



CHAPTER 1

A NEW-LOOK ELLA

Ella's Diary — 19 January

Wow! First day back at school since I was ill and it was amazing. Even the teachers were nice to me! For once, everyone was paying attention to me and asking questions and saying nice things. Can you imagine? Fat, boring me as the star of the show! Well, of course they all noticed I'd lost a load of weight and said I was looking good.

Even Jaz and Lucy, the 'Cool Girls', said I looked fantastic. They chatted with me at lunch and said we should hang out together on Friday after school. They've never even spoken to me in the past. It was a nice feeling, like I was popular. They said they liked my short haircut, which I only had because my hair got so hot and sweaty

when I was lying in bed feeling awful. I've never dared get my hair cut into a proper style before — I thought people would laugh at me because it wasn't cool or something. I even caught Craig taking a sneaky look at me — yeah, Craig, only the fittest guy in the year! I don't think he's ever noticed I exist before. It was really fun and made me feel like a 'new me'.

So I'm going to write this diary about my new life and adventures as the slim and lovely Ella! I'm writing in this book so I can put down everything I think and not worry that someone's going to hack my computer and find it. I can stick in pictures and tickets and other things too.

Life's not all brilliant, though. I've missed a load of lessons and it's going to be a nightmare catching up. I'll just have to work extra hard because I don't want to get left behind. And I don't want my grades going down — not after I've worked so hard.

I'm pretty hacked off at home too. It's five months since Dad left and I've only had one phone call and a couple of texts from him — even while I was ill. And he never answers my calls. I suppose he's too busy with his new