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English III – Miss Feher

4<sup>th</sup> Period

October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019

My departure.

“-It will pass quickly, we will meet again in 10 months.

-Promised?

-Promised.”

Day 8 before I leave for the USA, it's July 20. I slowly start packing, selecting the clothes I want to take with me, but I must select carefully since I'm only allowed 23 kg for a year. This weekend is the one of the last parties before my departure: it's Belgium's National Day and in my town, it's a very big event. Tonight is a big night for me as this is the last time I'm going to see everyone in a party. I want to enjoy every minute with my friends, and I do, as I'm going home at 6:30 am. I had one of the best nights of my life!

After only a few hours of sleep, I have to get up because this year, I participate in the cortege with one of my best friends, Eva. I'm a little bit stressed because it's my first time in this team! We are ready for dancing and drinking all day! That is so funny! But also tiring and I spend the morning in bed the next day, before all my friends come home for a last dinner with me. I do not feel like it is the last time I see these little heads before one year. Some of them cry and I do not really understand why because I think I will see them again the next week. I think we are all very tired but we really enjoy this time together.

A new week has started, my last week in Belgium. After this busy weekend, it feels great being able to ride my horse with my best friend, Vicky, and my coach. They are leaving for France on Thursday July 25 for an international competition. Saying goodbye to them makes me realize what is going to happen in a few days because Vicky starts crying. But in this last week, I also enjoy the last moments with my boyfriend, Arnaud. I know it will be difficult being far away from him during a little over ten months, but I am sure that we will get through it! On Friday night, my parents have organized a last barbecue with my family and my boyfriend. It is very nice to spend time together with all of them and we all enjoy this moment.

And then, here comes the last day before my adventure starts. My grandparents come home to have a last snack together. When I see them crying, I really realize that I will leave them the next day. I also see my boyfriend for the last time, it is horrible! Horrible to say that I will not see him before long. Tonight we have dinner at the restaurant with my parents and my sister. Then, when we get back, I go and say goodbye to my godfather who is also my neighbor. That night, I am also very angry with Eva, my other best friend, who has not come to say goodbye. She is also going to the US for a year and I am so disappointed! But when I come back home from my godfather's, she is in the kitchen and, tells me she is coming with me to the airport. What a nice surprise!

And here we are, July 28. At 4am, my alarm rings. This is the day. Arnaud comes to say a last goodbye. It is awful and I start crying when I close the door. I can't help it. I even start to regret my choice to spend a year in the USA. I am very nervous... Here I am, packing my suitcase, weighing it one more time to be sure not to exceed the 23kg allowed by the company. I get dressed with my white and blue WEP t-shirt, my khaki pants, my burgundy vans and my "The

North Face" black sweater. My gray WEP backpack is ready to go on an adventure with me too. It is filled with my camera, my computer, my polaroid, a book and many other things.

5:30 we leave home, let's go to the airport! I finish my night in the car because I do not want to think about what is happening to me. We arrive at the airport at 7am and our meeting with the other exchange students is at 8am in front of the security gates. During this hour, I register my suitcase, but I also enjoy the last moments with my family and Eva.

Finally, it's time to say goodbye and start to enjoy my new life in the USA. In front of the security gates, I meet a girl, Romane, and I talk to her. She says to me that she is also going to Tennessee! After the security control I meet two other people: Eve and Simon. They all go to New York with me! I am very happy to meet people before going on the plane to New York because the flight lasts 7:30! When we arrive in New York we meet two other boys: Florian and Bastien. We are a really good group with 6 people and we have a lot of fun in New York! We do a lot of things like visiting different places, shopping, eating, going on Time Square ... This trip in New York is fabulous, I meet wonderful people and New York is beautiful!

But on July 31, it is time to leave New York and meet my host family for the first time. We have been in contact for almost 8 months! I have two flights to come to Tennessee. My first flight from Newark to Washington was supposed to be at 10am but this one has a 55 minute delay ! When I arrive in Washington I have to wait for 4 more hours in the airport... My flight for Nashville is at 4:40 pm and I board on time but, the weather has decided otherwise: we can't take off because of a storm and have to wait two hours fifty on the plane. It's a horrible thing for me since I am claustrophobic. After these almost 3 hours of waiting, we finally leave. It is the worst flight of my life!

It is around 8:30 pm when I finally meet my host family! Amanda, my host mom, is very excited and Justin, my host dad, too! I am very happy to be with my family but I am also exhausted after this long weekend and these hectic flights! Arriving at home, we have dinner with my host parents, Nana, who is Justin's mom, and Alessandro another Italian exchange student. We eat Hamburger with several things to put on it like: cheese, onions, tomatoes... After the meal, our host parents explain to us the rules of the house, the tasks we have to do, etc. It is so much information for my little brain which is really wondering what is happening to it! After that, I go to my room to empty my suitcase and then I go to sleep. And it is only the first night of a series in this house of unknown people who I now consider as my second family.

In just two months now I have already learned a lot about my months and my limits. I am already very proud of what I have accomplished here. I live with exceptional parents and I will soon be a big sister too. But I'm also surrounded by wonderful people at school whether in the soccer team or in my classes. So I have no doubt that the remaining eight months will be exceptiona!