

# We should have done more...

Hi, me reading this in the future!

I hope you have achieved all of our dreams listed below.

- Do well at school and study hard
- Make lifelong friends
- Get an alpaca..(Will never happen but Granny and I want one)

I'm writing my memoir now -an approximate record of my life until now, at age 14. I guess I should begin...

P.s, My name is Elena\* in case this is later turned into 'The Great Northern-Irish Novel'.

I trust you won't go blabbing all my secrets; as I haven't told anyone some of the things I am writing here. But since I am publishing it on an online website for the whole world to view. Feel free to scrutinise my life. I have been through it all. I use to want to be a psychiatrist so I could tell people- "You think that's bad wait till you hear the things I have been through."

\*My name (Pronounced El-len-na) means light in Italian- despite not being Italian in the slightest.

Another thing to know about me is I still suck my thumb- that drained a lot of courage to say- I believe I have developed it as a coping mechanism to...well...cope with life.

## From birth

I don't really remember much of my childhood, at least I never heard any arguments unlike some of my friends have. My earliest memory is going into my room before Christmas-time and praying to God for a sister. I never told anybody about it until a couple of years ago.

## January 2011 (or thereabouts)

This is when Mummy and Poppy and )(you age 4 and Poppy, our sister just 6 months) left our Dad's house) Currently, I don't know why exactly she left (I'm guessing it was a build-up of things)but I *know* it was for the better.

So me and Pops (A beloved nickname for Poppy) began living with our Grandparents until the time I am writing this and hopefully many years to come.

2014

This is about when I started ~~not eating as much~~ starving myself- a silly decision on my stupid, young part, it continued for a couple of years. On and Off. Mostly on. Do you want to know why? I overheard the family talk about money worries. So I idiotically thought if I gave up a little less food, it would be more for others, mainly my sister, Poppy.

Luckily I have realised my mistake, although it did stunt my growth, I am no longer as light and anorexic as I was.

### Summer 2015

The divorce is at least being seen in court...

### Early summer 2016

Mummy had a nervous breakdown which led to her staying in hospital for a month or so. It was all these divorce proceedings.

### October time

The woman (nicknamed Medussa - Gary is now a shell of his former self)our beloved Uncle Gary (who was still living with us at the time) had met on a dating site (bad choice) and met up with us to watch the Lego Batman movie. She made quite an impression on us...For all the wrong reasons! I was half expecting one of my dad's Ukrainian bimbos. Instead, she was a plump dental hygienist with an insincere laugh. We all felt the same. Even Granda - a man of so few words said - 'Oh shoot'

Their relationship started normally - at date every once in a while - Our family invited her to places, the zoo, a garden show, our house, the favour was never returned  
When she first came around our house she said "I could fit my whole house in this room"  
That should have sparked warning bells in my Uncle's mind. Yet the rest of us dismissed it.  
But we remembered.

By anyone's standards, our house is big. I think 4 times the size of a normal townhouse. But it was originally intended to be for all of my great grandparents to live in. But unfortunately, they all died before my lifetime. Leaving us in a house which has not been plastered - just about livable in it - we have wifi.

### August 18 2018

While walking to the market from the train station we get the call - Our Great Aunt Enid died. She used to be a Headmistress at Coleraine Girl's school. She was one of the few people who could retire at 50 and travelled the globe from Canada to China.

Mummy still blames herself for her death. Daddy was after Enid's money, Mommy told her and she gave up on life.

#### January 12 018

We did get two new dogs from the local rescue centre- 2 big lovable dotes. After our previous dog died.

#### September 3 2018

Started Lurgan Junior High School. I enjoyed it at first but I never really fitted in. I only made a few friends, none of them in my class. Which made me vulnerable to bullies. Very vulnerable.

#### December 2018

It was just coming on Christmas time and Mummy and I were talking about Daddy. She then said she had to show me something. She went under the table of all places...I followed her. She shone her torch to an area close to where I sat and said "do you see the velcro stuck there? "

"Yes" I replied

"Your dad placed a listening device under there"

"What!"

"He planted it under there to listen to me and Granny talk about financial information. He listened in and found out that I was getting £2 a week towards my pension from the government, so he was entitled to half"

I think from this point onwards I've never really trusted my Dad but that is really the least of my worries.

#### December 23 2020

It's a disastrous date permanently etched in our minds. Gary and Medusa (Gary's now fiance) marched up to 'our' house - or Gary's house as she put it...

I'll cut a long story short.

An argument ensued as Medusa did not like to be told that it was none of her business what trivial matter Gary was signing... which caused fighting, which the dog ran away because he was scared...I ran after him but couldn't find him returning hysterical. Poppy comforted me - I do love my sis - . Outside Granda's angina kicked in and Gary didn't get out of the car to help. This is not my uncle.

#### Wednesday 17 2021

Gary is suing us.

- Dysfunctional family if not already

Hopes for the future

I hope we will win a legal battle that won't make us homeless

---Is that too much to ask?