

January 4, 2019

Dear Audrey Penn,

When I first read this amazing book, I was a young child frightened to attend pre-school; startled that this reality included my mother and father no longer glued to my side day and night. Fortunately, as I was on the cusp of a mental breakdown, my mother discovered your story, *The Kissing Hand*. Then came an incredible performance consisting of my mother leafing through the phrases inside the book, reading them aloud, later followed by my dad adding theatrics to the scenarios Chester, the main character, and his fellow friends encountered. Eventually, the story came to an end, but now I was ready for school.

For years my parents and I would always kiss each other's hand, then quickly place the love over our hearts. While it seems foolish now, it was enough to satisfy my younger self, and I was always ready to walk through my classroom door with a large, goofy grin plastered on my face. In fact, this book of yours worked so much magic, my family and I lent your book to some family friends who had an upcoming kindergartener that was nervous for what was in store for him. Once again the inexhaustible magic that resides in the thirty-two pages of *The Kissing Hand* succeeded in uncovering the extra strength that the young child already possessed. Abracadabra!!!

Overall, I shudder to imagine how my life would differ if my mom had never discovered *The Kissing Hand*. Obviously I would still be required to attend school, but if it weren't for the extraordinary message *The Kissing Hand* shares, my learning experiences would be noticeably duller and less enjoyable. It does not take the sharp vision of an eagle to recognize the recurring theme that if in the past an event came across as a negative experience, the higher the probability that later on in life you will continue to hold the negative opinion about that subject. In conclusion, thanks to your incredible, life-changing story, *The Kissing Hand*, I obtained the confidence and independence that was necessary to shape my personality and form my character. *The Kissing Hand* is, and will always be, a part of me and an important piece of my life. Thank you SO much for writing this amazing children's book, it really has influenced my life as I am positive it has aided many others!

Sincerely, a grateful reader,

Emma Prior