

Level 4: Advanced Writers

Runner-Up: JJ Boon Santa Monica Public Library

Book: *Girl, Wash Your Face*

Author: Rachel Hollis

December 3, 2019

Dear Rachel Hollis,

Your book “Girl, Wash Your Face” has really changed my life. Being raised to be a good girl by a very traditional family got me trapped into so many lies. I know you know exactly what I mean. Our stories are very similar so that in a split second, I thought your life was mine. We both came from a small city, were raised by a patriarchal family and had a big dream that scared people around us. All the lies you mentioned in the book were literally what I believed, from the first page to the last page.

One big lie that really hit me is the “good-girl lie.” I was a perfect “good girl.” My dad raised me to be his good daughter and a good wife for my future husband. I cooked for our family, took care of my parents, helped them solve their relationship issues, put myself last and so on. I even had an idea how to be a good wife in my head. I thought I created the idea. In reality, though, it was my dad’s.

I was a confused “good girl” when I found your book. I knew that something was wrong but I didn’t know what it was. I read a lot of self-help books during my confusion time, trying to figure out why I wasn’t happy. Your book was the one that helped me tremendously since it specifically focused on girls like you and me who were being successful to make our dads proud but had to stay small at the same time to be loved. I think our dads could be good friends if they met. I don’t blame them though. They only knew what they knew.

My perspective on everything changed completely after I read your book. I stopped labelling myself as a good girl. I am just a person. I feel free from any guilt of not being a good girl for anyone else. I don’t let other people label me either. Anybody can have their opinions towards me, but they don’t affect me in any way. I also respect myself for who I am, not just because I am good or successful. The book truly made me a new person: a person who is true to herself and knows what she wants, and most importantly, respects herself the way she is.

Not only has your book changed me, it also inspired me to want to inspire other women around the world. Coming from a small country where women are still treated unequally, I know there are tons of us out there that need help. I have set this as my mission and I will keep on helping girls around the world being awakened.

Rachel, I have washed my face and woken up from all the lies. Now, it is my time to help and pay it forward to other girls. Thank you so much for creating this book to empower us women.

Sincerely,

JJ Boon