

Dear Mr. Blount and Patrons of Novel Network,

My name is Nicole Lopez and I am one of the students who met with you in the Zoom meeting, along with Ms. Thomas and my other classmates. I wanted to start off by thanking you for attending the meeting with us and further explaining the history behind Hating Heidi Foster. I really liked this book because it talks about both perspectives of the girls that went through pain. Hating Heidi Foster is very well written and thoroughly expresses emotions. After meeting with you Mr. Blount, I got a better understanding of why you chose these characters and storyline.

I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to read this book and introduce myself to you Mr. Blount. Keep up the great work and I hope you succeed even more!

Thank you for the Patrons of Novel Network for providing us with copies of the book!

**Sincerely,
Nicole Lopez**

Dear Mr. Blount & Patrons of Novel Network,

First off, thank you for giving us the opportunity to read your novel. It was very nice of you to provide us with our own copies. I really enjoyed reading your book in class. It was a story that was realistic & taught many important lessons. It was also a great pleasure getting to meet you Mr. Blount & having you answer our questions. Personally, it helped me understand the novel at a deeper level. Not only that but it allowed me to see the book from a different perspective. When you explained how you didn't want to show too much of Heidi's point of view until a certain point really helped me understand the bigger picture. While I was reading the novel I wished it was a dual point of view. I wanted to know more about Heidi's story & what really happened in the fire. However when you explained the reason why you showed her story the way you did everything clicked. In keeping Heidi "hidden" you added more importance. It added more emotion to her story. So I'm grateful for the opportunity of getting to know the reasoning behind that. It was also really nice to know the backstory & what inspired you to write the novel. I think it was really sweet how you wrote the novel about your daughter & her best friend. Even though it wasn't fully based on real events, knowing that made the book feel more personal. I also enjoyed how you added small details from their lives. Even though I don't understand them, I think that was cool of you. So once again thank you for the opportunity to read the novel Hating Heidi Foster & the opportunity to get to meet you & talk about the novel.

**Sincerely,
Evelyn**

Dear Mr. Blount and Patrons of Novel Network:

My name is Daniel Guaman, I'm a part of one of the classes lucky enough to get the books sent out to us. I personally really enjoyed Hating Heidi Foster. It gave me the perfect mix of seeing someone at what we are made to believe their best, and someone who is trying to seem like they are at their best but really are suffering inside. It showcases a good amount of good feeling moments and then also gives us those moments of suspense when something bad happens. My favorite part is when Mae starts to feel bad and she goes to see her former best friend, while Mae is now feeling better, her former best friend who she thought was all okay, she realizes she's been wrong, she's been suffering. Mr. Blount showed me that our own ignorance can make us not see things. Look at Mae, she is the perfect example. With that, again I'd like to thank Mr. Blount and the Patrons of Novel Network for sending the book out to us. It has been a great experience reading this book, meeting with the author, truly the most immersed I've been in a book.

Dear Mr. Blount and Patrons of Novel Network,

Thank you so much for taking the time out of your day to deliver us an experience like no other. This is my first time ever meeting an actual author and it was super fascinating to get answers for the questions I had while reading from the person who wrote it themselves. Oftentimes I have many unanswered questions for authors as to why they did certain things and I would always wonder about other people's perspective of things. With this opportunity, that wasn't the case and I'm very grateful for it. Learning the background of the story and certain motives throughout it actually made me like the novel even more because I appreciated the little details more. I like how the overall book was based on your daughter and her friend, showing friendships' true power while also incorporating the topic of grief. Something I learned during the meeting that actually shocked me was that this book wasn't supposed to be published. I loved how it was originally created for your daughter and her friend because that told me that you were kind enough to share this special piece of art with the world. Thank you again for this wonderful experience.

Sincerely,

**Alexa Hernandez
(Freshman at HHS)**

**Dear Mr. Blount and Patrons of Novel
Network,**

I liked the book because of how realistic the part where Mei's friends left her was. In most scenarios, your friends leave you when you need them for someone else. It seemed pretty realistic because her friends didn't hear her side of the story and went with Heidi. I also liked how it showed the value of friendship and how the strongest friendships can be separated but they come back to each other. I learned that Mr. Blount had a daughter and that he enjoys playing tennis and I thought that was cool!

**Dear Mr. Blount and Patrons of Novel
Network,**

**I liked the book because it teaches us a lot
about life and how difficult it is to lose
someone and the struggle as well. I learned a
lot in this book and although I'm not fully
prepared to lose somebody, I know how
difficult it would be but I know it is possible
to be strong and move on and I now have
examples of how I should grieve.**

**Sincerely,
Leander Parra**

Dear Mr. Blount and Patrons of Novel Network

Hello Mr. Blount, my name is Jerson! I was the one who asked if you played volleyball. I'm glad that you were able to answer our questions and learn more about you and the novel. I was really amazed by the fact that you play tennis and that you were an athlete when you were younger, that was really interesting. It was a great experience to meet you and for you to answer our questions. Thank you for even emailing us the next day and answering our unanswered questions and thank you for giving us the opportunity to meet you and get to know you. I hope you have a great day, bye!

**From,
Jerson**

Dear Mr. Blount and Patrons of Novel Network,

I would like to thank you both for offering us such a great and moving work of literature. I'll admit, I haven't read a novel in quite a long time, I'm more of a graphic novel person. However reading this novel was refreshing, and made me realize that comic books aren't the only good books out there. The novel is capable of transmitting a message and putting into perspective how people feel after a loss, and some may even relate. I believe that a novel is good when it manages to tell a story as well as a message. It makes people think and remember the novel. Might even change how they think for the better. Personally, I feel it has helped me see other people's situations differently. Thankfully I've never lost a parent, and some of the family members I lost when I was young and had spoken to very few times. Obviously I miss them, and would've loved to know them more. Since I didn't have much of a close relationship, the feeling of loss was lighter. The grief would come now and then, especially now realizing the great people they were. Once more, I thank you kind folks for providing the world with books like these that are definitely worth reading. We need more novels like these as they educate and shed light on important topics not often discussed, like grief, resentment, and forgiveness. Gives a better understanding of them through a nice and touching story.

Sincerely,

HHS student, Abigail Rosas-López

**Dear Mr. Blount and Patrons of Novel Network,
Hello! My name is Victoria Rough and I am from
the class that spoke to Mr. Blount at Harrison High
School. I really loved “Hating Heidi Foster” and
how it showed all the different ways to grieve.
Most importantly it showed that there is no real
way to grieve which is a lesson that can help many
people in the future. I liked how the book included
how such a strong friendship can be affected by the
death of a loved one. I always expected that Mr.
Blount shared the same experience as one of the
girls or that someone did but really it was just
about your daughter’s friendship. Thank you for
supplying us with this wonderful book!**

**Sincerely,
Victoria Rough**

Dear Mr. Blount and Patrons of Novel Network,

My name is Murilo Santos and I would like to first thank you for providing us with the opportunity to read one of your books. It was truly a great experience and I found your book very entertaining and inspiring. I loved the message about the importance of friendship, forgiveness and how you have helped people who are or have experienced loss through these messages. I found the book very interesting for how short it was and I was very intrigued throughout the novel. I would also like to thank you for allowing us to meet you and talk to you during the zoom meeting. I was very grateful for having the opportunity to know more about you, your career, hobbies, and past. I never knew that you grew up an athlete. I would like to thank you once again for giving us the novels, and the opportunity to talk to you. Have a good day and God bless you!

Sincerely, Murilo Santos

**Dear Mr. Blount and Patrons of Novel Network,
Thank you so much for sharing your amazing book
with us. The books that we read in school normally
aren't very interesting. But *Hating Heidi Foster*
piqued my interest and I actually paid attention to
the story. It's a beautiful tale about friendship and
how it conquers everything. But most importantly,
thank you for agreeing to meet with us. I love
connecting with an author and learning more about
the book we read. We appreciated it so much,
especially your patience. I can't wait to read your
other books. Thank you for everything.**

-Juliana

P.S. Tell your daughter Julia I said hi!

Dear Mr. Blount and Patrons of Novel Network,

Thank you for sending out the books and for coming onto the Zoom meeting to speak with us.

Hating Heidi Foster was such a good book, keeping my interest and wanting more. As someone who honestly thinks of reading as a chore more than a hobby, I found the book as something keeping me on edge to learn the truth about Eddie and Mae. I find it really interesting how you were able to incorporate parts of your own life into the book while still keeping it fictionalized. Thanks again!

-Brandon T

Dear Mr. Blount and Patrons of Novel Network,

Thank you very much for coming to meet with us.

I really enjoyed your book. I like the book because it was very interesting and exciting to read. I learned more about you on the Zoom which was cool. I liked how you talked about yourself and the book. My name is Jordan Downs.

I am a freshman and I play basketball. I am starting to read more books and learning a lot of new things from books. Thank you for everything!!

**Be Well,
Jordan Downs**

Thank you!

Dear Mr. Blount and Patrons of Novel Network,

My name is Christopher Lalvay, and I'm one of Ms. Thomas' English students. I don't usually enjoy reading, but this book is an exception. After reading the synopsis, I was instantly hooked.

Hating Heidi Foster has easily become one of my favorite books, out of the few I've actually enjoyed. The book was amazing! Every chapter got better and better. It was very well written and was incredibly easy to understand.

It was also extremely kind of you, Jeffrey Blount, for meeting with our English classes. You took time out of your busy day and answered our many questions, and that's pretty cool!

(I also greatly appreciate those who provided copies of this book to us!)

-Christopher Lalvay