



## Chapter I “The fateful bell” Part 1

**“...And exactly at the moment when the space between the wheels came opposite her, she dropped the red bag, and drawing her head back into her shoulders, fell on her hands under the carriage, and lightly, as though she would rise again at once, dropped on to her knees. And at the same instant she was terror-stricken at what she was doing. “Where am I? What am I doing? What for?” She tried to get up, to drop backwards; but something huge and merciless struck her on the head and rolled her on her back. “Lord, forgive me all!” she said, feeling it impossible to struggle. A peasant muttering something was working at the iron above her. And the light by which she had read the book filled with troubles, falsehoods, sorrow, and evil, flared up more brightly than ever before, lighted up for her all that had been in darkness, flickered, began to grow dim, and was quenched forever...!”**

**- Anna, Anna! - slightly agitated mother’s voice with difficulty reached the girl’s ear... The book did not let her go. It seemed to her that she felt the sharp smell of sleepers and burned coal, saw carriages passing by, which take with them to eternity all the memories, love and life ...**



## **Chapter I**

### **“The fateful bell”**

#### **Part 2**

**- Anna, can you hear me?! Quickly run to the phone!..”**

**..Anna looked at her mother with tear-stained eyes, hardly distinguishing words through the rumble of the departing train...**

**- Daughter, how many times have I asked you not to read these romance novels! Well, look at yourself, you're all in tears!!! Let's run faster, Aunt Mary wants to talk to you!...**



## Chapter I “The fateful bell” Part 3

“...After Anna heard the name of her aunt, she finally came to herself and rushed into the house... She had been waiting for this call for a long time. Aunt had good acquaintances in the capital and long ago promised to help her niece with entering the university. Anna knew that it would be impossible to get free education in the capital without ties, even despite she had excellent certificate after the high school graduation...For Anna, this was the only chance to leave her provincial town and somehow get settled in adulthood....



## Chapter I “The fateful bell” Part 4

...A couple of months, Anna was supposed to turn 20, and she felt that she was forever stuck in this boring and gray life, where there are no friends or a loved one ... All her former classmates moved to big cities to study, or to work, and some of the boys were drafted into the army... But Anna could not leave...

...She was about 15, when sudden news came from the North about the tragic death of her father, who worked as a geological prospector. In fact, she and her mother were left without a livelihood. Her mother had no education, she was a simple devout woman who worked as a cleaner and cook all her life. Earned money was barely enough for food, so there was no question of studying at the university. Anna also had to take on a humiliating job. She stayed at school after lessons and helped her mother to wash floors and dirty dishes...



## Chapter I “The fateful bell” Part 5

...The only thing that somehow pleased the young girl were books. Her kind Dad from early childhood instilled in his beloved daughter a passion for reading, he was a real idol for her. In the winter months when father was at home, they read the best classical literature, warming up with the fragrant Siberian tea that he brought from his northern trips.

After growing up Anna never forgot books, in this boring existence they became her only friends. With books, she wanted to connect her adult life. With the choice of profession Anna was determined long ago. She dreamed of being a teacher of literature. She wanted to teach children what she loved herself. The books were for her a window to another world and she wanted to share this world with the rest...



## Chapter I “The fateful bell” Part 6

...She was a naive idealist. Growing up in a loving family, in the atmosphere of a provincial town, Anna, despite her age, still remained a child, she did not feel to herself an adult, and she looked more like a teenager than as a 20 year old girl. Even physical work couldn't kill child in her.

Of course, the death of her father greatly shocked her, but Anna was even more convinced that she was obliged to receive a higher pedagogical education, in memory of her beloved father. But will you go to a big city, and furthermore to the capital city, without money? Who needs another small-town, trusting doormat there? even if you were the best student at school?

And suddenly this call... Yes it was Aunt Mary - father's sister. She was an arrogant spoiled woman who spent her entire life in the capital and did not like the family of her brother, considering them a bumpkin. However, after learning about brother's death, she promised her niece to help with education. But Anna still did not really believe in success, because last year nothing happened.

- Hello, Aunt Mary !!!

- Hello my girl, I want to make you happy! I was promised to save one free place for you. But only if you can do the exams perfectly. So start to collect documents, you have 2 weeks before the reception. First time you stay with me. Your mom knows my address. When you arrive in the city, you call. See you...



## Chapter 1 (part7)

On a warm June evening the provincial station was buried in the smell of jasmine and nightingale trills. On the deserted platform stood a fragile girl, apparently no older than 18, with a heavy traveling bag. Yes it was Anna. She neatly walked to the edge of the platform and looked at the approaching train. It seemed funny to her, for quite recently she had seen all this in her book dreams: a train, a station, and a girl named ... Anna. And although in the book Anna's life was interrupted at the railway station, for our Anna all just started. What awaits her there, where the rails that go beyond the horizon rest in the bustle of the city's station? Where the lights of the big city never go out at night?! ... She herself did not know that! Anna was going to the obscurity...



## Chapter II

### "The collapse of illusions"

#### (Part 1)

...(Yawns) I'm so sleepy!!!!. ... The dim light of the table lamp had scarcely allowed Anna to distinguish the words, it was already past midnight. She had to prepare herself for examination in philosophy... With difficulty restraining herself from falling into a dream completely, she massaged the temples, supporting her heavy head with her teeny hands. It did not help. Consciousness, as if swaying on a dairy cloud, swam into some other reality. There, where she and Dad are playing in the courtyard, they breathe in the delicious smell of freshly baked mother's pies, coming from an open window...



## Chapter II "The collapse of illusions" (Part 2)

**..Six month have passed since Anna left her small town, but it seemed to her that it had been an eternity. The noisy metropolis didn't notice her appearance at all.. After the silence and provincial dimension, Anna felt like an insignificant grain of sand in the funnel of a huge tornado... This depressed the young girl.. Of course, to enter the university did not become a problem for her, she enchanted examiners with her intellect and her original look at literature (thanks to Dad)..Oh, how is he missing now!..**



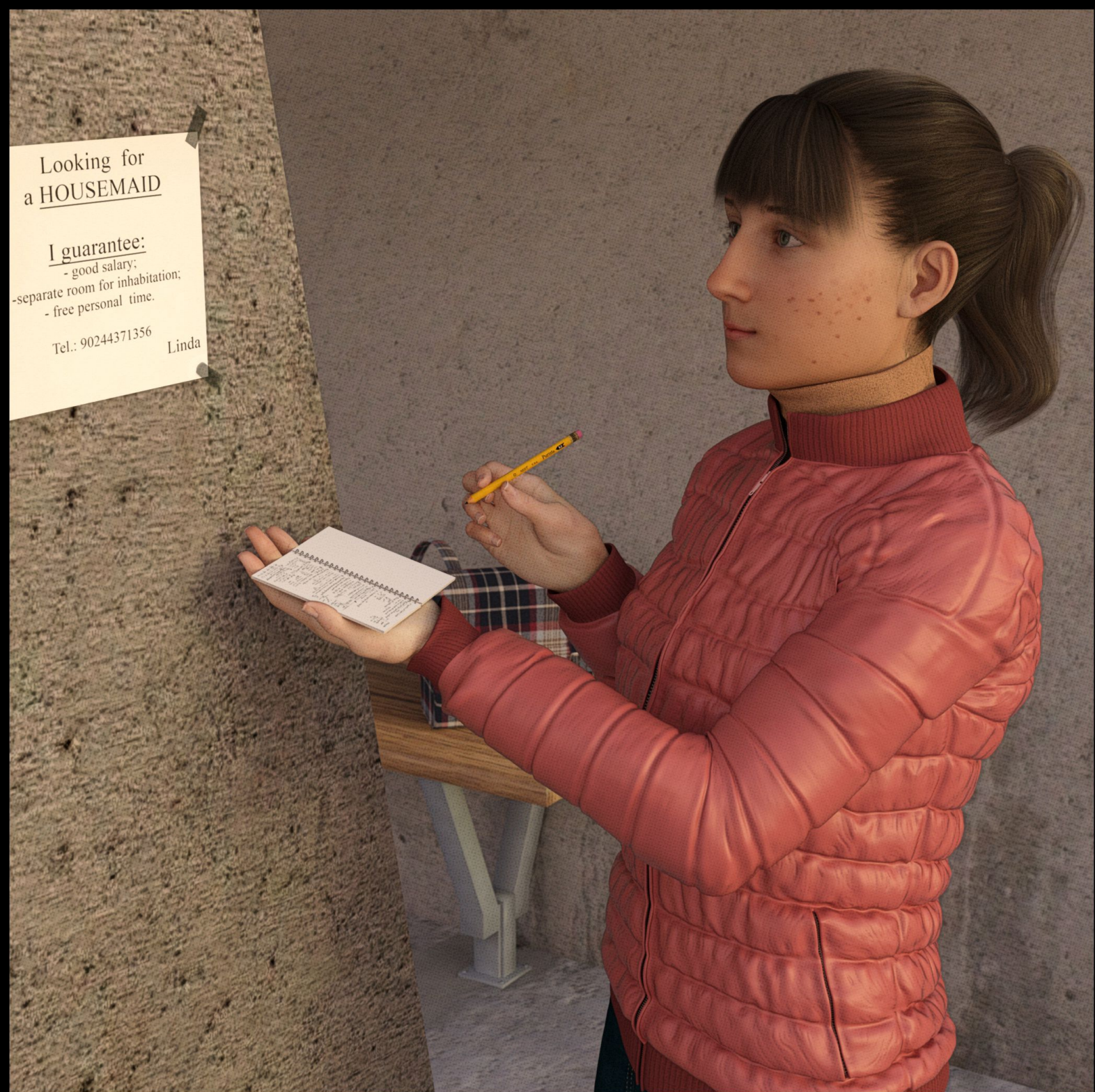
## Chapter II "The collapse of illusions" (Part 3)

**...But Aunt Mary!!! She was the opposite of her brother... From the first days as Anna settled in an aunt's apartment, she actually became a free servant. She cooked food, washed aunt's clothes, took care of the cat, went to the store, washed the floors ... But it was not so bad. Anna used to work... The busted metropolitan Aunt nagged at Anna for any reason: Incorrectly folded towel, a drop of dirt on the parquet floor, plenty of salt in the soup, little salt in the soup - everything caused her inadequate reaction. Anna tried not to take these whims close to heart, being raised in Christian morality, she despite everything was grateful to her relative for the roof over the head, for the chance in life...**



## Chapter II "The collapse of illusions" (Part 4)

...She hoped that at least the university would become for her a real home, that she would find new friends, like-minded people and get acquainted with cultured educated people. From the first weeks of classes Anna showed the best results in her group, which caused undisguised sympathy from the teachers and hatred from other female students. No sooner had the month ended, Anna became the main object of ridicule among her classmates. They mocked her appearance, her modest clothes, she was called a loafer and a rustic behind her back ... It was very frustrating for the girl, he could not understand why the metropolitan girls were so cruel, why they went to university as to a party, why they were not interested in literature and other sciences at all ... About this metropolitan life, all upside down...



## Chapter II "The collapse of illusions" (Part 5)

...It was already quite cool outside... Anna was walking around the bus stop to not freeze completely. She had just coped successfully with the exam in philosophy and felt Like a great weight's been lifted off her shoulders. But something still prevented her from breathing deeply... There's no one to share her little joy... Specially her Aunt... Anna did not want to go to her apartment. Again, listen to these stupid reproaches, again until midnight to iron the garments ... Suddenly, her eyes caught an ad. Someone needed a housemaid. "Why not try it?" - she thought. «It's better to listen to reproaches, getting money... or maybe this Linda is a good person, yes, yes, I have to try! What's the worst that could happen?"... Anna carefully rewrote the phone number in her notebook...



**Chapter II**  
**"The collapse of illusions"**  
**(Part 6)**

...Anna did not immediately find the right address in the urban jungle. She promised Linda to arrive by five o'clock in the evening and was very afraid of being late ... The door was opened by a tall athletic girl with a short stylish haircut. She was about thirty years old ... "Good evening, as I understand you are Anna? about the work?". Anna nodded shyly. The hostess held out her hand to welcome the young girl. "My name is Linda, please Anna go into the hallway, we should not devote our neighbors to our secrets..." - she whispered and conspiratorially winked...



## Chapter II

### "The collapse of illusions"

#### (Part 7)

...As it turned out, Linda lived alone in a five-room apartment... Although in truth she lived mostly at work, she only came home to sleep. Her former housekeeper resigned last week, and Linda urgently needed a person who would keep order in her little hut, as she herself jokingly said... Walking through the rooms Anna noted that there are not so much things and furniture, and that means you have not to fiddle with this fucking dust... well, if of course she will be hired... "Anna, I want to ask you to pay special attention to this room, here I train, and therefore I want you to keep the cleanliness here permanently"... "Does she really want to hire me?" - Anna rejoiced, but did not show it..." Oh, and what is this pole? I saw such on a fire station in our town when I was taken there with my classmates to go on an excursion"... "He he, my dear, do I look like a fireman? rather, on the contrary, I kindle fires... in men's hearts..." Anna did not understand what Linda meant, but did not ask again: she did not want to seem intrusive... Linda asked the guest to tell her a little about herself... After hearing not the happiest story, she suddenly said: "Well, Anna, I'm ready to pay you \$ 500 per month plus accommodation plus food at my expense, if everything suits you, you can move to me tomorrow and start working, I see that you are a decent girl, I think we should not have any problems..."



**Chapter II**  
**"The collapse of illusions"**  
**(Part 8)**

...Anna did not say anything to Auntie. The next morning she silently packed her things and left the house that had contradicted her, leaving a short note on the table... A few hours later tired and pleased she fell onto her new bed... "Hi Mom, write down my new number, Mom... but please do not get scared! I ran away from Aunt Mary, imagine how angry she is now haha!!! ... but do not swear please... Mom, you yourself know how unbearable she can be sometimes... do not worry, I've found work and housing, my new hostess is so cute..."