

## Me to the Future

by Matilde Capelli

Dear me of the future,

I write this letter to you hoping that after so many years I can find it and read it carefully.

We are in 2021, a difficult year; a pandemic has truck our planet. I trust reading these lines will bring back all the memories. It was February 24th when we started to hear confused words such as: covid-19, pandemic, lockdown and patient zero.

These are words that after a few days have become of daily use, of habit, as a routine. The virus has spread fear all over the world: fear of going out, of embracing, of touching, of seeing loved ones suffer and of never going back to normal. The adults were afraid of losing jobs and no longer being able to guarantee safety and serenity to their children who obviously felt a great burden on their shoulders. Fortunately, the children did not fully understand what the world was experiencing: if on the one hand it can be evil to make them live in unconsciousness, on the other we can be sure of having guaranteed stability. It was all different for teenagers, and you, as you well know, were just one of them at the time.

As everyone knows, adolescence is not an easy period because you cross a bridge that connects the sweet and naive world of childhood to the reality of adults. We want to spend whole afternoons with friends, experience new things both right and wrong. We want to dream about our future without criticism and deprivation.

All this was not possible.

Terror started to spread and shortly after we were catapulted within the walls of our rooms with a computer screen that wanted to replace the beauty of the lessons at school and plastic mats to train since even the gyms had closed the doors. In all this, however, the hope of obtaining freedom led to shouting from the balconies: "everything will be fine".

This phrase is now almost a slogan, a label but it has a very important meaning. In fact, after the first uncertainties and worries we raised our heads and began to fight. The whole world, from adults and children, from school-children and workers has made a great contribution. We put on masks, we kept the distance, doctors worked for a long time to find care, jab, and finally our ears got used to hopeful and positive words.

We are still struggling but now we have the certainty that one day we will come back to hug each other and see our smiles. I don't know if you will read this letter at home with your parents or on a beautiful beach with your friends to laugh and have fun but I hope you are with tears in your eyes and with a smile full of joy and memories.

Thank you for not giving up and if by chance the battle is not over yet, remember: "Everything will be fine".

Matilde