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Ms. Wilma Mankiller
Principal Chief of the Cherokees
% St. Martin's Press
175 5th Ave.
New York, NY 10010

Dear Chief Mankiller:

Last night I finished reading your inspiring story and the history of the Cherokees. Your struggles and accomplishments against great odds will not be forgotten and certainly should challenge other Cherokee women, indeed all women.

In the late 60s while you were involved with the takeover of Alcatraz, I was engaged with research and writing of a biography of Kate Barnard as a part of my masters degree program at the University of Oklahoma. I finished my thesis on Kate and graduated in 1972. The following year I rewrote the thesis and tried to find a publisher because I believed very strongly that one of the great women of our state deserved recognition for all of her accomplishments, including her great fight for the rights of Indian orphans.

I was told by the University of Oklahoma Press that they would publish it if I could find a grant. Despite writing to many foundations I had no luck. Then I sent the manuscript to a number of other publishers without any success.

I left my husband in 1973 and had to find work. In 1976 I took my aging parents into my home and was not relieved of that responsibility until 1991. Meanwhile, there was no way I could continue work on Kate Barnard. Now I have the time and plan to rewrite the book one more time.

What I am wondering is how you learned of her battles? Were there any elderly Cherokees you knew who benefited from her efforts? Was there any tribal legends about her? Or, did you receive all your information from books like Angie Debo's And Still the Waters Run? The reason I ask is because despite the fact that I have a legal file drawer of research I don't want to overlook any possible source which might shed more light on her life.

Meanwhile, I want to thank you for all the time and energy you must have spent on Mankiller: A Chief and Her People.