

JOINING HANDS for a BETTER FUTURE

-WOUNDSCAPES- TENSION WITH NEW GEOGRAPHY

New York, beginning of the XXth century. This European family has just arrived in America leaving behind their country, their family and friends, their language and way of life... possibly for ever.

Can you imagine yourself in the woman's situation? May be she is illiterate, but with the help of a friend (you are that friend) she was able to write a letter home telling them of her feelings, hopes and despairs, at the very start of her new life.



Dear diary,
we lost him. Richard is dead because of that damn fever and the pain that the bullet in his chest caused him. It wasn't his time, he just was in the wrong place at the wrong time, and God didn't have mercy for us. We are alone.

All of us are terrified, but Elena is about to faint because of hunger, and I can't even find food to sustain myself, so the ridiculous amount of milk we manage to get is shared between the baby, Aline, and his brother, Marco. Sometimes an old woman buys some bread for us, so we are eating everyday, at least.

I found a job; I'm working in a hotel with other European people, and I get on well with them and with the local people here. We are paid at the end of the month, not much, but I will be able to buy food and to rent a bedroom for us; but at the moment the managers are just watching how we work. I hate it, I know how to make beds and clean bedrooms, but at least we are given two meals while we rest.

Marco said that he also wanted to work. My little man thinks he will have to be the head of the family now, but the girls can't be on their own, so he is taking care of them now. Elena also wants to help, but her thin arms are very weak, and she needs to grow up healthy first. And we lack of health right now.

I beg to God that this situation changes soon, because we are having lots of difficulties to survive and to integrate. Marco knows a bit of English thanks to his friend, so he is the one that helps to avoid misunderstandings. I'm also coming to terms with it, but my environment is multilingual, and I'm already grown up, so it is more difficult. Elena knows a few words, and I hope Alina grows with it.

How I'd love to be at home right now, it is cold and wet here, and I miss my family and neighbours.

I hope this gets better soon.