

The Keeping Quilt

When my Great-Gramma Anna came to America, she	9
wore the same thick overcoat and big boots she had worn for	21
farm work. But her family weren't dirt farmers anymore. In	31
New York City, her father was hauling things on a wagon, and	43
the rest of the family made artificial flowers all day.	53
Everyone was in a hurry, and it was so crowded, not like	65
backhome Russia. But all the same it was their home, and	76
most of their neighbors were just like them.	84
When Anna went to school, English sounded to her like	94
pebbles dropping into shallow water. Shhhhhh...Shhhhhh.	101
In six months she was speaking English. Her parents almost	111
never learned, so she spoke English for them, too.	120
The only things she had left of backhome Russia were	130
her dress and babushka she liked to throw up into the air	142
when she was dancing.	146
And her dress was getting too small. After her mother	156
had sewn her a new one, she took her old dress and babushka.	169
Then from a basket of old clothes she took Uncle's shirt and	181
Aunt's nightdress and apron.	185
"We will make a quilt to help us always remember home,"	196
Anna's mother said. "It will be like having the family in	207
backhome Russia dance around us at night."	214