

For A Better Life

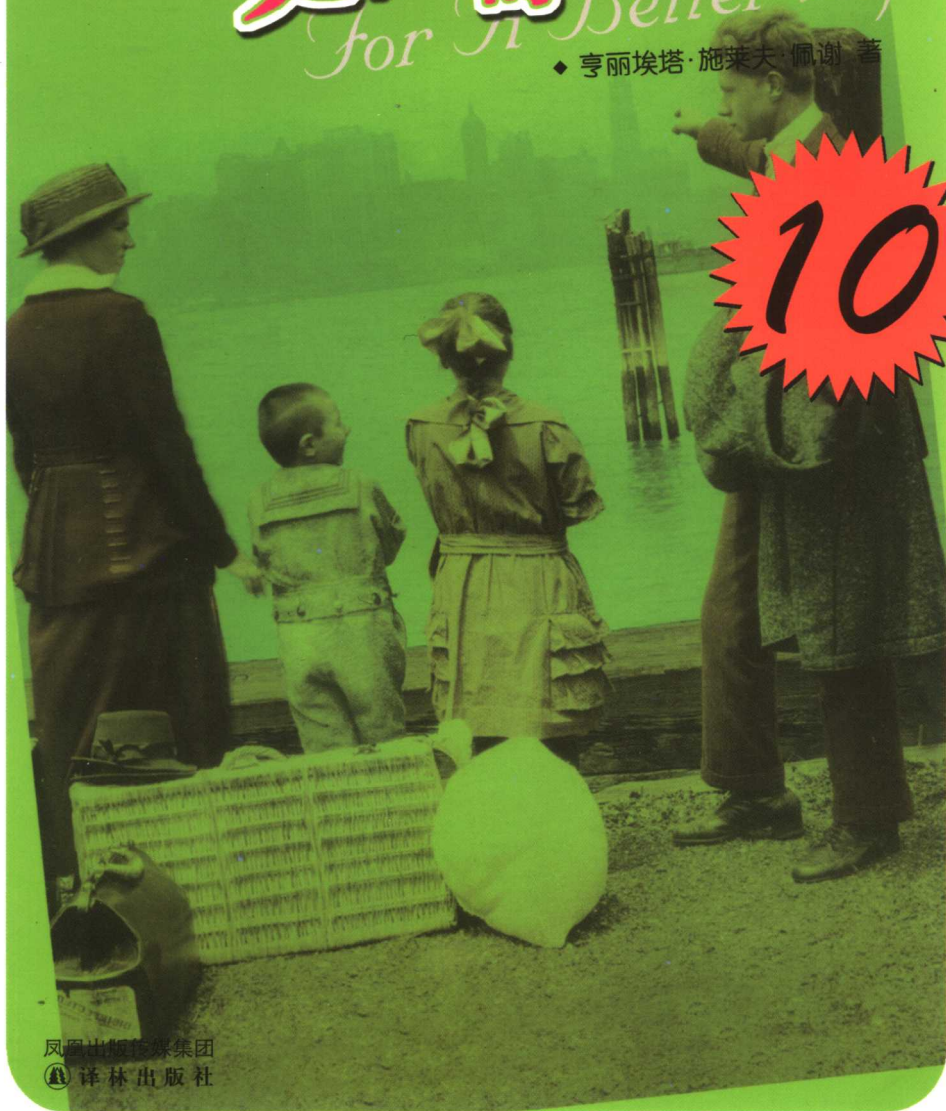
培生
英语阅读

为了更好的生活

For A Better Life

◆ 亨丽埃塔·施莱夫·佩谢 著

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For A Better Life



By Henrietta Schleif Pesce

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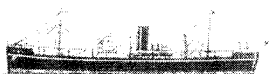
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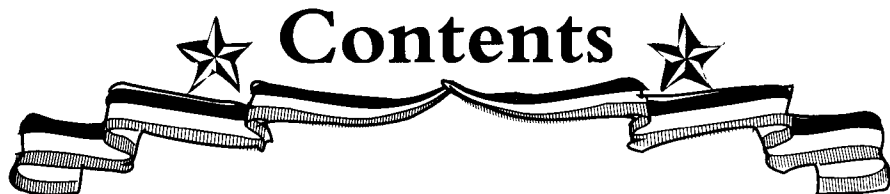
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A.
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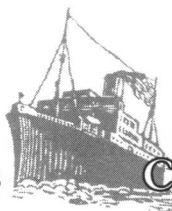
**To my immigrant mother,
Molly Fitzgerald Schleif O'Connor—
your spirit has given those you
touch a better life**

immigrants

A. settlers

B. native Americans

C. people moving
all the time



1

CHAPTER

Ellis Island

This is a story about people. It is a story about men, women, and children from faraway countries. They all had one thing **in common**. They wanted a better life. They believed they would find it in America. These brave people became **immigrants** by leaving home and moving to a new country.

The first place these immigrants stepped onto American soil was Ellis Island. This is a small island next to New York City.



Immigrants bound for America from Bulgaria

Everyone in the United States has a connection of some kind to an immigrant. Many Native Americans are believed to have **emigrated** from Asia to North America thousands of years ago. In the New York area in the 1600s, Native Americans lived on the island of Manhattan and on three smaller islands nearby. These islands came to be known much later as Ellis Island, Liberty Island, and Governor's Island.

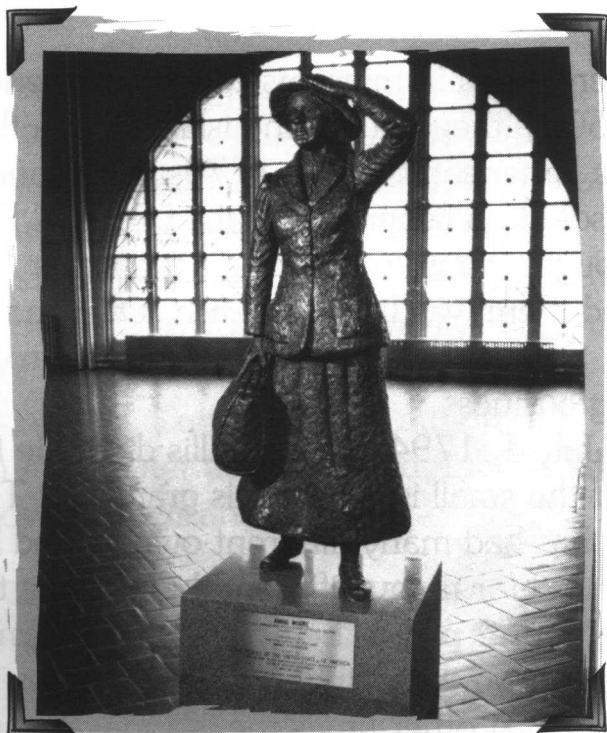


Ellis Island

When Dutch immigrants came to America in the 1600s, they bought the islands from the Native Americans. In the 1770s, the islands were sold to a fisherman named Samuel Ellis. He bought the islands because the water around them was filled with fish. Over the years, Samuel Ellis became a rich man from his fishing business.

On July 4, 1794, Samuel Ellis died. He left one of the small islands to his grandson. This island has had many different owners and has been used for many different things since that time. **At one point** the United States Army built a fort on the island in order to store weapons. At other times the island was used as a hospital and as a prison. It has always been called Ellis Island.

In 1890, almost one hundred years after Samuel Ellis died, President Benjamin Harrison signed a paper naming Ellis Island as an immigration center for the United States. The island was a good place for such a center. It was close to a city where many immigrants came by ship. The immigrants would be taken to the island first. There they would be examined by government officials for diseases and other problems. The officials would then decide whether or not the immigrants could stay in the United States.



Statue of Annie Moore

The immigration center opened on January 1, 1892. On the first day more than 2,000 immigrants landed on the island and were examined. The first immigrant to step onto Ellis Island on that New Year's day was a young girl named Annie Moore. She was from Cork, Ireland. Behind her came her two brothers, Tom and Joe.

Annie's parents had come to America three years earlier. Annie and her brothers had lived with relatives in Ireland until their parents could save enough money so the children could come to America, too.

Annie and her brothers were excited when they arrived at Ellis Island. They were the guests of honor at a **ceremony**. It celebrated the opening of the new immigration center.

As the first immigrant on Ellis Island, Annie was the star of the ceremony. She was given a ten-dollar gold piece by the Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island. Annie and her brothers had never seen a gold piece. Ten dollars was also a great deal of money in 1892.

After the ceremony, Annie, Tom, and Joe were examined to make sure they were in good health. Then their names, ages, and where they were from were registered in the Hall of Records. Finally, the children were told they could stay in the United States. They ran to their parents' waiting arms.

For the next 60 years, people from all over the world came to Ellis Island. The busiest years were from 1892 to 1924. In that time more than 12 million people entered the United States through the Ellis Island immigration center.

One immigrant named Edward Corsi came to America in 1907. He was only 10 years old. He traveled with his mother, stepfather, brother, and two sisters on a steamship crowded with 1,600 other people.

After traveling for 14 days and making it through a terrible storm, the ship sailed into the harbor next to New York City. Edward and his family stood close together on the deck. They looked with **wonder** at the land of their dreams.



Immigrants crowd the deck of a steamship as it enters New York Harbor.



Immigrants wait to be examined on Ellis Island.

For many immigrants, Ellis Island came to be known as The Isle of Tears. It became a place of sadness for anyone who was turned away because of illness or other problems. They were told they had to go back to where they had come from.

Sometimes families were separated. A father and mother might pass the examination, but they might be told one of their children would not be allowed in because of illness. A mother might find out that her children and husband could stay, but she could not. Then **heartbreaking** decisions had to be made.

Many people decided to live on Ellis Island for weeks. They waited for a family member to be treated for an illness or examined further. Their sorrow turned to joy if the person was finally told he or she could stay in America.

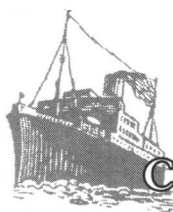
When he was alive, Samuel Ellis had no idea how important his tiny island would become. He never knew his island would be the first place in America millions of immigrants would see.



A Scandinavian family arrives on Ellis Island.

Ellis Island Notes

**From Ellis Island,
the immigrants could see
New Jersey and New York. The New
Jersey shore and the tip of Manhattan
are about a mile across the water.**



2

CHAPTER

Dreams of a Better Life

The people who came to Ellis Island were from many different places. They came from small villages and large cities all over the world. At first, most immigrants came from Ireland, Germany, and Scandinavia. Then people from other European countries started to arrive.



Europe in the early 1900s



Immigrants arriving at Ellis Island

Most of the immigrants who landed on Ellis Island were poor. They had saved for months and years to buy their boat tickets to the United States. They were willing to give up their homes and everything they had.

These people had many reasons to leave their homelands. Some came from countries that were at war. Other people wanted to escape countries where the rulers didn't care if their people were so poor they barely had enough to eat. Still others came because they might be killed in their own countries because of their **religious beliefs**.

Helen Cohen came from Poland in 1920. She remembered that she was about 10 years old when she decided she had to come to America. Her uncles had already made the **journey**. She wrote to them that she wanted to be there, too. Finally, Helen Cohen's dream came true. When she first arrived, she said it seemed as though she was in a different world. She described America as peaceful and quiet. For her it was a place where she wasn't afraid to go out at night. She felt free as a bird.



A Russian mother and her children



Immigrants carry their baggage from the boat to the immigration center.

Many immigrants had heard wonderful stories about America. Some people believed that the streets of America were **paved** with gold. They had heard that all wishes came true in America.

Vartan Hartunian arrived from Turkey in 1922 at age 7. His father had told him that the streets were covered with gold. Vartan found no gold in America, but he still thought it was a heavenly place. It was much better, he said, than the country he had come from where the government made it hard for his family to live freely.