



# ***Choose to Challenge***

## **From One Literary Women to Another**

Dear Stranger,

It was a long day, and I was driving on Washington Boulevard in Stamford. I was wearing my hair up, in two small pigtails. I write this, because I looked over and saw you when I stopped at the light. Maybe 3 or 4 years old, but you waved to me, and I felt that the rest of the world faded away. You were wearing your hair in the same pigtails as me. The light turned green, and you waved goodbye.

These words will never get back to you, but if they did I want you to know a few things. The world tries to change you, but you have to learn to be do the hardest thing in life, be unapologetically yourself. I dare you to challenge norms. I hope to be a literary women. You'll learn what it means, but you may be one without even knowing it. Take Harriet Beecher Stowe. She wrote about the conditions of slavery, and changed the course of history with her novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin in 1852. She stated,

*“Nothing but deadly determination enables me to write; it is rowing against wind and tide”.*

Now you may think I am going off on a tangent, but I think it is important to acknowledge that Mrs. Stowe recognized her determination could kill her, but she was unafraid to take that risk.

You'll realize when you grow up that ideals for women are projected upon you, and society will act a as a cage, but if you dare to spread your wings, understand that you are not flying like a man, but liberated as a girl. Don't let rigid forms of society threaten your soul.

*“Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.”*

Sincerely,  
A Literary Woman