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Dear Vasiliki,

I've been meaning to reach out sooner, but honestly, the whirlwind of trying to settle into city life has been all-consuming. Please forgive me for the delay in writing. It's not that I haven't been thinking of you – quite the opposite, in fact. You've been a constant presence in my thoughts, especially during these initial weeks as I try to find my footing here.

You know, when I first arrived, I was so excited for this new adventure. But the reality has been quite different, and honestly, finding my feet in this city has been a real struggle. One of the most significant protective elements I initially relied on was the memory of our friendship and the comfort of our past. Thinking about our easy laughter and unwavering support felt like a shield against the overwhelming newness of everything. It was a reminder that even amidst this unfamiliarity, there was a constant, reliable connection to something good and true.

It made the initial days, when everything felt so alien, a little less daunting. I especially missed our easy conversations and your familiar presence during those first few weeks.

And then there are the public transport systems! Oh, Vasiliki, it's been quite an experience. Navigating the crowded buses and the labyrinthine metro lines felt incredibly daunting at first. I once ended up completely on the wrong side of the city because I misread the signs, and all I could think was how you would have laughed! The sheer number of people during rush hour is something I'm still trying to get used to – it really made me appreciate our quieter commutes back home so much. It feels like a constant puzzle to solve just to get from one place to another.

Making new acquaintances has also been a mixed bag. I've met some interesting people, for sure. There's a friendly classmate at school who shares my love for books, and a chatty neighbor who always has a story to tell. However, building the kind of deep, understanding connection we share feels like a slow and sometimes lonely process. It's hard to replicate the ease and history we have.

Every day feels like a series of small adjustments and attempts to find my place in this vast, bustling environment. While there have been small victories – like finally figuring out the best route to the grocery store or finding a quiet coffee shop I enjoy – the overall feeling is still one of constant adaptation.

Despite these difficulties, your friendship remains a beacon. Knowing I have your understanding and support truly helps me keep going. I'm holding onto the hope that with time, things will become easier, and I'll eventually feel more at home here.

Sending you a big hug and eagerly awaiting your news

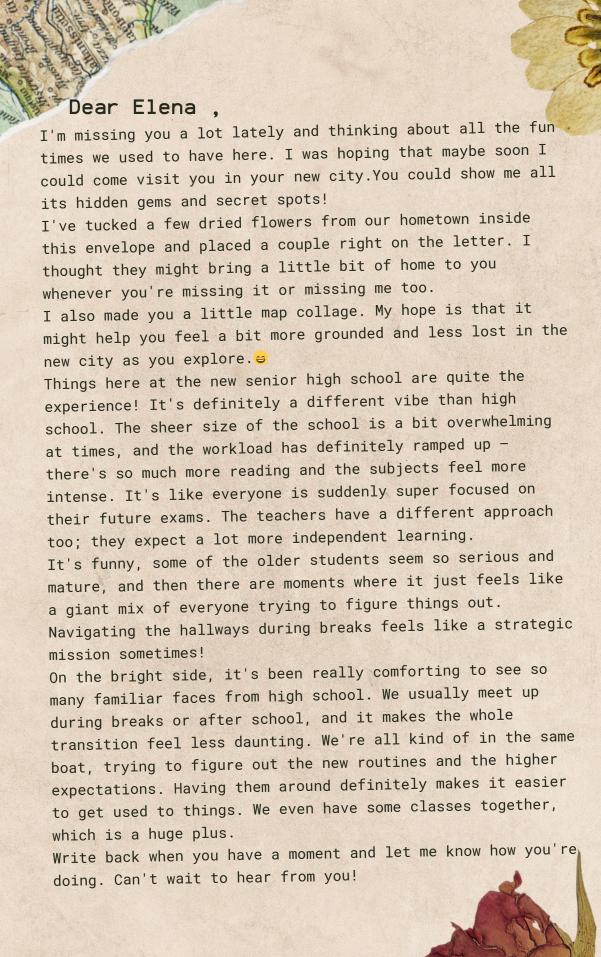
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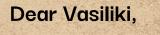
P.S. I promise to be better at keeping in touch from now on! Let me know what you've been up to. I miss yoh a lot .

I created a vintage background for my letter because I was certain that you would appreciate it. With love,

Elena



Sending you lots of love, Vasiliki



Reading your letter, I realized how much of what you feel mirrors my own experience. Starting over somewhere new is harder than we expect — not because of the place itself, but because of everything it demands from within us.

Adjusting isn't just about getting used to new people or different routines. It's about rebuilding the small, invisible things that made us feel grounded: familiarity, trust, belonging. It's about finding new ways to be ourselves when everything around us feels unfamiliar.

Change has a way of unsettling even the strongest parts of us. It forces us to question where we stand, how we connect, and who we are without the comfort of the known.

And even though it can feel lonely and overwhelming at times, this process isn't a step backward — it's a kind of growing that only happens when we step outside what's safe.

I think everyone, when faced with a new reality, struggles quietly with this: the work of becoming part of a new world without losing what matters inside.

Even when it feels heavy, even when it feels endless, we are moving forward. We're building something new — carefully, slowly — and one day it won't feel quite so hard.

I'm glad we can walk through this at the same time, even from different places. From now on I will send to you a letter every day so as to share my experiences with you.

Hope to hear from you soon

Elena