

Isabelle sat at the long table in her grandmother's chambers and folded the letter that had recently arrived from her Uncle Robert. In August, Isabelle's parents, King Louis IX of France and his wife, Marguerite had left Paris to go on a crusade to the Holy Land. Isabelle had not seen her parents for over seven months. Uncle Robert had written that they were in a land called Cyprus. Isabelle did not know where that was, but she knew that it was very far away.

Isabelle placed the letter on the long wooden table and walked to the window nearby. She sat on the seat by the window and looked out onto the city of Paris. Spring had arrived in the city. Isabelle looked down on the garden just below and saw the beautiful flowers that were just beginning to bloom.

The trees had bright green buds and the sight of them brought a smile to the young princess' face. This was her favorite time of year. The season of Pasche was just about to begin and Isabelle could hardly wait for all of the exciting things they would do for the holiday.

This year things would be quite different, though.