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AUTHOR: "I shall never forget . . . two simple, magic words"

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## WHY I LOVE AMERICA

by Lili Foldes

**In her first summer here, this writer made a memorable discovery**

OVER and over, when I first came to America, people asked me, "What do you like best about this country?" There were a thousand answers, but it took me almost ten years to find, retrospectively, what first made me feel this is the most wonderful country in the world.

My husband and I were visiting one of our new American friends in the Adirondacks on a week end during our first summer in the U. S. When the time came for us to leave, we stepped into the automobile in which our host was to take us to the station. But the car didn't start immediately.

"We have to wait a minute," he explained.

A tall, middle-aged woman appeared at one of the side entrances of the house just then and walked erectly to the car. "Here I am," she announced with a friendly smile. "I hope I didn't keep you waiting."

Our host turned to us to make the introduction: "This is Mrs. Jordan, our dishwashing lady," he

said, after telling her our name. "We are going to drive her home first."

*Dishwashing lady.* . . I shall never forget those two simple, magic words. Our friend spoke them with the same intonation he had used in introducing another person a few hours earlier: "This is Mr. Brown, our corporation lawyer." It was clear that he considered them both valuable friends who helped to run, respectively, his private and business households. More than any flowery lecture on democracy and the absence of class distinctions, those two words convinced me of the blessed freedom from any trace of stigma which honest work possesses in America.

INDEED, in her appearance, manners and attitude, Mrs. Jordan was a lady in the truest sense of the word. She was a lady because she lived in a country whose citizens have considered it their most sacred duty throughout history to preserve the greatest treasure of any true democracy, a treasure without which even the most powerful country in the world is doomed to perish — human dignity.