

Twenty years from now

A short story by

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Have you ever received a letter from your past self? I know that sounds strange but strange things happen all the time. So, this one happened to me.

Two weeks ago a friend wanted to borrow the vintage jacket I had bought from a second hand shop. So, I took it out and started checking the pockets when I found a quite old piece of paper folded twice. I unfolded it hastily to see what it was but when I read the first sentence I was taken aback. It was a handwritten message entitled "A note to my future self".

'It is the year 2021 and I'm 11 years old. Covid-19 is still controlling our lives. I hope you don't need to wear masks anymore...

Back then? Oh, I remember those we had to wear to protect from Covid-19. Dear self, you would never have thought that we wear masks to protect from air pollution.

'Now, let's talk about technology. Our cars use electricity but I guess your cars are flying ...

No one uses a car, my dear! Our planet cannot afford private cars anymore. Thank God, we can still use public transport.

'... and we go to the super market, but I think in the future we will only shop online ...

Finally, you guessed it right!

'We learn about climate change but nobody seems to take it seriously, although natural disasters are becoming more frequent ...

Oh, how I wish you were wrong again! We keep setting heat records and wildfires have destroyed most of our beautiful forests. Dreadful winds, drought, downpours and floods have become part and parcel of our lives. I sometimes think I will lose my home.

'I hope you still believe in a better future,

Your past self'

Despite feeling so insecure about the present, I do ...