

A LETTER TO UKRAINIAN WOMEN

Dear Oksana:

I wanted to thank you for being you. I know it's not always easy to be a woman in this country. I see that it takes you 45 minutes to get prepared to go across the street to buy bread. And I can only imagine how difficult it is for you to cross the cobblestone road in those 10cm spike heels. I want to let you know that I appreciate your effort.

Dear Kateryna:

I wanted to thank you for being you. I doubt it's very fun to fix the pants that I wrecked last week. I can only imagine how much you would rather be playing the piano, painting a masterpiece, singing in a choir, reciting poetry, going for a jog, reading literature, riding a horse, teaching a class, learning another language, or pursuing any of the other 100 amazing talents you have. I want to let you know that I appreciate your effort.

Dear Nastya:

I wanted to thank you for being you. I know it can't be easy to keep the house as clean as you do. I can see that your sense of style and design would qualify you to be a fashion consultant in some other countries. And I know that while you went to university to get an education and could work anywhere, to me you could also have a Doctorate in Being a Super-Wife. I want to let you know that I appreciate your effort.

Dear Tanya:

I wanted to thank you for being you. I know it's not always fun to cook an 8-course meal for me after you spent the day cleaning the house, helping your mother, picking the kids up from school, paying the bills, running errands for me and buying the bread (and, of course, preparing yourself to buy the bread). I can only imagine how tiring it is for you to bake me cookies while I watch the football match. I want to let you know that I appreciate your effort.



Dear Luba:

I wanted to thank you for being you. I know it can't be fun to look after the kids after going to work today. I can only imagine how much fun you'll have watching Masha and the Bear with them for the 14th night in a row. I want to let you know that I appreciate your effort.

Dear Marichka:

I wanted to thank you for being you. I know it can't be easy to remember all the things that I've forgotten to do. I understand that I could have just remembered myself or written it down, but I know that all of your pieces of wisdom come from looking out for me and all the other men in your life for so long. I want to let you know that I appreciate your effort.

Dear Olha:

I wanted to thank you for being you. And for all the little (and big) things you do for me. So today, I will get the kids ready for school, make you breakfast while you're still in bed, wash the dishes, and sweep the floors. And after work I'll pick up the kids, stop by your mother's, give you flowers, make you dinner, put the kids to sleep and give you a foot massage. I'll even buy the bread. Just please don't ask me to spend 45 minutes making myself handsome, OK?

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY