

J.D. SALINGER PASSED AWAY -----

I didn't know him personally, we didn't talk on the phone and tell jokes and chit chat about the day. I never got a letter from him, or even heard him say my name. In fact, I would go as far as to say, ~~that~~ I believe ~~that~~ J.D. Salinger never had the slightest clue I even existed on this earth prior to his death. And that's the best part of our relationship.

I doubt Salinger thought after typing the manuscript for The Catcher in the Rye, "Somewhere in California, nearly sixty years from now, there's going to be a disillusioned teen who's given up on reading and school and he's going to take comfort in my book, and know ~~that~~ he's not alone but that things get better. And my book will be the inciting incident in ~~this~~ person's life, one which leads him on to bigger and better things."

No, I doubt he thought that.

The only sadness I feel today is knowing I will never be able to repay the debt his work has left in my life. It's something I'll carry for the rest of my life trying to leave as much behind for some kid I've never met sixty years from now, in a way I never intended.

So this letter is for that kid. And I'd like to say, ^{to you} "I'm glad you liked it, but don't stop, press on, because the ~~best is yet to come~~ best is yet to come. You can take my word for it."

Take care.

Your Friend,



1/28/16

Kris Madden