

Sean Fraley  
Coralville, IA North Central Junior High

Dear Mrs. Etchemendy,

There's so much to say about your book, I don't know where to start. I used to be the kind of kid that took things for granted, my family, my friends and lots of other things. But that all changed when I read The Power of Un.

It was another one of those books that my mom gave to me and said, "Read it, it'll be good for you." I've had this experience before and I didn't want to go through it again, but finally she coaxed me into reading it and I'm glad she did because I'm not sure what kind of person I would be today if I hadn't read that book.

It was Saturday and I was lying in my bed when I dove into the wonderful world of Un. I was captured by the breathtaking world you had left in the pages of this book. After I was done, I found myself reading phrases, words or even whole chapters again just for pure entertainment. I had never done this before and when I found myself doing it, I was surprised. I end up reading this book until I fell asleep that night, and I took it to school the next day.

I tried to read it through again. Just front cover to back, but I couldn't do it. I kept skipping to my favorite parts of the book, the Devil's Tower, the description of the old man. Images, feelings, swirling around in my brain until, I looked at that section in the book again. I don't know how to describe what I felt when I read your book, a kind of electricity I couldn't explain, I felt for all the world, like I smelled like lightning.

When you wrote this book, Mrs. Etchemendy, you gave a gift to the world. Tens of thousands of people will rejoice in your telling of a jumbled little box with a big red button. They will wonder who the old man is, and they will wonder what happened to Roxy, and they, like me, will be completely satisfied with what happens at the conclusion of the book.

I have read a lot of books in my lifetime; a lot of them are very high quality but yours has touched me in more ways than one, it has let me see that the life that I was living was not good enough. Mrs. Etchemendy, I have a sister who is just ten years old. She could have been Roxy that night. Your book was more than just a good book; it inspired me to do better things with my life. When I die, I want people to remember me as a man who cared. Cared about the things in the world, cared about his family and his friends and the ones he loved. Your book was one step forward to reaching that goal.

Mrs. Etchemendy, what I think the message of this book is, is that you won't always have an unner to set things right again, so don't take anything for granted, keep the ones you love close to you and do anything in your power to keep them from harm. It is because of your book that I do things differently in my life, and whether it's for better or for worse I look to your book for guidance and a friend.

I now own The Power of Un; it is sitting on my bedside table right now, ready for use. I reach for it whenever I need to read about a man that smells like lightning.

Sincerely,

Sean Fraley

"Copyright © The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Used by permission.