

That Was All That Mattered by Ilana Wulf

Maria and Isaac were extremely poor, with just enough money for rent. But they valued education above everything else. Their daughter, as it happens, was old enough to go to college, and up till this time had been homeschooled. The couple knew that if only they could pay for their daughter to go to school, she could be a lawyer, a doctor, anything she wished. Maria started working two jobs for her daughter, and Isaac, though he wished it weren't so necessary, borrowed money from a rich friend, who insisted that the sum did not have to be paid back. Isaac's conscience said otherwise, so they paid off the money and the daughter traveled to Cambridge on foot, where she was received by the headmaster of Harvard University and quickly became the teachers' favorite in many of her classes.

Meanwhile, her parents were struggling painfully with money. When Maria fell ill with tuberculosis, Isaac knew it was because of the terrible conditions in which they lived. He fell to the ground in obvious rage, just as someone knocked on the door. Isaac barked, "Come in!" and a disheveled man came in holding a lengthy piece of paper.

"A letter from your daughter," the man proclaimed in a gruff voice. Isaac grabbed the paper from his hands. It read: *Dear Mother and Father, I am doing well in school. My teachers recommend me to be a candidate for the Supreme Court, when I am old enough. I have also been certified to give treatment to several diseases, including tuberculosis. My professors say that Mother is sick, and I should come home. I am wondering with what, because I could cure some things. I shall be home within a week. Your daughter, Rebecca.*

Isaac's face fell. How would Rebecca react when she saw her mother sick in bed, and the house in ruins? He had done all this for his daughter, and look what had happened. Just as he was thinking this, a moan arose from the tiny bed, then faded. Isaac knew that his wife had passed, but also knew that it was all for Rebecca. She was happy at school, and that was all that mattered.

A few days after, Rebecca came home to a ruined house with two dead bodies inside, and knew her parents had done all they could for her. She became a highly respected Supreme Court justice, and thanked her parents' spirits for all they had done.