

1 January

Mum gave me a diary for Christmas. What do I need a diary for? There's no way I will write my secrets in it. At least I've written on one page now so I don't need to feel guilty.

4 January

Back to college tomorrow? Already? How did that happen? Where did the holidays go?

5 January

Got the results of the exams we did before Christmas. Guess who got a top pass in all four exams? Me! Claire Mason.

I am a legend.

Official!

10 January

Mum's been feeling bad over the holidays. She's going to the doctor's in the morning. That means

she can't drive me to college. I have to get the bus. That means getting up half an hour early. Ugh.

11 January

Mum saw her doctor. He gave her antibiotics and took blood. They'll test it and tell her what's wrong next week. She'll probably be better by the time they tell her what was wrong. The bus was horrible. It was raining and the bus smelled like a wet dog. I had to sit in my classes with wet feet. Spare socks and trainers are going to college with me tomorrow just in case.

13 January

I felt guilty last night when I realised I hadn't written anything in the diary. Am I addicted to my diary already?

14 January

Today was rubbish.

That is all.

15 January

I should say why yesterday was rubbish. We're changing tutor for maths. Miss Afzal got promoted. Pity. I like her. Mum said I should just focus on my exams.

16 January

Mum's was a weird mood today. She was really grumpy and bad-tempered. She was late home from work tonight. It must have been a tough day.

22 January

I haven't written in the diary for nearly a week. Mum told me why she was so down. She got the results of her blood tests. She has cancer. She told me it's nothing to worry about. She said there's treatment she can get. She's going to be fine. She said so.

23 January

Why am I even looking at this diary? Being with Mum is more important.

25 January

I went to the hospital with Mum today. The doctors told us that the treatment will make her feel bad. We saw some of the other patients getting treatment – chemotherapy they call it. Two of them threw up. I think it was when Mum saw a woman with a bald head that it really got to her. She's terrified that she will lose her hair. I'm terrified I will lose my mum.

31 January

Mum had her first treatment today. She didn't feel too bad after it. I wanted to go with her but she said no. She doesn't want this to be a big deal. She doesn't want it to change my routine either.

3 February

Mum seems to have more energy. The doctors have given her steroids to keep her strength up. She laughed about it and said it would stop her being in the Olympics. She doesn't even watch sport! I wonder if it's an act to stop me from worrying. It's not working.

5 February

Today was normal. Mum went to work, dropped me off at college. I did my classes, met with my tutor, had lunch with friends. I didn't tell any of them about Mum being ill. I don't want them to look at me any differently than they do now. I wanted a normal day. That's what I got.

6 February

Today I wrote 3,000 words about a classic book for college. *Pride and Prejudice*. It's a brilliant book. I'm glad I actually read it and didn't cheat by watching it on Netflix. Mum is a book collector so I borrowed her copy. She takes a book with her when she goes to hospital.

11 February

I'm going to see that new superhero film tonight. With David Brady. The totally fit David Brady. It's not just us, but he asked me to go with a bunch from college. It doesn't feel right to have fun while Mum is ill but she told me to go. I'll

make sure she is OK before I go and I won't stay out late.

12 February

(Just after midnight so it's the 12th).

The film was rubbish. I don't care. I had fun.
David likes me. Mum was fine when I got home.
She fell asleep watching TV.

13 February

I saw David at college today. We're going to do some studying together tomorrow. He has a lot of exams coming, too.

14 February

Does four hours of studying in the library count as a hot date on Valentine's Day? David bought me a cupcake with a heart on it. Maybe it was just a bribe to get me to do his studying for him?

15 February

Mum saw David when she dropped me at college this morning. She said he looks ‘nice’. Is that good or bad?

18 February

I had to call an ambulance for Mum today. Her pills made her dizzy and she threw up everywhere. They kept her in hospital tonight. I cleaned up the sick when I got home.

19 February

Just home from the hospital. Mum’s still there. She looks better but she’s tired. She actually slept most of the time I was there. I just kept her company and studied. I got plenty of work done. It was really quiet. I was able to read in peace.

20 February

Mum is home. She’s still tired but she’s glad to be home. She wanted to start making tonight’s tea as soon as we got home. No chance. I’m doing the