

Erin Quillen
Council Bluffs IA Thomas Jefferson High School

Dear Ms. Levine:

I first read your book Ella Enchanted in the fifth grade. I loved the book so much I forgot I still had it at the end of the year and never gave it back to the teacher! I later bought my own copy and donated the other one to my high school library.

The book is my favorite version of Cinderella and I loathe having to read or watch unconventional versions of the fairy tale. Ella's personality reflected the way I see myself. Ella is daring and not afraid to speak her mind. She knows what is expected of her but still longs to get away from her sheltered life. Like Ella I am not given the opportunities to express my adventurous and daring side. I am suffocated with others expectations of me and I want to make my own decisions.

Ella isn't perfect and she knows that, but her flaws are also her strengths. She is stubborn and it gives her the courage to befriend some unusual people. I have many friends that not everyone likes but I continuously try to get others to find the good in them. Since Ella has to do whatever anyone tells her, she twists what they say so she can do what she wants and get back at them for using her. I'm not as vengeful as Ella, but if I were in her situation I would probably be that way too. I can relate to having stepsiblings and trying to be noticed. My stepsister and I have been at odds since we were little and she is continuously trying to be better than I. I've come to a point where I don't care if she is better or not; I just like being me. Ella is the same way, though she lets her stepsisters get the better of her sometimes, I don't believe she's that interested in their competition.

The world around us is set with low expectations of this generation. They don't believe we will accomplish anything. Ella has made me want to prove them wrong and show them that not everyone is the same and some of us want to be different. Ella's world is not so different from ours. There are the people that think they are better than we are and some that nobody likes at all. The people that don't seem to be worthy of acknowledgement are usually the ones that end up being the multimillionaires. The world has a funny way of working things out and sometimes things happen that no one thought was possible, but Ella's world has given our world the shaping that helps us to hope for that magical happy ending, without a fairy godmother.

This book has given me so many realizations about myself and the world around me. It has enhanced my perspective and helped me realize that everything is possible. As an inspiring writer, I hope to be able to give my readers something to think about and give them a revelation about their lives.

Sincerely,
Erin Quillen

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