



Letter to the Living

I TORE THE TOP OFF THE ENVELOPE, BREAKING THE WAX seal. Reaching in, I removed a group of about a dozen letter-sized papers that were stapled together. On the front of the bundle was a letter from my generous and wonderful Aunt Lucy herself, written in pen.

“Dear Joseph,” I read, smiling at Lucy’s distinctively hurried scrawl.

“Congratulations. I knew you could do it. In the event that you had not found your balance point, I had ordered my lawyers to divide my estate equally among the charities indicated on the papers attached to this letter.

However, since you have succeeded in claiming my estate, and since you have honestly and sincerely found your personal balance point, then you quite understand the importance of the attached charities receiving an equal portion of my assets. They are organizations that are working very hard to change the world for the better. I have very carefully chosen them in order to support their work in trying to prevent the approaching Point of No Return. Therefore, I will leave it up to you to see that my entire estate, the one that you now possess, will be divided up and distributed equally to the ten non-profit entities attached.

I'm sure you had no intention of using the money yourself for personal reasons, and I have saved you the trouble of trying to decide what to do with it. Please reimburse yourself for any trouble or expenses. And keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Lucy

P.S. No doubt you wonder why I chose you to follow my clues and inherit my estate. I picked you because I once saw you, long ago, in a very vivid dream. In that dream you were writing a book — for me. I never fully understood the meaning of that dream until now, as the finger of death gently taps me on my shoulder. And now I understand, without a doubt, that you will write about the Balance Point for me. Although I must now leave this world, it is because of you, dear nephew, that I can leave a little piece of myself behind for the benefit of others. So please carve a little off my estate before you pass it out to the non-profits, and write a book about your experiences. Consider it our little gift to the world, and pray that it makes a difference, before it's too late.”