

## ***Acceptance – by Katie***

2006

1<sup>st</sup> September

Dear Diary,

Happy Monday, I'm in secondary school now. It's official, I'm a teenager! In 22 days I will finally be 13. Woohoo!

Today was my first day. The good news is I already have 2 friends and they're cool girls who've kissed boys and everything. I knew I wouldn't be weird now that I'm in the more mature place! I made sure to notice the rules this time better. So, I have to have a crush obviously, and write their name in hearts and write Katie love'z Name (the Z is very important.) The boys' names I've heard whispered most are Chris and Liam, it seems like they're the ones I'm supposed to like and I'm bad a decisions and I didn't hear anyone say I am limited to one so I'll use both names.

Sarah (that's my new best friend) says its lame to like P.E or do it. Good thing I already don't like lots of sports. We did tennis today though, so I was quite sad to have to sit out. But its fine, I'm with the cool girls now.

The bad news is I'm in special ed for English, even though I tried to tell the teacher how much I love reading and that I even won a poetry competition in primary school.

The special ed teacher is really nice though and gave me harder work than everyone else. She said she could tell I'm not meant to be in there. I like the other students in the class too. They're all funny, they joke a lot, so at least it's fun!

2021

21<sup>st</sup> September

Today was my academic induction into the Writing and Literature course at Sligo IT. I met a bunch of people who will be in my class, and some of the lecturers.

We were asked to say something about ourselves and pretty much everyone said the same things: English was their favourite subject, they didn't have a great time in secondary school and they love reading.

One girl even cried! I was like holy shit I do belong here! Some of the lecturers even looked all emotional with her. It was insane how much I felt like I belonged, the type of feeling I wanted when I was young.

2006

3<sup>rd</sup> September

Dear Diary,

It's Wednesday and I didn't write yesterday because I didn't want to give bad news, but today was worse!

I wrote Katie love'z Chris and Liam on the inside of my locker during break on Tuesday. I was too busy decorating to notice people looking and calling them over. So, the two boys stood there laughing at me. They said they would never like a freak like me. I told them that's fine. It felt like the whole hall was watching, some girls were laughing too, I heard one of them whisper that I must be slow.

I'm not slow I just don't care if they like me back, but when I said that no one believed me. Sarah and Aileen brought Chris's girlfriend over to look and later in the hallway she shoved me when I was passing. She said if I look at him again, she'd smash my head in.

I think Aileen hates me now, she keeps doing mean things. I never switched seats with her one time in class, she wanted to sit next to Sarah. But I wanted to sit there. She was way up front. Then after class, she pulled Sarah away and I didn't get to see her all day.

Rachel, she's a nice girl in my class (everyone says she's weird because she sits alone all the time and wears her skirt all the way to her ankles) she told me that I was meant to keep my crushes name a secret and that's way everyone laughed at me. She said you're meant to write question marks or something. She said people are meant to wonder.

So, I've decided I'll like Oliver now. We're friends and when he talks to me we usually laugh and have a good time. Katie love'z ?????? or O????? or maybe ???v??. tough choice.

2021

23<sup>rd</sup> September

It was the open day today and I saw someone I recognised from my induction, so I said hi. Her name is Roisin. We decided to hang out together for the day.

We are both Mature students, though she didn't think I was one, which surprised me. But I was wearing my pink overalls so not the most mature looking. I'm actually older than she is.

We took pictures in a photo booth and joked that this will be such an epic story for our future best friendship.

She is so nice, and we get on really well! We're even very alike in backstory too. She moved to live in France, and I moved to live in Germany, both around 5 years ago, both with a new relationship that is still thriving, and we share a deep hatred for bull-shit. Destined to be friends forever, I think.

2006

5<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Diary,

It's Friday, Sarah doesn't want to be friends anymore. She got mad at me because I told her she shouldn't be skipping class. It's not okay and I felt sick knowing she was going to. I told her if she skipped, I'd have to tell. She said fine but she seemed upset with me.

It got worse too. People kept throwing things at me in the hall and one boy burped in my face. Chris's girlfriend called me a spaz and after that one teacher called on me to read and everyone laughed when I read a word wrong. So I tried to find somewhere to be alone for a while, behind the back of the shed, but there was people there kissing and they called me a pervert.

I had to go cry, Sarah asked if I was okay and was following me, so I went to the toilets, but the cubicles were all full, so I started to rock myself back and forth, I just needed some space and I accidentally hit Sarah and so she called me a freak and left.

I think I am a freak. But no matter how hard I try, I can't stop. Dad says everyone is just jealous, I think he's lying to me because some girls said they are going to beat me up next week if I don't stop being a creep, what does that mean and how do I stop being that way? And how could

that be jealousy? I'm so confused, and this is so much harder than I thought it would be.

I keep crying all the time and I can't concentrate on anything, and I feel sick all the time. I don't want to do this anymore. I wish I didn't have to go to school tomorrow.

2021

27<sup>th</sup> September

Today I told Roisin that I had ran up and told my boyfriend excitedly that I had made an instant best friend last week. She laughed and for a split second I felt stupid, it until she told me she too had gone home and showed her husband our pictures saying she made a friend.

All the other students in my class are nice too. We all got lunch together and seem to all be so excited to be here. I really feel like they all get me. I am nervous of course but it seems okay.

Two of the girls have told me they are Autistic. We talked about it, and they seemed to also think I could be, I told them I've been told that a few times and even think so myself. So, I made an appointment to get an assessment through the college. So, I'm actually going to find out soon.

Is it way too soon for me to say this is going to be amazing! All my classes were amazing too! The lecturers are all so nice and I'm so excited about everything! I feel like a barely need sleep tonight. I'm dying to get back to school tomorrow!