

Dear Margaret Wise Brown,

When my life began I was a shy little girl, afraid of people and change. As the first week of kindergarten was rapidly approaching I became even more aware of these characteristics. My family and I had just moved and my first day of kindergarten was drawing near, and my anxiety was rising. I was so nervous and scared to meet new people. I kept thinking to myself, what if my parents forgot about me after I got on the bus? What if when I returned home they did not love me as much? I started to doubt my worth as a member of my family.

The night before the first day of school my mom read me your book, *The Runaway Bunny*, and it was my saving grace that got me through not only my first day of school, but my first year, and even to this day the message is always with me. “‘If you run away,’ said his mother, ‘I will run after you for you are my little bunny.’” Your book helped me realize that mom would always be there with me no matter what, even if she was not there in person.

In the following years there were times in my life where I became so frustrated and felt so alone with my family that I threatened to run away. Each time I did my mom told me no matter where I went, she would always find me, just as if she was the “breeze in the air”, and each time it blew she would know where I was. One time I was actually considering running away because I was feeling like the black sheep of my family, I did not feel loved. The time I actually made it out of the driveway, I had a spontaneous moment and started thinking about your book. I had to pause and when I did, the fact of my mother's unconditional love for me, no matter what I did to hurt them, struck me like a hammer.

Your book helped me comprehend how much my mother really does love me, even when I am not the nicest to her, she still loves me unconditionally. I do not think I would have fully understood that if I had not read *The Runaway Bunny*. Not only did this book help me understand the depth of my mother's love. It also helped me see how much she did and provided for me. I started to think about all the little things she did for me and my family. I thought about how she came home from a long day of work and without complaining make us dinner. I thought about how she would stay up with me until 3 am when I was having a mental breakdown from homework, and how she would rub my back to try and soothe me.

I also got to have an amazing experience reading *The Runaway Bunny* to my little sister as she approached her first day of kindergarten. She was a really shy person and did not do well with change, so as I read her your book, a book teaching of the constant and never failing love of a mother, it helped her relax and embrace the fact that our mother will always be with her no matter where she went. Even though I had a firm understanding of the message, as I read to my sister, the message to root deeper in my heart and has continued to blossom each day. As it grew I realized that the love of my mother was not the only unconditional love I was receiving each day, but I also received the love from my father. After I learned that, my life made more sense and I felt more complete as a person.

I want to thank you for pulling me out of a deep, dark hole I would be trapped in, telling me I was not loved and not worth being valued. Your book made me realize and fully understand the value of love and what it means to love unconditionally. It also made me want to “improve” the way I love so I could be that person who makes someone else feel loved in the same way. *The Runaway Bunny* made me realize that love is a very important thing, and without it, the world would be a bleak place full of sad people.

Sincerely,

Word Count 747