From Writer's Digest, Sept. 2005

Pretend you're the offspring of a villainous literary character (no fairy tales, please), and your parent's worst nightmare has come true: you're nowhere near evil. Write a letter to your parent telling him or her why you turned out the way you did and why you're not interested in the dark side. Be funny, be serious, be angry - but don't exceed 75 words. Deadline Sept. 10th.

Dear Dad,

I'm taking the coolest course this semester - Abnormal Psychology. My professor says I have a real flair for it, so I'm looking into grad school. That means I won't be able to help you run the motel after college. I'm sorry, but we can talk about it at break while we work on the hawk. Take care of grandma. She was looking a little worn out when I saw her last.

Love,

Susan Bates.

Submitted Sept. 6, 2005.