

Character Lines: “Wingbeats”

Katya

(narration) So, I clean and I cook and I look after Auntie's friends and call her 'Madam', and when Auntie doesn't need me I write letters home to Grandfather and them all, and Auntie posts them for me. I tell them all how good Auntie is to me, and how I shall have money to send them soon. I can thank Auntie for that too, because she puts my pocket money in bank for me. I don't think it can be much, because the work I do for her barely covers my bed and food. She is right-is better she puts the extra away.

~*~

Aunt

Don't look so disappointed. You can't go out, so you don't need new clothes, and the uniform will save the ones you have -oh, and when my friends are here, you'd better call me 'Madam'. We don't anyone to guess where you come from, do we? An immigrant without a job who can't speak good English – they'll send you straight back. No, you must stay indoors and let me handle everything for you.

~*~

Dr. Leopold

Shouldn't you be at school? *(sees what Katya is playing with)* All butterflies should be called 'Chaos'. Be careful, Katya, butterflies look small and soft, but one flap of their wings here can cause mountains to topple on the other side of the world.

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Grandfather

(frustrated with the weather) Soup? The crops are ruined and the girl offers me soup! Don't you realize what this means? Soup! You are lucky if you have even that to eat this winter, let alone shoes on your feet. You'll be thankful that you have sisters to share a bed with, because we won't have fuel for fire.