

February 27, 2007

Dear Family, Friends and New Friends,

I would like to introduce you to my traveling pal, **Flat Louise!** You may have read about another flat friend, Flat Stanley, and his travels in the book, Flat Stanley, written by Jeff Brown. In this story, a boy named Stanley is flattened by a falling bulletin board as he is sleeping. While he is flat, his parents send him in an envelope from New York to California. He visits his best friend and continues on to have many adventures before he is mailed home, and with the help of his little brother is returned to normal.

In this email you will find my niece, Flat Louise. And **with your help, Louise can visit many places** and help her learn more about some interesting aspects of people's lives.

Why Louise, you ask? Well, as many of you know, **my niece is an incredible girl.** Without modern medicine and God's hand, Louise wouldn't be here today.

Despite her often weak body, Louise is one of the strongest people I know. She has always been courageous and determined. In addition, she has a sharp wit and is incredibly sweet. My family and I just spent a few days with Louise and her parents in Palm Desert, where we celebrated her 14th birthday.

On February 28th, Louise is having scoliosis surgery. Besides being painful as they straighten the rod in her back, the recovery requires that she be at home for 7 weeks. This much time at home for anyone would be hard. But for a girl who loves being around people and for whom communicating with people requires signing, it will be even tougher.

I know that these coming weeks cooped up without her classmates and friends will be hard on her (and her parents). So, instead of sending her flowers or a gift to let her know I love her, **I thought that I could enlist you and others to brighten her 49 days at home.** Getting personal mail the old fashioned way is almost magical, especially when it's filled with fun news.

Would you please invite Flat Louise to join you on an adventure and send her to the real Louise? Here's how you can do it:

1. **Print** out the image of Flat Louise and the accompanying passport page on your printer. If you would like, you can cut out Flat Louise so that she can move around a bit.
2. Have fun **taking Flat Louise with you on some sort of activity**, snap a photo and write about your day as she was your guest. You can take her to an event, a ball game, work, dinner, whatever, and feel free to include any ticket stubs, pictures, souvenirs, etc. from your experience. She'd love to hear what your life is like and how it might differ from hers as a teenager in Southern California.
3. **Send your Flat Louise** and reports of her visit in an envelope via snail mail. Louise can then insert them into her passport notebook. You can send them to her at:
Louise, 17 Bayview Terrace, Mill Valley, CA 94941

As much fun as this project will hopefully be to Louise, I also ask you to pray for her through this time. You can specifically pray for her health (and her parents' health), for safe and successful surgery, for swift correction of the curvature of her spine and for the patience to be a good house-bound patient.

Thank you for helping to brighten her day! I look forward to seeing the Flat Louise passport.

With Sincere Thanks,
Ann

P.S. To take this a step further, you could consider doing one (or more) of the following:

- *Send this email (with attachments) to a friend who you think would enjoy sharing an adventure with Flat Louise. But in consideration of Louise and her family's privacy, please don't blast this out to your address book.*
- *Make her a new outfit paper doll style*
- *Write a postcard from the traveling Flat Louise to the real Louise*
- *Come up with something original. I surely don't have a corner on the market!*



name

city, state

date

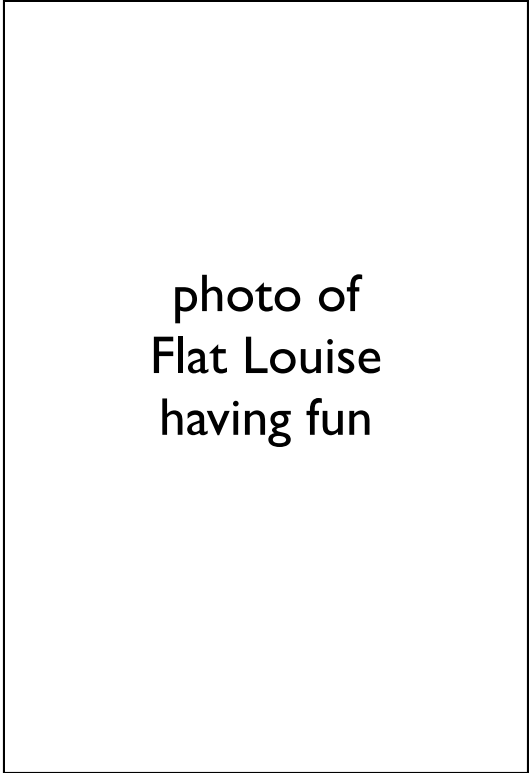


photo of
Flat Louise
having fun

What we did with Flat Louise:



Flat Louise