



ellen krug  
writer, lawyer, human

## **Holding Hope Dear August 13, 2017**

This weekend's terrible events in Charlottesville—culminating with a domestic terrorist automobile attack that killed one person and injured 19 others—have so hurt my heart. As I had feared might eventually occur, those who had stood in the margins of society with their hateful views of “other” are now emboldened to goose-step forward onto center stage.

In doing so, those who hate potentially chip away at the one thing that most of us hold dear—hope. Every time we hear a white supremacist's chant, or see them march on a city street, or hear the deafening silence of our national leaders in failing to condemn their actions, we are at risk of losing hope. Bit by bit, sliver by sliver, those who hate seek to rob us of hope—stealing it from you, from me, and from America.

It doesn't have to be this way. In fact, I refuse to allow the robbers of hope any room to steal.

How will I do this?

By remembering that the underlying root of hate is *fear*. Most often, it's a fear of the unknown—what does “X” mean for me and those whom I love? (Fill in the blank for “X”—it could be people other than your race or religion; it could be a philosophy that's foreign; it could even be an idea.) If we can get past the fear, we can break down the need to hate.

The path past fear is human familiarity; getting to know those who are “other” and realizing that we are all alike, with the same dreams and wants, and that we have far more in common than we have differences.

As I have written at other places here, I truly believe that 99 percent of all people want to do the right thing. What we saw in Charlottesville this weekend was how that 1 percent can congeal to hate in unison. But remember, it's all about numbers; we in the majority, many of whom are “other,” outnumber the haters by a massive proportion.

What can you do?

First, hold hope dear to you; keep it safe in your heart in an impregnable vault. Allow only sunshine to enter.

Second, talk about hope and about how most people are good of heart and intentions. Your words will comfort others and yourself.

Finally, speak out against hate. Have none of it. Encourage those whom you love to also reject hate.

We will get past this hatred. I am positive of it.

*ellie*

*Encouraging Open Hearts and Thriving Human Spirits*

[www.elliekrug.com](http://www.elliekrug.com)

[www.humaninspirationworks.com](http://www.humaninspirationworks.com)

[www.gettingtoellen.com](http://www.gettingtoellen.com)

[elliekrug@gmail.com](mailto:elliekrug@gmail.com)