

Jenny could scarcely believe her good fortune: for her eighth grade graduation, her parents were going to take her to Ireland for a wonderful holiday. As long as she could remember, she'd been hearing stories about the country where both her parents had been raised. She knew her grandparents still lived there, and she had aunts and uncles and cousins there that she had never met, even one cousin who was the exact same age. At last, her family was going to have the opportunity to gather together and get to know one another.

The flight from the United States to Ireland took a long time. They left Chicago about dinnertime and landed in Dublin the next morning, just in time for breakfast. Jenny didn't remember much about the flight because she'd slept almost the entire way. However, once the airplane landed, all thoughts of sleep scattered instantaneously. She was fully prepared to enjoy every moment of the vacation before her. Jenny rushed through the airport terminal with her parents, eager for her first glimpse of the relatives she had seen only in photographs.

Suddenly, she heard excited chattering coming from a large group of people all hovering near the exit gate. She felt her parents' excitement as they surged forward to exchange hugs with people who vaguely resembled them. Their brothers and sisters, Jenny figured. Before she had time to react, Jenny was surrounded by people about her age. A girl with light red hair and brilliant blue eyes flashed her an immense smile and introduced herself as Jenny's cousin, Mary. Instantly, Jenny felt herself relax. It felt like she was looking in a mirror. As closely as they resembled one another, Mary could have been her twin sister. There was no longer any question in her mind that she was going to have a great vacation!