

No Door is Locked

Everyone faces closed doors or barriers. I know for a fact that I have and so has Anna Fitzgerald in *My Sister's Keeper*. In the book by Jodi Picoult, Katie is facing the decision of life or death, and Anna, her younger sister, has to decide whether or not to help Katie achieve what she wants.

Katie was diagnosed with acute cancer when Anna was just a newborn. Since that moment Anna's parents were transferring her blood and other cells to Katie. For 11 years Katie fought hard against her cancer, a huge door for her. But the time had come where she decided to let go. Anna loved helping her sister and strived to see her survive, but Katie did not want to live any longer. Anna promised Katie that once she was ready to die she would stop helping her live. For Anna, deciding whether or not to help Katie be happy in the form of letting go or to keep her sister in her life was an immense barrier that would change her story forever. She pondered on this, feeling powerful pain pounding in her chest. She fought through the pain to listen to her heart in that she should do what is best for her sister, no matter how much it hurts her.

Katie needed a kidney transplant from Anna in order to survive. Anna kept the promise a secret and told her parents that she was resisting their demands to give Katie her kidney because she wanted to have control over her own body. They did not agree with her, which was yet another barrier. Therefore, Anna soon got a lawyer to help her fight for medical emancipation from her parents. She won the battle and eventually gave away the secret. A combination of them forcing her to, being mad at her, and lying were all barriers Anna encountered. Her and Katie both faced emotional barriers. Katie was ready to die and the fact that Anna did not want to let go presented Katie with a lot of pressure. Anna did not want to let go of her sister, however, Anna knew that she should do what was best for Katie. She had to keep her emotions in and keep them from Katie so that Katie felt supported and strong. Through these barriers Anna continued to fight for what was best for her sister. Anna learned that it is important to do what will help others and to put others before herself, no matter what it presents her with. She fought through her hardest obstacles in order to achieve her goal, something many people have to face, including me.

For me, tennis is a considerable part of my life and I have worked my entire life to achieve my goals. Through thousands of dollars spent, hours passed, memories made, difficulties faced, and friends made I improved my skills in tennis and life. I strived to make varsity and become the top position on the team, one singles, and go to state. However, through my journey to get there, I ran into a big door. Tennis elbow. For two years I fought through constant shooting pain up my arm, endless trips to physical therapy, and numerous trips to the doctor. I continued to play tennis to improve, no matter how much it hurt. I fought and fought through the pain and tried everything. The door seemed to keep getting bigger. Once I had reached a certain point, I took time off to rest. This was another door inside the real door because I did not want to stop, but I did. I finally got better and made my way through both doors, big and small. I learned determination, positive attitude, and to be grateful for what opportunities I have.

Everyone faces doors in life that prevent them from achieving goals when they want to. But these doors teach people many lessons that better everyone's lives. No matter what doors

people encounter, whether they are big or small, people should never give up and fight to open these doors. Especially when overcoming the obstacle will present a solution that will benefit that person or others.

With the help of others, opening doors can be much easier for people. Plentiful of the barriers come from other people. For example, social barriers. The actions of some people close doors for others. If people are considerate of others and respect others, numerous doors will remain open. If there are closed doors, if people help others, they will be able to open the doors much easier. Working together to overcome obstacles helps plenty of people find success. It also builds friendships and shows character. No matter what, working hard and staying positive helps people open doors for both themselves and others. In the end, it all depends on the choices people make and who they decide to be.