

CHAPTER 1

Letters from the Heart

April 10, 1995



Dear Kara,

I was very surprised when I heard what had happened to you but I am sure that you will get better. It gets kind of boring around here without cheerful people like you because the kids become quiet. My good friend Michelle, a sixth grader here at Bath Middle School, had to have a heart transplant which I think is much more dangerous than being in a coma. But now she is back healthy and having fun as you will be, too. Everyone misses you and from all I've heard they are taking good care of you. You may not know everyone here as close friends, but I think that what you've been through affected everyone quite a lot. Many students look up to you and can't wait until you come back. At least you don't have to present your science project. Speaking for all of Bath Middle School, hurry and get well because people here will not take "no" for an answer.

Your friend,
Serenity

Hey Kara!

How are you feeling? I hope that you get better real soon. The classes really aren't the same without you. In science there is no one to rub the top of my head. In reading there is no one making that weird noise that you make. And in math, there is no second teacher.

Science really isn't the same without you because you never stop talking. But I don't really mind. It's someone to listen to besides the teacher. And now there is nobody to copy my science answers when you don't have them.

Steph and Heather are taking it really hard. Mrs. Roberts started

talking about you and they both started to cry. Even I almost did because you have become a good friend to me this year and no class would be complete without a Kara Anglim in it.

This morning when Mrs. Brunette was reading what the letter from your parents said, she even started crying. So you can see how much everybody misses you. I hope that you get better soon and everybody here loves you.

The person who sits beside you in science,
Tommy

Hey Babe!

You sure know how to scare people. Don't you ever do that again. I miss you so much. I love you a lot. Let's never get in a fight again. Kara, so many people are worried about you and care for you. The whole town of Bath is praying for you. I photocopied *Stairway to Heaven* for you so you can start playing it on the piano when you come home. Chorus is not the same; there is no one here to fool around with. You never know how much you care for a person until something like this happens. I miss you so much. I need you to come back so you can make my mornings at school much brighter. I love you and miss you. Please get better soon and come home. I love you.

Love,
Amy

P. S. You are one of my best friends in the whole wide world.

Kara Bear,

School isn't the same without you. You always brightened my days. Come back soon so you can make me smile and laugh. Everyone cares a lot about you, especially me. You are in my prayers and heart. Everyone is trying to be strong for you, but it is hard to hold back the tears. It makes me glad to know that you are getting better. I was looking at old pictures and saw how many wonderful memories I have of you. Come home soon so we can make more memories and take more pictures. I just want you to know how much I love and care for you and hope you get better soon. I love you.

Kate H.

Kara,

I am so happy to hear that you are getting better everyday. Pretty soon you will be fully recovered. Everyone at school is really concerned. They all miss you. I do, too. It isn't the same here without you. Well, I would have had everyone sign this at school, but I wanted to have one card just from me.

When I found this card it reminded me so much of the day when Kate and I were at your camp in your canoe. We wanted to make it as far across the lake as we could, but we were interrupted from our determination by the water fight that was started.

After thinking about it for awhile, I realized that you have to pull through this one. No matter how big the fight, we always pulled through it together. You are not alone in this battle. I can't speak for everyone else, but I know that I pray every night for you, hoping that you will wake up and be all better. I am sure that I'm not the only one who prays for you. Just remember that even though it sounds really corny, I will always love you! I know that you are strong! You will make it through this.

Love always,
Vanessa

Kara,

I am going to start writing to you in a journal. I think you will want to hear what was going on at the hospital and in life. Friday was a half-day. Remember that deal we had with our parents? That if we went to the dance we would have to stay together on the half-days. Well, my mom made me come home even though you weren't there with me! I went to the dance to TRY and get my mind off you. It didn't work. I was so scared. When I first found out at the track, Angie hugged me and told Amy I was really scary to look at because I was white and shaking and standing there. You really scared me! I guess you really got me back for popping up in your window when you were eating ice cream out of the container. On Sunday we went to church to pray for you—the minister said a special prayer for you. Then I went to visit you! You look so beautiful! You were having a really good face time! Not one single zit and you have a better tan than Guerin or Emily! But it was kind of scary seeing you—you had tubes out of all your fingers, nose, legs and arms.

Going there made me realize how much I loved you and missed you. Well, I'll write to you tomorrow.

Love,
Kate B.

Dear Kara,

I don't know you very well, but I've been where you are. I know it's scary and uncomfortable but the feeling you get when you finally come home is wonderful. You notice things you never paid attention to before and normal stuff seems new and exciting. And believe me, I sympathize about the hospital food.

When I was there, the nurses were really caring and considerate. I know that this is really hard for you, but you'll get better soon, so don't worry.

We're signing up for classes today. I can't wait to be a freshman. Open lunch is going to be such a blast! Everyone is worried that all the upperclassmen are going to beat them up. I think that's stupid. The upperclassmen are really nice and I should know because most of my friends are juniors and seniors.

I hope that you get better soon. We really miss you here in Reading. Everybody is concerned for you and we want you to come back soon. Hey, maybe you'll get an extra couple of days vacation. I hope to see you real soon, Kara.

Best wishes,
Lacey