

Dear Jodi Picoult,

Every person has something they wish for in life; for some people it's money, fame, new cars, the list of selfish wants is endless. But a person with cancer has only one wish; one more birthday, one more month, one more week, one more day. There is only one rational thing they can wish for, survival. Normal people, the lucky ones, tend to take life for granted, just because they can. Your book, *My Sister's Keeper*, opened my eyes to how precious life truly is when I needed to see this the most.

I read your book after I saw the movie, and I fell in love with it. But in December 2009, my mom and step dad set me down and told me that my grandmother, a woman who doesn't smoke, has lung cancer. I couldn't understand it, the only people I've ever heard of who had lung cancer were heavy smokers, not my grandma. But that got me thinking, why does anyone get cancer? So, I reread your book, and this time it gave me a different message.

My Sister's Keeper allowed me to understand what my grandmother was going through; it showed me how a person with cancer thinks and feels. It showed me how lucky I am, because millions of people, just like my grandmother or Kate, fight through this every day. But most importantly, it gave me hope. Kate beats the cancer, so everyone can stand a chance. *My Sister's Keeper* also changed my thoughts on the world. Whether it was by thinking about if you would be able to have another child to save the life of your daughter, or losing a child, or thoughts of suing your own parents, this book definitely gave you a different perspective of life to look at.

On July 26th, 2010, my grandmother passed away after a hard fought battle. She's still the strongest person I know, she's still my role model, and still over a year later, not a day goes by that I don't think of her. At first I was angry, so many other people survive, Kate survived, so why couldn't she? But, *My Sister's Keeper* showed me that sometimes in life, things change, and what you are expecting to happen does not, and there's nothing you can do to change that. Anna's death definitely proved this point, and I could relate to it.

On Tuesday after Cross Country practice, my mom was there to pick me up as always. But there was that look in her eye that she always gets when something

is wrong. She told me that my grandfather is dying; his liver cancer has finally beaten him. He only had maybe a few days left, so my dad wanted her to bring us down to Philadelphia immediately to see him, so off we went to say our final goodbyes. At school the next day, my English teacher told me that I had to write an essay on a book that had changed my life. I thought that it must have been fate; God knew I needed a reminder, and that's when it hit me. My thoughts were yet again on *My Sister's Keeper*. Once again, I realized I had been taking life for granted, when nothing is guaranteed. So I went into my closet and pulled your book out to read once again when I needed it most. But this time, it taught me a different life lesson. It showed me that like Kate and Anna, I am so blessed to have so many loving friends and family supporting me in my time of need. After everything *My Sister's Keeper* has done for me, it has provided me with an answer to one of the most difficult questions in life. Whenever someone asks me if I could have one wish, anything in the world, what would it be, I know my answer without hesitation. Nothing. I don't need anything; I am blessed and have everything I could possibly ask for in life, so how could I wish for anything else?

Sincerely,

Jordyn Donnelly