

PO BOX 460  
Henderson, NE 68371  
December 1, 2004

Dear Barbara Park,

Three summers ago, I was at the pool with my mom. It was a very hot day, which made the swimming occasion very good. Then all of a sudden my mom got a call, and we had to go home right away! I had no idea what was going on, but she said she would explain it to me, as soon as we got home. When we had arrived at home my mom said that my uncle's dad (who has Alzheimer's) had disappeared. In your book, *The Graduation of Jake Moon* one of the characters, Jake, had an experience that reminded me of my uncle's experience with his dad.

The book started to affect me when I remembered Jake's grandfather also disappeared. It made me wonder how Jake felt, especially when his grandfather did embarrassing things around his friends! Even though I don't see my uncle's dad every day, it still leaves a big blank in the back of my head wondering how would I react. When Jake's grandfather did disappear, Jake got pretty scared and didn't know what was going on! That's exactly how I felt. I was scared and at that time I didn't know what to expect! Although for Jake, days went by without knowing where his grandfather was. Jake had more days to search and think about where his grandfather might be. For me it was just one day, but I still had a good amount of time to think about where exactly could he of wondered off to, even though he was found that same day.

Later on, when we had arrived home from searching for him. The ice cubes in the water bottle that we prepared for him in case we found him, had melted. And the sun had set. I still had no idea if he was going to be found. All of a sudden ring, ring! It was the phone and my mom answered. It was good news. He had been found in Kansas, where his white car had run out of fuel. My heart burst with excitement and no longer did I have a sick feeling in my stomach. That also reminded me of when the doorbell rang at Jake's house and when they opened the door his grandfather stepped in. Jake had kind of the same reaction I did. He also knew that he didn't want it to happen again.

The book, *The Graduation of Jake Moon* really inspired me, because I know that I'm not the only person in the world that will experience a problem like this. I'm sure that there are many others who have had something happen to them like this before or will experience it in the future. I recommend this book to anyone because not only is it a great read, but also it will really make you think about what could happen in your future.

Sincerely,

Amanda Wall

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