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**January 9th 1944**

My dearest Kitty,

Today, I have nothing but dismal and depressing news to report. Our many Jewish friends and acquaintances are being taken away in droves. The Gestapo (surely the most vile and evil people ever to have lived in the world) are treating them very roughly and transporting them in cattle cars to Westerbork: an enormous camp in Drenthe to which they're sending all the Jews.

Miep relayed to us the reports of someone who'd managed to escape from there: his story is horrifying and we had to force Meip to tell it all. Our people are being treated worse than the lowest criminals; they get almost nothing to eat, much less to drink (water is said to be available for only one hour a day) and there's only one toilet and sink for several thousand people. Men and women sleep in the same room; there are far more people than space available; women and children have their heads shaved; all are put to back-breaking work and escape is all but impossible. If it's that bad in Holland, what must it be like in those faraway and uncivilized places where the Germans are sending them? We dreadfully assume that most of them are being murdered – it's sickening to even contemplate. The English radio says they're being gassed; however, I find that impossible to believe. Though perhaps that's the quickest way to die...

Miep's accounts bring only pain, these horrors are so heartrending! Fine specimens of humanity, those Germans, and to think I'm actually one of them! No, that's not true; Hitler took away our nationality long ago. And besides, there are no greater enemies on earth than the Germans and Jews.