

Lily Easton
214 s 5th st w
Missoula Mt, 59801

Dear John Green,

Seventh grade, even though only a year ago, feels like an eternity when I read *Looking For Alaska*. After reading *The Fault In Our Stars*, I became intrigued by your style of writing, of how people can impact someone's life then quickly disappear. And in my life people that I have cared about have disappeared-leaving summer camp, graduating from school or letting time get to them too quickly. Last May, one of my friends was driving along a highway in Montana, when her car hit the median and flipped over. The impact broke her neck immediately. Unlike Alaska, she was not under the influence. Maybe she closed her eyes for a quick second to face reality or fell asleep. Her mystery is still with me.

Like Miles I wanted to figure out her mystery more than ever. I was being indulged by the story you created. The book wrapped around me like in a warm hug. It was the first book that I refused to put down. I am notoriously known as the 'Girl Who Can't Finish a Book' until I was introduced to your writing. Right when *The Fault In Our Stars* movie came out my interest started. I later read it falling in love. Once finished, I immediately ran to my teacher and said, "I NEED MORE JOHN GREEN!" She handed me *Looking For Alaska* and said, "You might like this."

The class was over and reading time had ended but "The Girl Who Can't Finish a Book" read right through snack time. I dove into the book, hooked from the first sentence. Interested in a boarding high school, and having just sent my recent application, I related to

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Miles more than ever. During one of the biggest time, in my life, I had relied on *Looking For Alaska* and learned from Miles as he went through those same situations.

She was my theater friend. I met her in 2014 when doing *A Christmas Carol*. Her name was Mia, she was the kindest person I've ever met with the biggest heart. We both went separate ways. Later we met again in *The Sound Of Music*, a three-week run where we both had lots of backstage time. So we played cards I asked her what being in college is like. Is it as stressful as they all say it is? What actually happens when you drop out? My questions were endless because she knew all of the answers.

One year later I auditioned for the *Wizard Of Oz*, unfortunately I didn't get in, but she got the part as Galinda, a perfect role for her. She came out on stage in a giant pink dress with sparkles and sequins everywhere. She looked stunning. I went into the lobby after the show and congratulated her on looking beautiful and singing amazingly and being perfect. My dad was rushing me, he was eager to leave. One last hug and it was time to go. As I walked away I looked at her in her beautiful dress and waved goodbye.

On May 19th, my dad walked into my room. He said I needed to sit down, so I did

"Mia died in a car crash last night."

The questions immediately flooded my mind like nothing I'd ever felt before.

"Where?" I asked quickly.

"On Bearmouth exit."

"Wait what! How is that possible." My mind was spinning.

"I don't know all of the information, but there is a gathering for all of the people in *Wizard Of Oz* but the memorial is in August." Then he left. My life had changed because of

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her. She made many impacts on my life that would forever change me as a person, and I guess she made one final impact on me.

Everyone goes to the 'Great Perhaps' sometime in one's life either from death or first love or just transferring to a boarding school, all of which might happen to me at some point. Your book *Looking for Alaska* taught me to keep looking for someone you love. After her memorial, I left Mia's memory forever alive with her family on stage singing 'Somewhere Over The Rainbow' to her family. We didn't care that we were all crying. We cared that we all loved her. Dear Mia, I miss you.

Sincerely,

Lily Easton, Grade 8

Lily A Easton

MT 203002

