

Winterset Middle School
Winterset, Iowa

Dear Willo Davis Roberts,

In the book Hostage, Kaci and I are alike in many ways. I'm writing to you to share the ways I connect with Kaci Drummond, your main character.

When Kaci was in her room, the robbers came in and took her away. My dad has been robbed. When he was leaving work he heard something fall on the cement. He looked for the source of the sound, but he didn't see anything. He got into his suburban and found that a lot of his C.D.'s were missing. So, he got out and found them scattered in the parking lot close to his suburban. I was appalled something like that would happen in the small community of Winterset much like in Lofty Cedars.

Kaci and I both have dialed 9-1-1. I dialed 9-1-1 when I was six years old. I was messing around when I did it. When the dispatcher answered I hung up. Then the dispatcher called back, and my mom answered the phone. Then she asked me if I called 9-1-1, and I told her I did. My mom told the dispatcher I called, and there was no emergency. My mom asked me, "Why did you call 9-1-1? I innocently said, "I accidentally sat on the phone." Of course, she didn't believe me so she spanked me and gave me a lecture. I definitely learned my lesson! Kaci was reporting a robbery where I was messing around.

Have you ever felt that you were out of place in your family? Kaci felt that she was because her brother is an awesome pianist, and her sister is a beautiful and popular dancer. She felt that her parents expected more out of her. I know I felt out of place in my family when my parents took me to a counselor because they thought I had anxiety or obsessive compulsive disorder (O.C.D.) when I was about ten years old. I felt like I was the only one with that disorder. My dad's a doctor, and he told me there were millions of people with O.C.D. in America. I didn't believe him. And on top of that I was going to a counselor which made me miss school. The doctor of the counselor place made me feel better by telling me that stupid people don't get O.C.D. He wrote me a prescription, and now I can barely even notice that I have O.C.D. My dad even told me my mom has O.C.D. Then I realized that was why my mom and I are so much alike. And Kaci felt that she was more like her family then she thought.

Have you ever felt that you had the worst problems in the world? I feel like that sometimes. After reading Hostage I have learned that things can be a lot worse than what I've experienced. There are many ways I connect with Kaci, but there are worse things that have happened to her than to me.

Your reader,

Alexa Smith