

DANKSAGUNG

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»Headmaster Charleston, faculty members, fellow students, family and friends, welcome. We never thought this day would come. We prayed for its quick delivery, crossed days off our calendars, counted hours, minutes, and seconds, and now that it's here, I'm sorry it is because it means leaving friends who inspire me and teachers who have been my mentors, so many people who have shaped my life and my fellow students' lives impermeably and forever. I live in two worlds. One is a world of books. I've been a resident of Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha County, hunted the white whale aboard the Pequod, fought alongside Napoleon, sailed a raft with Huck and Jim, committed absurdities with Ignatius J. Reilly, rode a sad train with Anna Karenina, and strolled down Swann's Way. It's a rewarding world, but my second one is by far superior. My second one is populated with characters slightly less eccentric but supremely real, made of flesh and bone, full of love, who are my ultimate inspiration for everything. Richard and Emily Gilmore are kind, decent, unfailingly generous people. They are my twin pillars without whom I could not stand. I am proud to be their grandchild. But my ultimate inspiration comes from my best friend, the dazzling woman from whom I received my name and my life's blood, Lorelai Gilmore. My mother never gave me any idea that I couldn't do whatever I wanted to do or be whomever I wanted to be. She filled our house with love and fun and books and music, unflagging in her efforts to give me role models from Jane Austen to Eudora Welty to Patti Smith. As she guided me through these incredible eighteen years, I don't know if she ever realized that the person I most wanted to be was her« (Rory Gilmore in der »Gilmore Girls«-Episode 3.22 »Those are strings, Pinocchio«).

Wie Rory Gilmore, die in einer der wohl rührendsten Dankesreden der Fernsehseriengeschichte ihren fiktionalen und realen Quellen der Inspiration dankt, bin auch ich diesen beiden zu größtem Dank verpflichtet. Vor allem ohne die vielen Fernsehserienheldinnen hätte es diese Dissertation wohl nie gegeben. Fernsehserien wie »Gilmore Girls« und Mädchen und Frauen wie Rory und Lorelai Gilmore haben mich schon mein ganzes

Leben lang begleitet, fasziniert und geprägt. Sie dienten mir als Vorbilder und Rollenmodelle, sie waren meine besten Freundinnen, auf die ich mich immer verlassen konnte und bei denen ich stets Rat und Trost gesucht und gefunden habe, und mit meiner Studie durfte ich ihnen nun meinen Tribut zollen.