

## Letter from Maddie

Hello fellow readers,

I hope you liked this book. It is kind of weird having a book based on me, but it's also pretty cool.

You've read about the story version of me. I wanted you to know the real me. I do really like potatoes and mustaches and acting in plays. And my elementary school really did do scenes from Shakespeare. I wasn't Juliet, though; I was Petruchio from *Taming of the Shrew*. I got to wear a long golden cape and a cool hat. And my friend even drew a mustache on my face. It was pretty awesome. I also like to read, draw, and crochet.

Even though Cassie isn't based on a real person and some of the situations at school in this book are different from my life, I did have troubles with some girls, and I really did make up games

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to help me make new friends, including Claire, Ashley, Emma, Nieve, Lauren, Aubrey, and Kate. The part about my tumor is pretty accurate except the surgeries were about a year and half apart, instead of months.

I think everyone who reads this book should realize the moral of the story is . . .

Drum roll please . . .

To love potatoes and mustaches!

Okay, probably not really. There's more to it.

I learned a lot through my friend troubles and surgeries. Like, small acts of kindness can go a long way. A really long way. And when things are rough, you can always find a way to laugh.

I try really hard to be friends with everyone. We don't always realize what trials other people are going through. Sometimes it takes courage to be kind to some people. But we need to always stick up for what's right. You can do it. Anytime, anywhere, you can have compassion. Everybody needs a friend and that friend can be you. So show them that you truly care.

Be kind. Smile more. Laugh more. Dream more.

Thanks for reading,

Maddie

