I’m sad wherever I think, and I have to think.

Your Zlata

Thursday, 8 April 1993

Dear Mimmy,

More terrible, sad news today. Our dear, beloved Cicko has died. He just toppled over and that was it. He wasn’t sick. It happened suddenly.

He was singing. Now he’s not cold any more. The poor thing got through the winter, we found him food. And he left it all. Maybe he had had enough of this war. It was all too much for him－he had felt cold and hunger and now he has gone for ever. I cried, but Mummy was worse than me. We’re going to miss him dreadfully. We loved him so much, he was a member of the family. He lived with us for seven years. That’s a long time. Daddy buried him in the yard. His cage is empty. No more Cicko.

Your Zlata

Thursday, 6 May 1993

Dear Mimmy,

Today－drama in the house.

I was sitting in the room, reading when suddenly something darted across the floor. And you know what it was, Mimmy? A tiny little mouse. So small that I barely recognized it for what it was. He ran under the built-in bookcase in the niche by the wall. Mummy screamed. She climbed on to a chair and then ran off into my room. I know she would have liked to run out of the house, but...THERE’S A WAR ON.

What to do? We had to catch it. But how? I ran off to get Cici (cats are mouse specialists), and Daddy and Braco reached for their tools, screwdrivers and things. They took down the bookcase. Cici was waiting in ambush. Daddy and Braco unscrewed the shelves and I took down the books. And Mummy? She was in my room waiting, of course. When they removed the bookcase they found a little hole in the wall where he had escaped. They blocked off the hole with plaster, put everything back and tried to persuade Mummy to come back in and move around the house normally.

We tried to convince her, but she was all in knots. We moved Cici in with us. Now she sleeps in our flat and Mummy feels a bit safer (I hope). The mouse has run away and probably won’t come back. Mummy doesn’t believe it, though.

Just when we thought we had resolved the problem of the mouse, he began to scratch at the wall again. He wanted to get back in. He’s really silly. Doesn’t he realize that we’re trying to get rid of him? He’s an animal, after all, Mimmy.

Mummy is going out of her mind. I have to do something about that mouse. I’m going to talk to Cici and have her fix things.

Ciao!

Zlata

EXERCISES 8

1. 38ページから41ページまで読んで，次の問いに答えなさい.
2. ズラータが目にするのはどんな人の姿か. [p.38~39]

( )

1. 春の訪れの近いサラエボの街はどうなっているか. [p.38~39]

( )

1. 小鳥のチーコーが死んだ. チーコーに対するズラータと母の思いはどんなか. [p.39]

( )

1. 母はねずみが出てきた時どうしたか. [p.40~41]

( )

1. 父とブラーコはねずみを捕まえるためどうしたか. [p.40~41]

( )

1. 次の各文を日本語に直しなさい.
2. The house had its roof ripped off by the gale. [p.38~39]

( )

1. Why did he give up trying, when he might have succeeded? [p.38~39]

( )

1. I’ve had enough of this nonsense. [p.39]

( )

1. The poor woman is almost out of her mind. [p.39~41]

( )

1. I’ll have to have a repairman fix the air-conditioner. [p.40~41]

(= I’ll have to have the air-conditioner fixed.)

( )