

Emily Beckman

Dear Jodi Picoult,

I used to not let myself cry. Its not that I couldn't cry, I just wouldn't allow myself to.

My sister was diagnosed with cancer in her leg when I was eight years old. She went through remission a couple of times before they finally found some tumors they couldn't cure on her spine. Two and a half years after her first treatment, her body finally gave up. I can remember running out of the room, stuffing my head in the couch cushion, and letting the warm tears pour down my face. I promised myself after, that I wouldn't cry because I wanted people to think I was strong. I can remember sitting at the funeral stone faced, as mourners passed through, trying to push the good and bad memories out of my head.

For the past three years I have been doing the same thing. When something reminded me of her, I would just push it out of my mind. I was very good at it, until that day when my English teacher handed me your book. As I looked at the cover of *My Sister's Keeper* I doubted that it would hit me on an emotional level. But through the first few chapters everything that I have been holding back hit me so hard. I truly cried for the first time in three years. Your book was like a flood gate that opened all the memories back into my head. All the pain and the disappointment covered me. I could not help but break down and cry.

I remembered back to the times when my sister and I shared a room, and how she would always make me turn off the light at night because I was younger than her. I can remember the times lying on the uncomfortable couch in her hospital room while she received chemotherapy and wishing I could be back home watching Lizzie McGuire. But now I am thankful for every minute I spent with her.

Your book opened my eyes and taught me to relish the good moments. It also taught me to live every moment of my life to the fullest. I believe that anyone who reads your book will learn a very hard lesson of just being grateful for everything they have in their lives.

Sincerely,
Emily Beckman