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Dear Khaled Hosseini,

One of the toughest things in life is being able to cope with your own past. With that in mind, some people feel bad about breaking up with someone, not being able to afford something, or even accidentally hurting someone; mentally or physically.

I strongly believe that you honestly are sorry and you do absolutely everything you can possibly do to right your wrongs, guilt shouldn't be a factor in your life. But Amir didn't; that's why he felt so guilty after witnessing such a horrible event and not telling anyone about it. He just tore himself apart throughout his life. I found true meaning in **The Kite Runner** and read with wonderment as Amir journeyed through his life trying to forgive himself. I think that he came to the same solution that I did on the emotion of guilt, but not until it seemed to be too late (when he found that Hassan died). But when he found Hassan's son, I could almost feel the joy that he must have felt.

After reading your book I learned a lot about how fast the world can change and stereotypes can spread. For example, I always thought that Afghanistan was an unmerciful, violent country. But I now know that Afghanistan was peaceful until it took a turn for the worst. Now, I myself feel guilty that I was so quick to assume. With all of the evil things going on in this cruel world of ours, I hardly know what to think anymore. I guess we all need to learn a little more about different issues before we start second-guessing them.

Guilt is powerful and it takes heart and courage to conquer. If there really are demons in this world Guilt is Lucifer's right hand man. We have to discover for ourselves how to fight fear; fight guilt, and avoid the abyss of dark emotions that so willingly wish to harm us.

Sincerely,

Brandon Bolte

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