



June 13, 2017

Gotham Writers Workshop
555 8th Avenue, Suite 1402
New York, NY 10018

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand,

Gotham Writers Workshop recently created a contest with the specific goal of inspiring you and your colleagues in the U.S. Congress. It's called the Be a Hero Contest. We asked for entries of no more than 50 words that tell the story of a hero—someone who fought for the right thing in a way that called for courage and commitment.

Stories are our business. We teach creative writing and business writing, both in New York City and online, to over 8,000 students a year from 147 countries. We are not a political organization in any way, but we do believe stories have the power to move mountains and people, perhaps even politicians.

We realize you have a tremendously challenging job, perhaps now more than ever, and we urge you to act like a hero, doing what is right for your country despite any political risk.

Among almost a thousand contest entries, here are a few of our favorites:

Mrs. Gies kisses the Nazi and invites him inside. He accepts coffee, though he can't stay for cake. "These raids are killing me," says the Nazi. "All these undesirables, still hiding out. It's endless." When he's gone, she leaves his uneaten cake upstairs, in the attic that doesn't officially exist.

Hannah Froggatt (winner)
London, Great Britain

In his youth, he'd obsessed over building model aircrafts. Now 61, he believes the most exciting machine is a human being. In Syria, he healed, suture by suture, as other doctors took notes. A child wriggling on the operating table, his and so many other lives on the line.

Monica Lo
Brooklyn, New York

Mary had Down syndrome and extraordinary hearing. All those whispers of pity and mocking. She got her first period in the lunch line, wearing her bright yellow skirt. No whispers, just cackles. Mark, skinny, with pimples, stood up and put his arm around her. Several cackles bounced off his shoulder.

Patrick Cabello Hansel
Minneapolis, Minnesota

We thank you for your service and for hearing our stories. With your help, the United States of America will continue to be one of the greatest stories ever told.

Sincerely,

The Citizens of Gotham Writers Workshop

GOTHAM WRITERS WORKSHOP

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