

Jamie Baer

Dear Katherine Hannigan,

When I finished reading Ida B., I looked out the window at a tree I had looked at many times before, and saw it differently. Your book changed my life. I now see the world through different eyes.

The conflict between Ida B. and Claire is similar to situations that have happened in my life. The first time I read Ida B., I could compare the conflict between them to my life a little bit, but now I can a lot more. Ida B. made me realize that there are many reasons why a person acts the way they do. I learned that a rude rejection or comment can be due to endless reasons, and nasty attitudes don't necessarily mean the person is mean down to the soul. Now, whenever I feel someone is mean, I'll dig deep beneath the surface. By reading this book, I learned so many things-- big and little, like

not getting the window seat in a car or finding out your mother has cancer, can add up to create an action or an attitude.

While I was reading Ida B., I surprised myself. I never give anyone second chances! When Claire wasn't nasty to Ida B. after Ida B. had scared her brother, I asked myself: If I were in Claire's position, would I have done what she did? The honest answer is no. If I were Claire, I would be pitiless to Ida B. I was awfully surprised by my answer, but I know it is true. Since I read Ida B., I try to give people second chances, or at least try not to get even.

Also, because of Ida B., I try to be more forgiving. In the book, Claire listened and accepted Ida B.'s apology. In my life, I thought a single apology wasn't good enough for me. I learned, however, that sometimes a "sorry" is a large step and is immensely hard.

Ida B. showed me how important trees are to us. I had never noticed it before. I had always known that trees benefited the environment, but they are also great friends. They listen to you. However, they don't respond, but in my

opinion they don't need to. Their presence is all any of us needs to feel content. The book Ida B. changed my views on many concepts-- forever.

Sincerely,  
*Jamie B.*