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Go Ask Alice, Anonymous

Dear Anonymous Writer,

I've never really enjoyed reading. I've always thought books were a waste of time, "You only have one life to live why waste it on stupid stuff?" I was never the type of girl to lock myself in my room and just read, read for hours and hours. As instead I was usually found outside hanging out with friends. Socializing, and getting into some kind of mischief, trying to stay away from home. It's not that I didn't like home, it's just that home wasn't really a good place for me. It was never peaceful, I didn't feel welcome, and it was nothing like a home should be. Instead it was full of anger, sadness, and there was always yelling and fighting. My life at the time was undesirable, I just wanted to quit. At times I would even think of suicide. Not until the beginning of eighth grade did I notice that the lifestyle I was living was unhealthy, unclean, not a good lifestyle. I decided to try to change my ways, and the first thing that came to my mind was reading. In movies you often see the "good kids" at a library studying or reading, so I thought to myself that maybe this would be a good start.

When I went through the aisles of the library, I thought I would never find "the book for me" until I came across your book *Go Ask Alice*. I immediately took it off the shelf and without even reading the back page to see what it was about, I checked it out and went HOME. I read and read and read, I never wanted to stop reading. I actually went across the stage of staying up all night in my room and just reading your amazing story. My mind was in the book, even though my body was not. I was growing close to you, anonymous person, I had no idea who or what your name was but I felt as if you were my best friend, my sister, and right now writing this essay with tears rolling down my face, I notice that you're my hero. This book has changed my view of life and I have no idea how I could ever repay you for it.

Now I can't even picture or live life how it used to be, only what it can be. I think it's incredible how you and I have been and had to live through basically the same complications in life. Before reading your book I had friends who were heavily addicted to drugs and other substances. It would hurt me to see them doing that to their beautiful and healthy bodies that God had given them, but it would hurt me even more that my friends, the people who I'm supposed to come to for my struggles, for love, for information, were trying to have me become a part of their "drug scene," to have me experiment with these substances that were basically poison

to human bodies. Sometimes they would get me to do some of their stuff, they told me it would take all my depression away, take me to a land where there were no such things as problems or sadness, only happiness. I believed them, but they lied. It all came to me the night when my own sister, my own blood, my own family was rushed to the emergency room because, I guess you can say, she had taken so much drugs her body had basically shut down. I can still remember her voice that night, how she was shaking, and overall how scared I was, and how I thought I might lose one of my loved ones tonight. I remember reading your diary for comfort, I wanted to escape from all the unhappy things that were happening in my life, and you did just that. You took me into your world, and I will never forget you.

When I finished the last page of your diary, I tried to comprehend all the things that you had gone through, and how basically I would never be emotionally strong enough to be put into your shoes and experience all the things you have gone through. From then and until now I look at things optimistically as if there will never be sunshine again, as if it was my last day. I appreciate everything you have taught me. I really needed it. Thank you.

***With much love,
Brittney Bobolinski***

P.S. Both my friends, my sister, and I have converted to a healthy, sober lifestyle with help from you.

Name's Brittney; I prefer to be called Brie or Sky. I'm an aspiring tattoo artist, photographer, and a counselor for adolescents who are dealing with depression, self mutilation, and addiction. I'm a vegetarian and I love it, you should try it out as well. Who knows what the future has in store for me, I am proud of who I am, and aim to be proud of who I become. I expect to change, life often forces this upon us. But in the mean time, I'm a low maintenance, down to earth girl who has a passion for art, loves painting, sketching, and going to shows. My favorite band is Nirvana; I have an obsession with Kurt Cobain. I'm very unique, yet not that different, you may not understand my logic. Ruby Marie Hallock and Kasey Leann Mcdow are my two biggest inspirations in life. They're my best friends and I love them to death. Without them and my family I wouldn't know what to do. I want to go to The Academy of Arts University in San Francisco. I love my life and I wouldn't change it for the world.