Reader's Challenge Solution

This is how the message can be uncovered:

The code in the art is adapted from Calder's code, on page 57. Hidden in the art of the odd-numbered chapters are one pentomino and one to three frogs. The frogs represent the numbers in Calder's code. For example, in Chapter One there is a 'V' pentomino (in the lower painting) and there are two frogs (one in the top painting and one in the middle), equaling V:2, which represents the letter T on Calder's code. In Chapter Three, a 'V' pentomino and one frog equal V:1, which represents the letter H, and so on.

The Solution:
Chapter One: V:2 = T
Chapter Three: V:1 = H
Chapter Five: P:1 = E
Chapter Seven: Z:1 = L
Chapter Nine: F:1 = A
Chapter Eleven: N:1 = D
Chapter Thirteen: F:3 = Y
Chapter Fifteen: Z:1 = L
Chapter Seventeen: W:1 = I
Chapter Nineteen: X:2 = V
Chapter Twenty-one: P:1 = E
Chapter Twenty-three: U:2 = S

The message is:
THE LADY LIVES.