Sabrina Glasgow

Dear Ms. Halse Anderson,

I'm going to tell you a short story. Ready? Okay, it goes like this, "Once upon a time, there was a good girl who thrived on pressure. She had it all together: aced all her tests, never let anyone down, had the closest best friends she could ever want, and never argued with her family, leading a perfect life by other people's terms. Nerdy? Yeah, but she didn't care. Quiet, shy? Well, yeah she was, but she was happy that way. She never had to over think things, because everything she did came easily to her. She wasn't popular, but she had never wanted to be, so that wasn't an issue. She belonged to the school of thought that went like this, "If you don't bug me, I won't bug you." The good girl never made enemies because she never did anything out of line. Certainly, she was never purposefully mean to anyone or talked in class when she shouldn't have. She felt that her only obligation was homework and to give people acting 'out of line' a sharp glance and go back to reading the book usually fixed in front of her face. Peers thought her a little stuck up- maybe she was- and left her to her own world and her own best friends. They were good friends, bringing out the best in each other. Naively, she thought life would be happily ever after…"

That was me up until a few years ago, back when nothing about my life was complicated. I didn't have to worry about screwing up, because I never had to make big decisions. I saw things in black and white. Somewhere along the way, however, things got harder. I realized that the line between what's right and what's wrong is sometimes blurred. Growing up and becoming your own person is a difficult process. At some point, I realized that had gone from a kid dreaming of growing up to an eighteen-year old young woman, wishing to be a little girl again.

Like Tyler in *Twisted*, I had found myself stuck with a label I created for myself in my elementary, middle school, and early high school years. As one of the "smart kids" in school (really, I'm not trying to flatter myself, that's what my clique was referred to) I can relate to the "computer geek" status that surrounded Tyler. I can also relate to his fall from grace after committing "the foul deed."

I was surprised when I read this book because it seemed as if Tyler and I were very similar in both our family situations and also our sudden transformations into borderline popularity, due to a small incident that seemed to haunt us. Like Tyler, people who had never paid attention to me before began to include me in "their scene." Suddenly, I didn't recognize myself and found my life spinning out of control. I let myself become someone that I wasn't. Like Tyler, I also had a relationship that went horribly wrong, and I allowed myself to fall into a depression because of it.
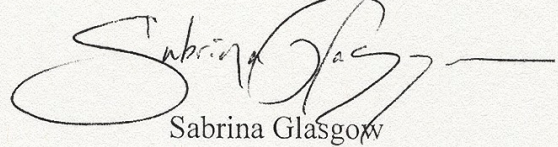
In fact, I was still in this depression when I read this book. I experienced Tyler's highs and lows, and could relate to him in almost every way. His struggle to become the man he

wanted to be correlated directly with my struggle to become the young woman I have always known that I could become. As he began to figure out his own life, I decided that I needed to retake control of my own. His struggles with his family life were very similar to mine; I finally had the strength to tell my family how much their problems were affecting me. Surprisingly, they listened.

I got back on the life track that I had been on formerly and stopped hating myself. I found my identity again, and tried to forget about that period of my life. I realize now that I learned a lot about myself during this time, lessons that I will never forget. I figured out who I am. I'm an athletic, nerdy, bookish, at times disagreeable, fun-loving perfectionist who thrives on the pressure she puts on herself. I guess I just forgot that for awhile, and it took this book –and Tyler, a fellow good kid-turned-screw-up- to remind me. Ms. Anderson: Thank you, and please continue to write books for teens that *mean* something. It helps more than you could know.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Glasgow