



Dmytro Bilous

The Girl IN THE TOWER

WORDS BY COURTNEY M. WARREN

I am Rapunzel living among you, yet I am a thousand miles away from you. I look upon you and your experiences, your memories and greetings, longing to hold those treasures myself.

I am 32 years old, living in a tower where I am isolated from what makes your lives shine. The hellos, the parting words, and little joys that make your day a thousand times better. So I say to you this: please enjoy your lives. The life I have yet to live.

Please enjoy the fragrance of coffee brewing in your favorite coffee shop, which has been precious since time immemorial. Please enjoy being reunited with a high school sweetheart or a family member. Please enjoy your uncle's wedding, your prom, or adopting a pet into your home.

Every day I look at you enjoying, experiencing, growing, and while I long to be a part of you, I want nothing more than for you to be happy. Your life may have many challenges, but they all help you grow. They will transform you into the person who makes your friends and co-workers smile. So when the darkness threatens to become too strong, hold fast onto the light I find captivating — onto the light I hold most dear — for without it, I would be forever lost in my tower.

Please enjoy that text from your boyfriend or girlfriend. The date you spend with your special someone at the park. That book or magazine you just bought yesterday. The way the stars shine at night. Enjoy what I have not yet been able to connect with.

Enjoy each spark life has to offer, as you give me the glow that burns inside my lonely heart.

Courtney M. Warren is a full-time writer, dreamer, and future real estate agent, currently living in Arizona. She dreams of healing at least one heart with her writing someday.



ANOTHER LETTER FROM

The Girl IN THE TOWER

WORDS BY COURTNEY WARREN
PHOTOGRAPH BY DEMETR WHITE

Once upon a time, I wrote to you about how beautiful your life is, even when the lights are dim. I urged you to never forget the glimmer of stardust each precious moment holds, even when the world's weight is on your shoulders. As someone who has yet to hold any of life's stardust in her hands, I implore you to hold on to each spark from every star in your sky. Now I come to you, hoping you'll remember to leave your mark on the world I long to connect with.

As the seasons come and go, don't forget to capture each season's special glow. Bask in the glory of an exciting summer, and fall in love with the crisp magic of autumn. Discover your inner child when winter announces its arrival by kissing your windowpane. Leave your mark on each of the seasons, and leave something behind for me to cherish. Let me see the shine that only you hold in a world I long to connect with.

As the seasons come and go, please remember me. As you read this letter, please remember that I am here cheering for you, believing in the spark your soul holds. Please remember me as you go about your day, leaving your mark on the seasons as they bloom. I have not yet connected with the world you explore, but if you think of me as the seasons come and go, I will have hope. You will leave your mark on my lonely heart.

As the seasons come and go, please think of me. Know that I am with you. Know that I believe in you, and I need you to share with me the magic of your seasons. I am here, reaching out to you from an altar above your world, hoping you'll share some of your summer grace with me. Hoping you'll share some of your autumn fire and winter's innocence with me.

When summer's magic sparks that special romance, think of me and the mark you'll leave behind on the world I long to connect with. When autumn's rich fragrances welcome your family home, think of me and the life I long to explore. When winter's magic lights up your children's eyes, or the eyes of your significant other, think of me and the dreams I hold. When you leave your mark on the seasons, you leave me with a glow that will never go out. You leave me with a chance to experience the seasons I dream of — the seasons of my life.

Please leave your mark on the world I long to connect with. Leave your mark on the seasons that illuminate the world I long to explore. *In doing so, you will give me a season of hope.* You will let me know I am not alone.

Courtney Warren is a future full-time writer and future fruit farmer currently living in Arizona. She once aspired to become a real estate agent, but now wishes to nurture the world with the magic of nature and words.