

Best Friends Forever

Written & Illustrated by
Grace Tallent



Published by Saronti Ltd

Facilitated by Clare Ford at SwitchedON!

This book belongs to



Have fun reading it!

Acknowledgements:

Thank you to my mum and dad for supporting me throughout this journey to becoming a published author!

Thank you to Clare Ford and Laura Norman for helping me edit and improve my book and to Clare for giving me this opportunity!

Thank you to the SwitchedON! for helping and giving me feedback on my book to improve it!

Thank you to Saronti for publishing this book for me!

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Sunday 25th June 2023

There are some days that I think my parents are brain-dead.

There are some days I know they are.

Days like today.

I have been waiting for this day, for like FOREVER!

I got home, I got stuck with my homework, my mum arrived and just barged in and said, "Abigail, I have something for you!"

Of course this got my brain working. What was it?

My mum handed me a sleekly wrapped present. I excitedly tore it apart. It was a leather bound book. Seriously?

I opened the book and the page was blank. I furiously looked through it to find my phone.

It was going to be love at first sight!

It was nowhere to be seen.

Suddenly the truth hit me. Oh. No. She. Didn't!

My mum got me a diary!

This can't be happening!

This diary book is banned!

Thursday 13th July 2023

Ok. Ok. I know I said that I would never write in here again but I seriously need to get it out.

I attend a private school due to a gardening scholarship.

My dad is the school's gardener and that's why I'm here.

Yes I know that only babies communicate their inner thoughts and feelings in a *diary* and if you lose it you could have the whole school knowing your biz. Trust me having one person knowing your biz can quickly turn to disaster.

Anyway, where were we? Ah yes...

My dad is the school gardener. I'm stuck with a locker next to the poshest and most fashionable girl in school, Scarlett. Everyone thinks she is super nice but she is a killer shark in sparkly nail polish.

Today she was even meaner than usual.

"Hey Abigail, nice jumper. Wait, I bought the same one for my dog Max! Ha!"

I ignored her. She thinks she's so cool and that gives her the right to bully people which is partially true. The part about her being super cool - not that she has the right to bully people.

She's the head of the RCF (rich, cool and fashionable girls).

School was horrible and I got a ton of homework still to do. Less writing, more working.

See ya!

Saturday 15th July 2023

Ugh! Finally, I finished all that homework.

Trust me it was horrible.

Yesterday was boring!!! So I won't write about it.

I was planning on doing some intense snoozing, but of course my parents had to ruin it by offering my bratty little sister, Mia, to a party they couldn't make! Which left me in charge of taking and getting her. At first I said no. But they offered me £5 and I said £10 and they reluctantly agreed.

Things got off to a better start than I would have thought. But then disaster struck.

We were about to leave when Mia's friends came to hug her goodbye and her older sister followed. I recognised her like a bucket of water just fell on me.

It was Scarlett!

Oh no! I had to get out of here and fast.

I told Mia we had to go but she just stuck her tongue out at me.

Scarlett came over and said, "Surprised you're here. I thought this party was for little kids. Oh, wait, I forgot you're a little kid as well!"

I just gritted my teeth and grabbed Mia's hand and dragged her out.

"Hey," she whined "take me back to my friends now!"

"Sorry no-one's doing it."

My dad came and I hopped into the car while Mia started getting her sulk on.

“Come on, sweetie I’ll give you some Haribo if you don’t cry!” called dad from inside the car. “What did you do this time Abigail?” he asked, turning to me.

“She’s sulking because I told her we had to go outside to meet you and we had to leave.” I replied.

“Ooooh Haribo,” marvelled Mia.

When we reached home, Mia made a beeline for my room but I was hot on her heels.

“Why are you here? This is *my* room. Privacy *please*.”

“Me and Mrs Pancake wanted to borrow your stuff.”

Oh, did I tell you? Mia has one of her old gloves with a face on it and she calls it “Mrs Pancake” ‘because she was made from pen and pen is similar to pan.’ Don’t question it. Anyway. . .

“Mia, you’re not taking any of my stuff!”

“So can I borrow it then?”

“No! Get out!”

“Fine! Meeeanie!”

Thank goodness she left me alone after that.

Sunday 16rd July 2023

As yesterday I lost out on my extra snooze time, I wanted to catch up on it today. No such luck. Mia came barging through the door at ridiculous o'clock. Ugh! Why can't I have been born an only child?

Mia taunted me for the rest of the day, honestly can't she have a break at annoying me. I had to hide in my parent's wardrobe for about an hour to escape her.

Monday 17th July 2023

OMG today was brilliant! I finally made some new friends! OMG! OMG! OMG!

It all started in drama - one of the most boring lessons EVER! It was a role play lesson which isn't nearly as boring. I was put in a group with two girls called Arianna and Brianna. It turned out that they were good actors and were super-friendly. They asked me if I would sit with them at lunch and of course I said yes! Squeee!

We chatted about stuff when Arianna brought up the subject of Scarlett and how she was super-mean. I thought everyone worshipped and blessed Scarlett!

The only downside was that as soon as Scarlett found out I had friends, she got all stroppy and sashayed everywhere. I hate it when Scarlett sashays! It's the worst!

Tuesday 18th July 2023

School was horrible despite the fact that I actually have some friends now. It's all because of Scarlett. She's determined to make my life a complete disaster!

Today she covered my locker in bugs! I know it was - well you couldn't really say it was spying - she was doing something evil to me! She is one sick little puppy! I accidentally put my mum's phone in my bag this morning and I recorded it with that.

She also started talking with Arianna and Brianna but they are more faithful than I ever imagined and they refused all of Scarlett's offers to be her new besties. They also refused to have an exclusive spot in the RCF group.

She spread a rumour that I had infested the school with some bugs. She even brought in some live bugs but I also recorded that as well – she really needs to check who’s there before she does evil things.

I ABSOLUTELY

HATE HATE HATE HATE HATE HATE HATE HATE HATE HATE HATE HATE
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THIS STUPID SCHOOL!!!

On a slightly happier note I sat at table 17 with Arianna and Brianna. They are the best friends ever! The food was actually good for once! Normally it’s something grotesque like Imam Fainted (yes, there is a food called that).

Thursday 20th July 2023

Yesterday was boring. It was only lesson after lesson after lesson and a whole bunch of homework. That’s why I didn’t write about it and if I miss out a day in the future that’s why.

Squee! Today I signed up to be the school newspaper photographer. As. Well – promise you won’t tell anyone, I’m really into photography, but I’m scared that people will find out and treat me differently. I know you won’t tell anyone as you’re a *diary*.

I think I’m going to tell Arianna and Brianna tomorrow.

I just hope they understand.

Friday 21st July 2023 Part 1

It's currently 6:00 a.m which is remarkable for me as on weekends I normally sleep till about 10:00.

I'm up this early so I can be at school early - I told Arianna and Brianna to meet me at school at 7:00. My first lesson starts at 8:15 and people usually start to arrive at 8:00 but, if you want to study before school it opens at 6:50.

I'm finally going to tell them about my liking for photography. I am literally praying that they'll understand. I even bought my camera to show them some of my best pieces.

I'll tell you how it goes after but for now, I've got to go..

Friday 21st July 2023 Part 2

Yay! I should probably tell you from the start . . .

I got there on time and I stuck a note on both Arianna and Brianna's lockers to meet me in classroom 17g. I waited 5 mins in there before they finally stepped through the door and gave me jazz hands.

"Honestly, you girls - I thought you would never come!"

"Sorry it took us some minutes to figure out you left us each a message on our lockers," replied Arianna.

"And Arianna was 1 minute late but it felt like *FOREVER!*" answered Brianna.

“Anyway, what did you want to talk to us about?” responded Arianna, steering the conversation back on track and ignoring Brianna at the same time.

“Well, yesterday I kind of signed up to be the school newspaper’s photographer and I want to show you some of my photos and see what you think about it all.”

It worked like magic. They loved them so much that they made me go to the school’s printer to print out a copy for each of them.

“Wow! I don’t know anybody who can take photos so beautifully!” Exclaimed Brianna

“Neither do I!” Arianna gushed.

Sunday 23rd July 2023

OMG! That’s all I’m saying. OMG!

Good News:

I am the school newspaper’s photographer!

Arianna and Brianna are the best.

They sent some good photos with my application and the newspaper loved them!

Bad News:

Scarlett is soooooooooooooo mean and horrible.

She told the principal that I brought bugs into school.

I’m scheduled to meet the principal at 4:30 on Monday

I shouldn't worry right? Wrong, I gave my mum back her phone which means NO EVIDENCE!

Well I can just ask for it back, can't I? WRONG! She says she has something really important and she needs her phone for it.

I'm gonna have to perform a night mission to get it back or . .

No, too risky.

Phew! I just nicked my mum's phone and so on Monday I have evidence.

12:00 My parents are asleep.

12:05 I go for a wee

12:10 Still not awake

12:15 I carefully creep downstairs. I want to be as silent as possible so it has taken me five mins

12:20 Now I tip - toe to the living room

12:25 I find her handbag

12:30 The phone isn't in there

12:45 I search the whole house. NOTHING!

12:50 My parents aren't in their bed...

I hear the creaking of a floorboard. I want to scream but I can't. Suddenly, everything starts going in slow - motion. The creeks are getting louder.

Someone is coming up the stairs. I dive into my bed.

"I thought I heard some noises."

"Me too!"

It was my parents!

Dun dun dun!!!

1:00 They're asleep again

1:05 The only place I didn't check was my parents' bedroom

1:10 I grab the phone off the counter

1:15 Mission Complete!

Monday 24th July 2023

Despite the fact that I'm tired and worried if the evidence will be enough, Mia does not count this as an excuse not to torment me. Ugh!

WHY CAN'T I HAVE BEEN BORN AN ONLY CHILD?

I stole Mrs Pancake and held her high above my head and she got a right grump on. Honestly, take a break Mia!

She then tattled and *I* got in trouble after! So unfair!

Tuesday 25th July 2023

Today is the big day. I'm outside the principal's office with Scarlett next to me on the last day of term. She's got a smug grin on her face. Arianna and Brianna insisted on coming too as they are a key piece of evidence that Scarlett is bullying me.

The meeting went so well! Scarlett keeps giving me the evil eye though. I could see, hear and almost taste her anger!

Scarlett started off by saying, "This girl, Abigail, brought some bugs into school!"

"No I didn't - look," I showed him the clip and he looked at it with disgust, "And she was bullying me by talking to my best friends Arianna and Brianna to try to make them not play with me."

Arianna and Brianna nodded their heads solemnly.

“And she covered my locker in bugs - ”

“ - No I did not!”

“Yes you did, look!”

“Aaaah!” Scarlett screamed.

“Scarlett, this behaviour is unacceptable! You have been placed on a yellow warning. Two more warnings and you are expelled!”

Scarlett ran and fled!

Me, Arianna and Brianna all enjoyed the rest of the summer holiday together laughing and giggling away.

Sometimes life doesn't always go the way you want it to!

We hope that you and your family and friends enjoy the book that you have created.

This project was co-ordinated and facilitated by Clare Ford, Founder of Switched ON! the global online academy which is re-defining education beyond academic success.

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Hey readers,

Psst! Here's a snippet of Abigail's life and what she has to deal with every day.

Really it's a lot to handle!

Do you think you can take it in?