

## (Un)happy New Year!

### **31<sup>st</sup> December 1980**

Mum gave me this diary to use as a homework planner. No chance! My life is going to be spectacular now I'm eight so I'll need somewhere to document it.

Having an older brother is fun cause you get to spy on him all the time. Only trouble is that mine's a weirdo who spends his home life locked in his room with a calculator or a dictionary and his school life playing violin in the practice rooms.

By himself.

Dad had to physically drag him out for Christmas dinner which was pretty entertaining cause at nine years old, Ali's almost as tall as Dad!

Got to go. I'll (probably) do a longer entry next time.

### **31<sup>st</sup> December 1981**

Wow I haven't written for a whole year! I accidentally packed the diary away with a bunch of Christmas decorations and only just found it. Maybe I'll just do New Year's Eve entries from now on.

Mum and Dad argued *all* Christmas about everything! Ali didn't like it and hid upstairs with his Walkman. Next year I'm gonna get a Walkman – it's sooooo unfair I get everything a year later him!

### **31<sup>st</sup> December 1982**

There's a new girl in my class called Eren. She joined in September two weeks later than everyone else. She has jet black hair and tucks it behind her ears to expose her earrings which are *soooooo coooooo!!!!!!!* She has three piercings!!! She's already eleven and guess what?! She moved here from Tokyo!!!! She's so cool; I feel so average sitting next to her.

Ali gives me this unimpressed look whenever I drone on about her after school, but I can't help it! I want to be her when I grow up.

### **31<sup>st</sup> December 1983**

Mum and Dad need to quit arguing right now or I'm leaving. I'm not even joking. It's got so bad this year that Ali and I voluntarily stay later at school so we can avoid them!!!!

Well, at least it gave me an opportunity to speak to Eren. We were working on the same homework! It had to be fate! I showed her my work and the next week she invited me round to her house! It's everything I dreamed it would be.

### **31<sup>st</sup> December 1984**

Let me summarise my awful experience of 1984.

Mum and Dad didn't get better, they got so much worse.

But as they deteriorated, things with Eren picked up. Her parents are soooooo lovely as well!!

Anyway, one evening coming back from her house, I got home to find Alistair crying on the doorstep. Basically Mum and Dad split up. They never said it explicitly but like, they don't live together anymore and Mum's started seeing this guy called Frank.

Can't wait for next year to start.

### **31<sup>st</sup> December 1985**

I wanna get adopted into Eren's family! She has a record player and a gazillion records. I only have one (Purple Rain by Prince), plus getting adopted into Eren's family would mean that I could avoid Mum and Frank. Yep. They've become FrankenMum!

Mum's having a baby. Eww, that felt disgusting to write!

I have honestly no idea what's going to happen next year. Maybe my plummeting grades will pick up but probably not since I've kinda abandoned studying.

### **31<sup>st</sup> December 1986**

This baby has been alive for six months and I'm sick to death of him. He's called Ty which is fitting for the Tiger he is.

We moved in with Frank as well; that was a painful experience.

### **31<sup>st</sup> December 1987**

Had to babysit The Tiger yesterday (insert eye roll). Frank took Mum on a stupid date and stupid Ali said we could babysit...

...and one thing led to another.

"Oh my God get him off me!" I screamed, thrusting Ty as far away from me as I could.

"Stay still" Ali urged, trying to prise his teeth off me. "What the hell is *wrong* with him?!" He shrieked as Ty dropped off me and turned towards Ali.

"my fake brother is a psychopath!" I sobbed.

"This can't come from Mum." Ali squeaked, looking at me with wide feverish eyes. "We turned out perfectly didn't we?"

"Flawless specimens!" I wailed, clutching my wounded hand.

## **31<sup>st</sup> December 1988**

Most awkward Christmas ever? Maybe!

Mum took us to visit Dad for the first time in ages. Big mistake! He *clearly* wasn't expecting us. He stood on the doorstep for a while, shifting from foot to foot but not asking us in for some reason.

He asked who Ty was and Mum got mad, Ali got sad and I wasn't really listening to be honest so I was all too happy to drive back home.

Eren's been a bit distant recently – probably thanks to her BOYFRIEND?! I was a bit annoyed when I found out from Ali who saw them wandering around HMV together. But whatever!

I'm getting reaaaaalllllyyyyyy fed up with my life. I'm actually considering studying so that I have a chance to get out of this dump! Imagine that!

## **31<sup>st</sup> December 1989**

Re-watching the Karate Kid for the billionth time and saw the Tiger biting this diary – little pest. He bites anything that comes his way; including Ali and I.

Seventeen but feel like an old woman thanks to the trauma my bonkers family have provided. Don't even have the energy to write in full sentences.

Ali has a crush!! He won't tell me who she is but he blushes A LOT when I ask!

Next year I can finally, FINALLY free myself from this mad household!

## **31<sup>st</sup> December 1990**

Sooooo!! I've just had my first term at uni!!! I absolutely love living away from the people who used to be my family!!! Worst part is that I have to come home in the holidays urggghhhh!!

I'm taking English lit and creative writing. Eighteen is definitely the best age so far – took me long enough to finally start enjoying life.

Ty gave me the BIGGEST surprise of my life when I got back. Curly ginger hair?!?!!!!!!! Where did that come from?! Next to mine and Ali's floppy dark locks I'm honestly starting to doubt whether we even share 25% of our DNA.

Eren went back to Tokyo to study graphic design. I cried for weeks, but still, life's finally looking up and it only took ten years' worth of diary entries to get there! I probably won't write again for a while cause my lecturer has smothered me in essays and deadlines but if I make it out alive I'll write a note!

