

Rebecca Chhay

Living in San Diego: A Teenager's Perspective

As a student of the School of International Studies, which is located on the San Diego High Educational Complex, life is good. I wake up every morning thinking that I'm a day closer to being a household name; imagine that—Rebecca Chhay, the famous novelist. Maybe that sounds a little impossible as a gawky 14-year-old freshman, but I'm getting there.

Granted, progress has gone a bit slowly in terms of how far I've gotten with novel writing, but I am writing a screenplay. I'm doing this as part of an international writing experience called Script Frenzy, as people around the globe attempt to write 100 pages of a play, or more, during the month of April. My participation in Script Frenzy is due to one of the people I met this year, at my high school; and to my knowledge, at least five students at my school are participating in this crazy event. It is my belief that you would have to look quite hard to find such students elsewhere as San Diego has given us such zany personalities.

San Diego has been the perfect place for me to grow up, especially since I want to be a writer. I have been exposed on a daily basis to the thoughts and opinions of many types of people as well as the beautiful sights that San Diego is known for. As I have grown older, I realize more and more just how much San Diego has shaped me to be the person I am, and how valuable this experience will be when I'm writing a book.

For an aspiring writer, the liberal nature of San Diego is quite a thing to be raised with. I've been raised to be open to new thoughts and opinions, to see past race, gender and sexual orientation. It's not that nice everywhere else and I'll take with me wherever I go the knowledge that it can be...it can be that nice. Not only will I incorporate my experience from living in San Diego, but I will incorporate the views that living here has instilled in me.