

Megan Huhn

Dear A. C. H. Smith,

About a year ago, I was probing the still and quiet rows of bookshelves in the Tippecanoe Public Library. *Any book*, I thought to myself, *just any book so that I can get out of here quickly*. So, what did I do? I closed my eyes and chose the book that my fingertips touched. *Well, what do you know?* Labyrinth was the book I chose. While walking up to the checkout counter, I read the back of the book. All of a sudden, I was eager to start reading. I didn't know how much of an impact the book could bring on me, but now I do.

Labyrinth left a big impression on me because I knew what it felt like to wish for something terrible and then have your wish come true. Instead of wishing for my brother to be taken away by goblins, I wished that he would go into the army and never come back. Although Toby was younger than Sarah, and my brother, Brent, is older than me, I still felt a connection when I read this book. Brent ended up going into the army; I felt so guilty, like Sarah did when her brother was taken.

When Jareth told Sarah that to receive her brother back she had to make it to his castle, I felt like I would do anything to keep Brent from leaving. The labyrinth that Sarah had to find her way through was like my thoughts. They were twisting into a maze in which I couldn't reach the end: I couldn't reach my brother. Everywhere I would travel, my mind would change my path and make it even more difficult to find him.

I would have never made it through this situation without my friends; one of them resembled Hoggle. She would say that she didn't care, but deep down inside I knew that she did: just like Hoggle. Ludo was a very affectionate character in your story, and I guess I liked him so much because I had a friend who had the same personality. At times you couldn't really understand Ludo, just like I couldn't understand my friend, but she would do anything that she could to help. Thinking that everything would be okay, I made it through the sorrowful period.

Every time I picked up this book, I was entranced. Not only was the story alluring, but since the relationship between me and the book was strong, I wanted to see if Sarah would ever get Toby back. Quickly reading each page, I would give my full attention to the details. Every mistake and every triumph that Sarah went through, it would show in my behavior the next day. Your book influenced the way I would talk and act because Sarah and I were so similar.

As I closed the back cover of this book, I cried slightly. This book doesn't have a sad ending, but I was so full of relief because I felt like there was still hope for me. It turns out that everything did work out for Sarah and me.

Brent conveyed to me that it wasn't my fault that he went into the war, and I felt a huge relief. He was actually happy to go into the army. I never knew it. That little book on the library's bookshelf made some young girl happy: me. The impact that was sprung upon me was so huge that it was difficult to believe that it came from a thin book on a dusty bookshelf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan Huhn".

Megan Huhn, Grade 8

590 words