**LIECHTENSTEIN**

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*Like the ray of sunshine that is slowly but surely fighting its way over the mountain top before her, Europe has also fought its way out of its problems. Now it shines like never before.*

Sitting on a couch, she stares into the cloudless sky. A narrow strip of cloud interrupts the pure blue. It flies by as fast as it came. Funny, she thinks, the years passed by just the same. Sighing, she orders a lemonade with her very latest mobile phone. Before she's able to lie down again, James comes. James is her faithful and silent house robot. She can't imagine what it must have been like for her grandmother to have to do everything herself. She's quite glad James exists.

This is true of practically all the technology developed over the past years. Her grandmother told her that life used to be so different. Many of the jobs we take for granted that our machines do for us today used to be done by humans themselves. How could they stand it? She gets a pain in her back just thinking about it. 93% of agriculture is machinery, and there's already been a seventh industrial revolution – machines and more machines no matter where you look. At first, many people were afraid that the machines would take their jobs away, but of course the machines also created many new jobs.

Suddenly a little bird lands on the tree under which her couch is standing. She's happy to see it. It's been a long time since she's seen a bird.

Europe went through terrible times, so the European countries became allies. Community makes us strong. Our cultural and moral coexistence emerges from this community.

For her there is nothing more beautiful than the Europe she knows today. She doesn't want it any other way. Peace reigns over this continent. She knows perfectly well that this cannot be taken for granted. She knows the history of Europe. But like the ray of sunshine that is slowly but surely fighting its way over the mountain top before her, Europe has also fought its way out of its problems. Now it shines like never before. The sunbeam caresses her face as the sun finally reaches her small but cosy green spot. She enjoys it. Unfortunately she can't keep lying there too much longer.

Her mother asked her to look after her grandmother today. Oh, Grammy, what stories will you tell me today? She can consider herself lucky – her grandmother just turned 111, even though she had breast cancer when she was 67. Fortunately, medicine, like everything else, has made enormous progress. That is why she can still listen to her grandmother's voice today, because her grandmother has the best stories to tell.

When she finishes school, she wants to be a history teacher. It won't take much longer – her brain works faster than that of older people. Her mother says it's because her body notices she's working more with her brain than with her body. This allows generations to adapt better and better to their new living conditions. Oh, how she loves to live. She's proud to say she's European.

A noise behind her makes her flinch, and the bird above her is startled and flies away. Too bad, she thinks, I hope we meet again. "Oops, sorry about that." One of her friends sits down at the foot of her couch. He does that often. Just like her, he loves nature. She's known him since they were kids. His family fled to Europe in 2019. She learned from him that it wasn't so easy for his family in the beginning. There was discord between the religions, many other cultural differences, and above all the fears of the locals about being overrun by foreigners and losing their jobs. It was also not very helpful that some "refugees" (as they used to be called) did not abide by the rules of Europe. The locals became more and more suspicious. But now this has changed. Refugees are no longer thought of as refugees. And the religions have remained religions, but without the great controversies they'd always had. Each of her friends has a different faith, but no one cares. Of course there are still sporadic incidents, but Europe has that well under control.

"Didn't you want to go see you grandmother? You know, we have a history assignment to write about climate change. I still don't understand how you can possibly be interested in that, but I could use some help." She has to smile at the suffering look on his face. He doesn't get it. She's interested in climate change because she's fascinated by how the world dealt with it. It cost the world so much effort, so many people who went out on the streets and fought for the future. She was glad that they fought for her future as well and were able to convince the world to take enormous countermeasures. She owes it in large part to them that today she can lie on her couch and enjoy the sun.

"That's true, but give me five more minutes. Then we can take off." As he stands up and walks to his car, parked a few metres away, the last rays of the day are caught in his black curls. The car is one of the new prototypes on the market. Environmentally friendly flying cars, but their science is still a mystery to her.

She waits until the sun disappears behind the mountain top, and then she walks towards the car. It makes her happy to face a better future without knowing exactly how everything will develop. But she firmly believes that Europe is always learning new things. Europe is getting better and better. Smiling, she gets into the car, which then merges with the horizon.