

Maquoketa Valley Middle School  
Delhi, Iowa

Dear David Pelzer,

The books I read of yours are good. I wouldn't want to be you. I don't get abused, but I get yelled at. I listen to my parent. I've been to four different schools. It was hard to find friends that like me, but still I have only one to three friends and everybody hates me.

I don't know why they don't like me. I sit alone when we eat lunch. They kick me off the table like you, Dave. I've stayed at the same school for six years now. I'm glad you write books. It's not easy to make friends. I've never got beaten or abused. You and I are sort of alike. How was it like to be beaten and abused every day? It's hard not to have a lot of food to eat or any place to go. It's not easy to make a lot of friends in school. It's tough to get somewhere you want to be.

Your family is not a normal family. That is something we have in common. How many schools did you go to in your life as a kid and teenager? Was life rough when you were a child? It was for me, too. It's not easy to grow up like that. In the mornings it was hard to find anything to eat. My mom freaked out over things like that. The yelling was terrible. I don't have a lot of clothes. Some days I didn't want to do anything. Some days I would run away. We didn't get a lot of food every day. Did you stay at home all day at the house and do jobs?

Life is rough and no one is perfect. Some things are different. Things have changed now and things are a lot better than before. I missed my mom when they took me away for awhile. Life is not easy when problems come. It sucks not to have a dad around and people to help out when things come like fighting, yelling and scaring, punching all that stuff. You know the rest. I feel sorry for me and you, Dave, because we were somewhat alike. That happened in our past. It wasn't easy but we made it through the hard times.

Sincerely,

Brandon Marty