

Evan Kotick
4702 Paradise Road
Seville, OH 442573

Dear Michael Lewis,

As I got out of my moms car with a cold, crisp, five dollar bill in my hand and walked up to a sad, worn out, dirty, homeless, black man in downtown Cleveland, I suddenly got sweaty. It reminded me of presenting to my class back at school. Then my face felt like it was bubbling and about to explode with redness. The only thing not turning me around was my desire to make this man's day. As I handed him my five dollar bill he said two words. Two words that made me think. Two words that made me smile. Two words that made my heart feel warmer than a fire on a cold winter night. "God bless." So thank you for that amazing opportunity. Thank you for writing The Blind Side. Your book made me understand, it made me feel, and it made me take action.

Your book changed me because it made me understand. For example it made me understand that you should treat people equally. Nobody can choose what color skin they are, so you shouldn't make fun of someone for something they didn't do. You wouldn't want to be made fun of for something you didn't do. Your book helped me realize that. If Leigh Ann treated Michael with disrespect because he was black, he probably wouldn't be able to make it to the NFL.

Your book changed me because it made me feel. Many times during the book I couldn't stop reading because I was concerned for Michael. For example when Michael stormed out of the meeting with the lady that assumed that Sean and Leigh Ann only adopted him because they only wanted him to go to Ole Miss, I couldn't put down the book. I was supposed to go to bed after that chapter, but I had to stay up for the next hour and a half to find out what happened next. It also made me laugh when Sean Junior was making deals with the college scouts about "locker room passes," and "Getting to go on the field at halftime."

Your book changed me because it also made me take action. I think it's amazing that on pg. 67 Leigh Ann took Michael in on first glance. She didn't even think twice. Then, when her friends talk bad to her about Michael, she makes sure they know they are being mean. I wish to be like her one day. Not necessarily adopting someone, but trying be kind and do the right thing every day. That journey started with your book, and my experience in Cleveland. Even though I didn't adopt him like Leigh Ann in your book, I still made a difference. For example Morgan Freeman said, "How do we change the world? One random act of kindness at a time."

As I walked back to my mom's car, I couldn't stop smiling. It felt like I just saved someone's life, I think, it was amazing. When I opened the door I instantly told my mom about what he said. I didn't even close my door before I started talking. I tried to calm down and pretend like it wasn't that big of a deal, but I failed. Now I try to treat everyone kindly because of your book. The Blind Side truly impacted my life because it helped me understand, It forced me

to feel, and it helped me take action. And I know that The Blind Side is going to stay with me my whole entire life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evan Kotick". The letters are cursive and connected, with a large 'E' and 'K'.

Evan Kotick, Grade 5