Anne and the reunion's diary

Chapter 2

Anne was bit confused about everything - why did madame Molina give the diary to her and tell her to find the rules? And most importantly, how could she do that? But she was also very excited and couldn't help but try to do it.

Anne spent the next few days constantly reading the diary and searching for information about the reunion's women and the rules. The twelve women had used code names, like WHITE BIRD, BLACK CAT, RED FOX and so on. "Not very original", thought Anne, but maybe the women wanted to keep it simple. She had realized that the BLACK CAT must have been Emilia Pardo Bazán herself. Well, it was written in the cover of the diary so it wasn't so hard to figure that out. However, there was a lot of work to do; the diary had over 200 pages and that wasn't all. Inside the diary, Anne had also found a bunch of letters which had been written to Bazán.

*"My dearest* *Emilia*" said the first letter, which was written in French actually*." It's been peaceful here and I have had lots of time to concentrate on my writing work, but I am happy to tell you that I am coming back to Paris in August with my other friends. I hope that some of our other female companions will be able to join us too, so we can continue contemplating our plan. Have you heard anything of them? We should arrange an official meeting soon so we can really get our project moving forward. I have been in contact with Mrs. Minna Canth and she is also interested in it. She sent her greetings, but also wanted to remind us about the fact that we are going to try to do something that is is easier said than done. That is true, my beloved friend, but we won't give up easily.*

*I hope everything is going fine with you and your husband. I hope you will write back soon. Yours truly, Helena Westermarck "*

The letter was dated in June 1936 in Helsinki. Anne had no idea who Helena Westermarck was but Helsinki sounded familiar to her. She checked it from the internet, and yes, it is the capital of Finland. "Finland! How am I supposed to find out the other rules if they are on the other side of the world? And where are the other women from..." Anne had lots of questions in her mind. She decided to check if she could find some information about Helena Westermarck or this Minna Canth who was mentioned in the letter. She found out that Westermarck was a Finnish artist and a writer, who was also an active feminist. She also discovered a famous Finnish writer, Minna Canth, who had also contributed to women's situation in Finland. "Thank you Wikipedia".

Anne tried to find out if there were more letters from the Finnish ladies. There were five more from Ms. Westermarck. From her letters Anne realized that she must be the WHITE BIRD and that she had studied arts in Paris with some other Finnish female artists. She had known Bazán long before the Happiness reunion. Anne remembered how Madame Molida had told her that her grandmother had travelled a lot and had also lived in France. From history lessons she remembered that France, especially Paris, had been a cultural centre of Europe, so many people from all around the world used to study and visit there already in the earlier centuries. The women had possibly met each other there, at least some of them.

Suddenly, one of the letters drew Anne's attention. The envelope had no writing on it and it wasn't opened yet. She wasn't sure if she should open it, but she was too curious to not do that. There was another orange card, with number 2 on it, another piece of paper and a mysterious golden key in it. The paper said "Be brave and be curious. There are many things that have not been discovered out there. Don't be afraid to open new doors." And the card - obviously - had another rule written on it: ***"The second rule; You cannot buy happiness. Greed is one of the things that brings misery to the world. It makes people blind, whether it is about money, power or prestige. We should look after each other and learn how to share, not to gather everything for ourselves."***

"What is this message..." wondered Anne, "and what is this key for?" Anne thought that maybe madame Molina would know something about the key and could help her, so she decided to pay a visit to her as soon as possible.

Next day, after another Spanish lesson, she went to the old part of Badajoz again. She tried hard to remember all the streets and the buildings she had seen the other day. She wandered in the city over an hour and a half, but finally managed to find the street where madame Molina lived - or should have lived. You see, her apartment was still there but it looked like it was desolated. Anne knocked the door several times but nobody answered. Anne tried to ask the people who lived in the same street about Molina in her poor Spanish but nobody knew anything about her. They said that no one had lived in the house for years. Anne was taken aback. How was this possible?

She went back home and spoke about it with her father. Her father laughed and said that she must have been lost, but Anne was sure she had found the right place. The next day Anne went to try again but the result was the same. Anne stood in front of the apartment's door and felt discouraged but then she noticed something. The lock on the door was beautiful and golden, like the key she had found was. She took it out of her bag and tried it to the lock. It fitted. She turned the key and opened the door. When she walked in, there were seven doors in a large room against her. All of the doors were hazel brown and had beautiful golden locks like the one earlier. Anne was astonished. What is this?

She remembered the message from the envelope "Don't be afraid to open new doors." Anne was slightly scared but went to the first door on the left and tried the key to the lock. It opened too. She peeked inside but she couldn't see anything but darkness. She pulled the door wide open and stepped in cautiously. She felt the fresh air draught on her face and then, all of a sudden, there was a bright light and she was standing outside in a crowded street. She didn't believe her own eyes. She was confused and even more confused when she realised where she was - in Paris. And that wasn't all - 12th of August 1936 stated the newspaper in the magazine stand. "What...oh my god!" Anne was completely puzzled.