

Dear Ms. Mah,

I can relate to you in your life because I too lost my mother, but she is not dead. She could not deal with me so now I live with my grandparents. I, too, like school more than my time at home. There are a couple of reasons I like school more. First I can express myself and my friends understand me, unlike at home. Just like you one of my family members – my grandpa' can't even remember my birthday. I have also moved to many houses (apartments) and each time I have to make new friends and that is not easy. I am currently attending St. Mark's and, while some of the kids are nice, others make fun of me because I do bad in school. Even though you did very well, we both received the same mean comments. When I read your book I was shocked at the punishments you received. I too receive punishments but not even close to yours. I get yelled at and called many names by my mom at first my grandma was only was mean to me when I got her mad. Not to be a kiss up or anything but I am glad you wrote this book so I could realize that I am not the only one living a life of pain.

This book showed me that if I work hard enough then I can earn love and approval. I also learned that not everyone dislikes me and some members of my family really root for me. That shows me that the people in my life can help me and, if I try hard enough, I can succeed. This book affected my life in a way that not a lot of people can understand, but since you wrote this book then maybe you can help well if my letter makes it to you. When I finished your book I felt strong emotion and while I was reading it I

noticed I was also showing it. When I am at school people think of me as a bad boy, and that I do bad things, but when I finished your book it changed me. It changed the way I act. Now I have care for others and when I look around I realized my life isn't the worst: I'm not adopted and I get to see my mom every once in a while. Also, when you had anger you held it in. I also have the same experiences with anger, so when I do I skateboard. It helps me get my emotions out by doing tricks, and it feels like I am in my own personal bubble. I am in a land where no one can hurt me or touch me. I feel invincible

All of your devastating experiences have helped me flourish in my inner strength. I also act like you in many ways (I am not saying I act like a girl or anything) because when I see someone being verbally abused I have to step in or when someone comes to school with no emotion I ask, "What up". Also, just as you won for Wu Chun Mei, I also like to do good for my friends. The truth is, Ms. Mah, that you are my role model. Thank you for showing me all of these things and I hope you continue writing.

Sincerely,

Cannon.P.K