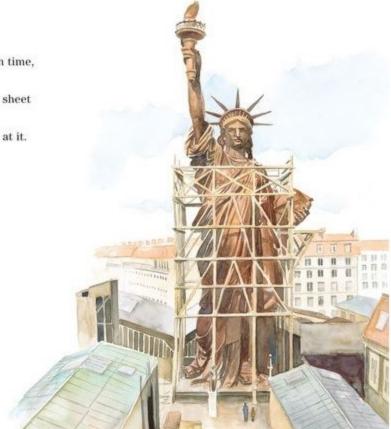


He made sure he came home on time, but he visited the Lady often. He helped beat the thin copper sheet that became her little finger. André laughed when he looked at it. Her "little" finger was seven feet long! One day the next spring, André stood beside Bartholdi. They gazed up at the Lady. She was finally complete. From her torch to her toes, she gleamed in the sun. "Oh, Lady," André said, "how beautiful you are."





There was a crowd of people in front of the stairway door. "It's locked!" one woman cried. She beat her fists against the door. "They've locked us in." Minnie remembered that the foreman always locked that door near the end of the day. The bosses wanted to be sure that no one tried to leave early or steal anything. Now that locked door was keeping the workers from escaping the fire.



The smoke was getting thicker. People were coughing. They couldn't breathe. Some of them ran to the windows and broke the glass. They tried to escape from the fire by jumping out. But they were nine floors up. Minnie knew no one could survive that fall. "We have to try the other stairway!" Tessa yelled.