

Scribbles

June 2009

Pizza Panic by Christian Bauer.

The ticking of the clock was getting on my nerves. When it stopped suddenly the silence startled me. I looked up half-expecting something to happen. But it was just the batteries, they must have ran out but then it started ticking again then stopped. I hate being in the house on my own especially when it's dark - but it wasn't dark so it's not too bad. It started again the ticking got faster and faster, I ran out of the room but I could still hear it.

The lights went out.

I moved my elbow and realised that I must have put out the lights. I went to switch them back on, but it was too hard to find the switch so I gave up. The clock was still getting faster. I heard a car outside I looked out the window but it wasn't a car it was a van, a man got out he was wearing a hat. I don't why I wrote this but I just thought I'd let you know. He started walking towards the door I began to panic what does he want from me? He was at the door now. I didn't want to open the door but something was pulling me towards it - then I opened it.

"Hello." Said the man.

"Just tell me what you want and go."

"You ordered pizza," replied the man.

"Oh yeah, sorry."

"That would be twenty euro."

"How about I give you a slice and you make that ten."

"No."

"Fine." I took the pizza and turned around, I nearly forgot about the clock but I had other things on my mind like why had the pizza come with a free coke.

"It isn't free you have to pay for it." Said the man.

"Did I really say that out loud?"

"Yeah, you're weird."

"You're mean. But I didn't ask for a coke."

"Yes you did, I told you that you get a free coke when you buy a large pizza but you asked if you could pay for it."

"You're lying."

"You're stupid."

I gave him the money and went inside

"Aaagghh!!!" I screamed.

The pizza man came rushing in tripped over the mat and broke his nose. "Ow."

I was puzzled why he had come into my house but I was also worried because he wasn't moving. Anyway back to the reason why I screamed, the pizza was really really hot ... wait that wasn't the reason I screamed; the reason I screamed was because the clock was gone ... wait that wasn't the reason I screamed either. There was a man in the kitchen. Oh, if the kitchen's there then I must be in the living room so the clock wasn't gone. I was just having a stupid moment and I was getting quite a lot of those today. I think he was cooking no he was stealing and now I knew what was happening. It was a diversion. While I was arguing with the pizza man the other guy was cooking I mean stealing, though it really did look like he was cooking. The pizza man was getting up now I threw the pizza at his face.

"Ow it burns why is it always me."

My favourite sport

By Finnoughla Madden

I'm oh so, oh so, sporty, I play sports all
the time,

I really love to play this unique sport of
mine.

I play it every day; I play lots of different
sorts.

But only if you classify shopping as a
sport.

I took out my phone I didn't have much time the other man was out of the kitchen and was walking towards me and I was still trying to remember what the number was for the police I couldn't remember so I just ran.

I was up stairs when I remembered that it was 999 but I had left my phone downstairs. The man must have got delayed or he was just really slow, but then I heard fighting. Now I was confused. I thought he was after me. Then there was a crash, a broken window, I think. I looked out the bathroom window they were outside and to my amazement it was the pizza man fighting the other guy. I couldn't see very well so I stood on the toilet to get a better view but I still see very well so I jumped onto the windowsill, but I missed and fell. I came crashing down. Luckily something broke my fall, I stood up relieving a man that wasn't the pizza man.

"Aaagghh!!!" I screamed.

"Stop screaming like a girl." Said the man that wasn't the pizza man.

"You're mean."

"You're a girl."

I tried to run away again but he grabbed hold of me and he had a very good grip.

"Where's the pizza man." I said.

"You mean Tom." He pointed towards a tree and there was Tom, the pizza man hanging from a tree with a bucket on his head.

"How did that happen?" I asked.

He tried to hit me with the bucket and after that it's a whole different story." said the man.

"Do you know him?" I asked.

"Of course I know him he's my partner. Anyway we're not here to steal anything or kidnap you we are here to ask you to join our agency without scaring you, but that didn't go too well though. Would you like to join MI6?"

"Sure why not."

"Great. Lets go."

"Wait there's still something I wanted to ask."

"What is that."

"Did I order pizza?"

"No, you're stupid."

"You're mean. There's still one more thing I wanted to also wanted to ask."

"Ok."

"Do you cook?"

"No, why."

The Excavation by Ellen Mahon

At last someone decided to build an apartment block on the vacant site beside our house. Bulldozers moved on Monday morning and set to work digging the foundations. When I went home that evening I was tempted to take a look. There was a fence with warning signs around it saying

DANGER - DEEP EXCAVATING.

KEEP OUT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

but the curiosity got the better of me, however, and I wriggled through a gap in the fence. And so began the most exciting few days of my life ...at first I thought it was a building sight but there wasn't much there. Then something caught the corner of my eye. It was a tunnel. As I walked closer I realized that it was very long. I wanted to go in but at the same time I knew that I shouldn't. But before I had time to think I was half way down. I stopped and heard a voice, two voices talking.

"You better have it by Wednesday, or else!" "Okay, okay, I promise!" I heard someone coming and I ran. I did not look back to see if anyone was there. I just kept running. I emerged from the tunnel, running as fast as I could. I heard someone coming behind shouting.

"Hey what are you doing here?" I did not answer. I just saw the gap that I came in through and I sprinted to it. When I came to it it seemed smaller than before, I paused for a moment and then a hand reached out and grabbed me and pulled me back.

"Who are you and what are you doing here?" the voice said crossly.

"Em, my name is Lucy and I just came to see what was behind the fence, I don't mean any harm please just let me go "Fine then but I don't want to see you here again."

"Okay, okay," I said as I rushed passed him and squeezed through the gap. I did not stop on the way

home. When I got home I ran upstairs opened my copy book and began on my homework to get my mind off things, but it did not help so I decided to stop. Let me think I thought to myself, if today is Monday it is 2 days till that guy goes back to the building site so that is my chance to sneak in.

Wednesday came and I was scared but also excited. I skipped breakfast and went straight to the building site. I saw a big white van parked outside it. I saw the gap that I'd climbed through the first time. It seemed bigger than before which was a good thing. Then I saw the same man as before he was carrying a big box with a sticker on it saying EXPLOSIVES KEEP AWAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I knew that I had to go in but I didn't want to. He opened a little door at the side. I ran after him but made sure that he did not see me when I got through I could not see him anywhere .He must be down the tunnel I thought to myself and I was right I heard the same two voices again but this time I was going to make it the whole way down. It was actually longer than I thought it was. I tried not to make a noise like last time. The two voices were talking but I couldn't quite make out what they were saying something about the box of explosives that the man was holding on the way in. As I got closer I could make out more clearly what they were saying "Okay, we will set them off at 3o'clock sharp and if you're not here it is your problem okay?"

"Okay!"

"So what did you get?"

"How about you look yourself?"

"Brillant!"

Just then the police came in and arrested both of them and we all lived happily ever after.

Planet Zacet!!! by Sarah Creegan

At last someone decided to build an apartment block on the vacant beside our house. Bulldozers moved in on Monday morning and set to work digging the foundation. When they went home in the evening I was tempted to take a look. There was a fence with a warning sign on it saying

Danger deep excavating !!!!keep out!!!

Curiosity got the better of me, however. I wriggled my way through the gap in the fence, so began the most exciting few hours of my life. I looked around. There was nothing much. But some old sandwiches and different types of metal. It didn't really give the builders a great first opinion. At the other side of the building site there was a door I ran over trying to avoid all the mess. When I got there I saw a sign saying

Do not enter!!!

I ignored it and walked through the door. It led to a long road it was straight I couldn't see the end it just seemed to go on and on. On the right side of the road there was only green houses, on the left there was blue. I went up to the first house on the right instead of a number there was a shape just like a square but with a small triangle inside it I rang the door bell. A lady answered she has a sort of robot voice. She was lime green and with red hair and green streaks in her hair

"What do you want and why are you so pale" she said

"I'm not pale you're green, where am I?"

"Mooncaz road, come in have some aet" she said happily

"What's aet" I said curiously. "Do you mean tea" I asked

"Yeah" she said sarcastically "come in."

She handed me aet.

"So is this earth" I asked

"Earth! This is zacet" she explained

Oh, I live on earth"

You live on earth, earth has been trying to destroy zacet for years"

"Oh I didn't know I'll try and help

I finished my aet.

"Thank you" I said and ran out the door I ran back through the site and home all night I was thinking how to save planet zacet.

it was Saturday and I up and dressed by eight a.m.

I charged through the building site and banged on the door

"Hello! It's you again" the same lady answer

"Yeah" I said nervously " I forgot to ask what your name is," I said.

"Mangeyester" she replied "what's yours?"

"Jodie collins" I said confidently " how old are you "

"11999277011224530 years old" she said

"I'm 9," I said "you know the way I said I'll try to save this planet well I haven't really started."

"I don't care when you do it, do it in your own time" she said kindly

I heard some music ring ring ring ring ring ring ring ring banana phone.

Mangeyester jumped off her seat

"Whats that!!!" she asked.

"Oh that's my phone," I said. "Hello"

It was my mam.

"Come home."

I ran back through the building site all day I was thinking about how to save the planet zacet.

The next day I went out

" Where are you going?" my dad

"Out" I said softly

"Where?" he said.

I went to the building site and I saw a door at the other end I went through it and I met a lady she told me she needed help" I announced.

"Are you talking about planet zacet?" my dad said.

"Yeah" I said confused

"Listen" he said I sat down " I'm the one who is destroying Zacet" he said.

Dad this means more then getting a hamster and that's a lot. I ran upstairs and cried all night, the next morning my dad came in to the room

"I shut down my company we are now saving planet zacet" my dad said.

"I love you dad" I said and went to tell mangeyester!!!

TheExcavation by Jade Barron

At last someone decided to build an apartment block on the vacant site beside our house. Bulldozers moved in on Monday morning and set to work digging the foundations. When they went home that evening I was tempted to take a look. There was a fence with warning around the perimeter saying

danger deep excavating keep out

Curiosity got the better of me, however, and I wriggled through a gap in the fence. So I began the most exciting few hours of my life. Until the guard dogs came. My heart was racing there was nowhere to go. As I raced to the gate my mobile phone rang it was my mam telling me that supper was ready well the guard dogs must have thought I was giving them a signal. I raced to the gate but I sprain my ankle I ran and limped at the same time they were 100 meters away from me they got to me and surrounded me in a circle. I heard a whistle, for some reason they followed it, it was like they were hypnotised. I nearly followed it myself

But my phone rang again it was my mam me for my supper again. I ran and limped home as fast as I could it wasn't that fast because of my leg.

I went home had my supper and went straight to bed. I thought to myself

In my bed what really happened I tried to stop thinking about it. I want to go back but I knew it was too dangerous. I thought about it and thought about it but no ideas what to do next. My mam made a big deal about my leg but I didn't care. She told me that I might have to go to the hospital but dad said it was all right. I wanted to go back but I knew I couldn't plus my mam wouldn't let me out of her sight because of my leg

But I had a plan. The next morning I got up my foot was swelling black and blue. At 1:00 clock. Mam and dad went to work I told them I was going to the shop with my friends mam didn't know what to say but dad said yes. It was a lovely summers day so the workers couldn't work in the heat so they went home early I had an hour until ma, and dad got back the guard dogs were asleep so it wasn't too bad. I tiptoed so I wouldn't wake them up. But I saw someone sitting on a step. He had a round face and blue eyes and bushy hair and looked like he was crying. He had the whistle in his hand. As I crept towards him I stepped on a broken stick. It snapped and he heard me. He wiped his tears off his face and whistled for the guard dogs who came running towards him but didn't seem to bark. He was talking to them in sign language. They searched the whole site for me but didn't find me. But just then my phone rang and they heard it. I managed to turn it off but the person who was crying heard it. I gasped before he talked. I was going to call for help just in case something might have happened. I thought to myself why would he be crying.

Then he said "are you ok, are you lost, can I help you?"

I took a deep breath and said "why were you crying. Do you live here?"

Letters by Siomha Walsh-Garcia

The door swung open to reveal the room I would be staying in for the next few weeks, months, years I don't know as long as it takes for my mam to get enough money to look after me and her. She put me up for fostering when I was five. I was living with a lady but she died a few weeks ago. I can't wait to get the letter that my mam sends me every few weeks to tell me roughly how long it is until she can take me home. I see her about once a year. I looked around the room that I would be staying in there was a bed, a desk, and a wardrobe all crammed neatly into a small room. I went over to the mirror that was hanging on the wall and looked in. My long dark hair was tied up in a messy pony, I had been travelling all evening and I was tired so I lay down on the bed fully dressed.

"Kayla what would you like for breakfast?" asked Katrin, my foster mother looking up from the paper.

"Emmmm, do you have toast?" I asked

"Yes over there" she pointed to the bread bin "you can make it yourself, can't you?"

"Ya" I said and walked over to the bench to put some bread in the toaster, then I went over to the fridge and poured myself a glass of milk.

Katrin seemed like an OK person, but she was a bit old fashioned and strict. She showed me around the house, first the living room, then the bedrooms, then the computer room (that is bigger than my room and I'm not allowed into) and finally the big garden with the tree house at the back.

"Kayla, I'll bring you for to school for your first day, you are going to Sacred Heart School for girls"

"Ok I'll get my things" I said and ran upstairs.

I pulled on my blue jumper to match my white skinny jeans and got my schoolbag.

When we got to the school Katrin signed me in and the principal led me to the second year classroom.

"Hello, Mrs Goodmell, this is your new student, Kayla, say hello class" she said.

"Hello" they said, already bored

"Ok Kayla there is a space at the back of the class beside Hayley" said Mrs Goodmell

"Thanks" I said and walked over to Hayley

"Hi" she said and smiled.

"Hi" I said and sat down.

Back at Katrins house I checked the letterbox, there was nothing in it. I had done part of my homework and was having my dinner, chicken and potatoes.

"So how was your first day at school?" asked Katrin

"Well, ya it was good" I replied

"Good can you go down to the shop to get some milk and bread please, remember we passed it on the way to school?" Katrin asked

"Yes, do you know when the post comes?" I said.

"...yes, now go to the shop"

Ok, that was weird! Isn't she going to tell me?

She gave me some money and I walked down to the shop. Coming back from the shop I saw the postman posting a letter but I was too far away for him to give it to me. As soon as he left it Katrin opened the door and took the letters as if she had been waiting.

I ran down the hill to the house and arrived just after she closed the door, she must have seen me coming.

I knocked on the door and I heard her running down the stairs. She opened the door "Ahhh" she sighed

"Your back" she said

"Eh ya is there any post for me?" I asked. She looked to the side "No darling. Haven't you got homework to do?"

"Yes I'll do it now" I said disappointed.

I ran upstairs to my room and took out the folder with all the letters from my mam, I took out the last letter from her and read it,

To my dearest Kayla,

I am progressing a lot in my new job as a secretary.

It is a good job and they are very nice in the school. VERY soon you will be able to come with me if you want. I have found a nice little house here in Dublin with two bedrooms.

I will write as soon as you can live with me, always thinking of you.

Mom xxxx

"Very soon," I said aloud "That means about two more weeks" I started on my homework.

For the next two weeks I wondered when the letter would come.

On my way to school I met Hayley "Would you like to come over today?" she asked

"Yeah sure but I have to ask Katrin first" I said

"Ok, I'll meet you at the school gate later," she said.

I met Hayley at the school gate after school.

"You ready?" she asked

"Yeah" I said and we chatted all the way to my house.

When we got there I knocked on the door. Katrin opened "I should get you a key, Kayla. Hi Hayley" said Katrin

"Hi Katrin" Said Hayley

"Can I go to Hayley's today?" I asked. Katrin thought "Ok but be back by five"

"Ok" I said

"Tell Beth I said Hello" Shouted Katrin after us. (Beth is Hayley's mam)

We turned the corner and into Hayley's house. "Hi Kayla, nice to meet you" said Beth.

"Girls, do you want to make yourselves some sandwiches?" asked Beth

"Yeah, OK," we said.

When I got home I looked in the letterbox, there was nothing there.

"I ran upstairs to see if she had left anything on my bed, there was nothing there either. I walked across the landing to the bathroom to get some tissue, the office door was open and on the desk there was three or four letters on the desk. I went over to the desk. On all the letters it said:

**Kayla Mckensy
11 Brimfield rd,
Westport,
Co Mayo, Ireland**

"OMG" I whispered. Why hasn't she given them to me?

I took the letters and went to my room, I could here Katrin laughing at the comedy she was watching on TV. I sat down on the bed and opened the letter at the bottom that would be the first one that arrived.

It said:

Dear Kayla

Guess what? You can come and live with me now. If you want to that is, I wont tell the social worker yet until you reply in case you don't want to.

But if you do want to come I have your room all teenage style. If you come you will be going to a mixed school called Mount temple and it has no uniform. Reply soon, Miss you

Momxxxxxx

OMG! I opened the rest of the letters and they were all asking me why I didn't reply and persuading me to go.

I ran down the stairs and picked up the phone, "Kayla! What are you doing? Stop running" shouted Katrin. She came out but I had already dialled the social workers number and they had picked up. I started telling them about Katrin not giving me the letters, while she stood there helplessly. They said they'd call my mam and come as soon as they can. I put down the phone. "What are you doing?" she yelled.

"I called the social workers, I read the letters you hid from me"

"Go upstairs, missy!"

I went upstairs and packed my stuff. Two hours later the social worker came to bring me home. They talked to Katrin and said that she wasn't allowed to foster or adopt any more children. And then suddenly I was in the car driving off to my new home.....

Dustin, Abby and Me by Megan Hyland

My friend Abby really likes this guy called Dustin but the only problem is I like him too. But she doesn't know I like him. Everyday after school Abby has been talking about him non stop. And it is really annoying.

"Dustin is so hot" said Abby
 "Hi Abby" said Dustin
 "O M G Dustin just talked to me isn't that so awesome Kelly"
 "Yeah so awesome" replied Kelly
 "Aren't you happy for me?"
 "He just talked to what's the big deal" replied Kelly
 "It is a very big deal" replied Abby happily
 "Why" said Kelly
 "Because he is the hottest guy in school"
 "No he isn't"
 "Yes he is and name one person who is hotter"
 "Danny Conors"
 "Okay first of all he is a nerd."
 "So? Dustin is the hottest guy in school."
 "Told you" replied Abby
 "So Abby wanna get a smoothie sometime?" asked Dustin
 "Yeah" said Abby
 "So I guess it's a date" said Dustin
 "How did you do that?" said Kelly
 "How what"
 "Get a date with Dustin, what do you think?"
 "It's a secret"
 "What do you mean it's a secret?"
 "I mean it's a secret."
 "Well even if it is will you tell me?"
 "Why"
 "So I can date a guy like Dustin"
 "Why is it like Dustin?"
 "Okay somebody else"
 "Who"
 "Robert"
 "Well"
 "Hey Abby, wanna get lunch together"
 "Later"
 "Wait Abby"
 "Looks like somebody's jealous"
 "Shut James and I'm not jealous"
 "I knew it"
 "Tell me what to do"
 "Fine" said James
 "Just tell her to go like your very sad then that will make her feel sorry for you blah blah" said James
 "What's the blah blah"
 "I can't tell you"
 "Why"
 "Because"
 "Because what"

"A-bb-y"
 "What do you mean you can't tell her something"
 "Oh I know what you mean"
 "Well it's too late now"
 "Wait don't go"
 "What do you need to tell me Kelly?"
 "Nothing"
 "Kelly!"
 "Fine I'm jealous of you"
 "Of what"
 "Well"
 "Wait is this about me and Dustin"
 "Kind of"
 "Yes or no"
 "Yes"
 "So your jealous of me"
 "I'm not jealous of you"
 "You must be"
 "Abby"
 "Sorry I've got to get to class"
 "You call yourself a friend"
 "Abby I"
 "Real friends wouldn't be jealous of each other. I can't believe your not happy for me"
 "Abby please"
 "For three months Abby never talked to me it looks like we're not friends anymore"
 "I'm sorry" said James
 "I tried to talk to her but she keeps ignoring me"
 "Well look who I'm seeing now" said Abby
 "Abby you talked to me"
 "Yeah but I'm talking to you in a bad way"
 "Yeah but at least you talked to me"
 "Anyway why are we talking" said Abby
 "You were the one who started talking"
 "I thought you wanted to talk"
 "You were the one who asked the question!"
 "Sorry"
 "No I'm sorry I didn't mean to yell at you"
 "It's okay"
 "So are we best friends again"
 "I don't know. Do you wanna be?"
 "Yeah"
 "And we were just fighting over some guy"
 "Wanna go to the cafeteria?"
 "Sure"

Time Heals by Kate Doyle

The door swung open to reveal the room that would be mine for the next few years. There were no curtains and through the dark bare window I could see the rain pouring down. There was no carpet and some of the floorboards were pulled up. There was an airbed on the floor with frayed sheets. I looked all around the room... no radiator. Suddenly I felt very cold." You can stay here and get used to your room and I'll call you when dinner is ready...is that alright"

"Hummm." I wasn't going to talk until I decided what I thought of her, to be honest I had kind of already decided. She was fifteen years older than me. Thank god she wasn't my real mam. As she left the room she waved her bony hand at me. She closed the door. I walked over to the chest of drawers with my bag. I opened a drawer and started to unpack. I had quite a lot of stuff... stuff that reminded me of my parents and all my friends at my old school. When I'd first got the news that my mother had died of lung cancer that terrible Monday morning my friends were there to comfort me, and so was my father... but in the end he got too upset and killed himself. He left me with everything including the house but because I'm only fifteen I had to go into a new home. After I unpacked I walked over to my new bed and put down the blanket that my mom had made me when I was going away with the scouts. She said I'd always be with her if I kept this blanket. I know that sounds really cheesy but I still took it to all my sleepovers. I sat on the bed and looked around the room. This part of the house was very old fashioned compared to the young, new and hip part of the house where 'she' lived and slept. I lay down on the bed and wrapped myself in the blanket. It even smelt like her. I felt my eyes welling up. Usually I never cried but I had been crying a lot lately.

"Honey, wake up dinner is ready"

" Huhh," I mumbled

" Dinner is ready"

" Oh" As she left the room I wiped the tears from my eyes and put on my slippers. I left the room terrified to find out what was going to happen next, hopefully nothing bad.

"Mom, I got an A on my science project!"

"That's great Alli! So, Marigold do you like your new room?"

" It's okay"

"I know it's not the nicest room in the house but until I get the spareroom cleared out it's gonna have to do."

" That's fine."

" Oh mom," Alice leaned in and whispered to Jessica.

" Yes of course," said Jessica

" Yay!!!! Marigold do you want to come shopping tomorrow?"

I got up and ran out of the room. That was the last thing I asked my mam to do with me. I said that the day she went into hospital. I went into the bathroom and looked at myself in the mirror. I was a mess. My face was all red from crying and I had bags under my eyes from lack of sleep. My hair looked like it had never been brushed. I tried running my hand through it but it got stuck. I turned on the shower and used up nearly all of the conditioner. Once I got out of the shower and dried myself off I went downstairs. Alice and Jessica were watching 90210. Yippee.. NOT! I thought. I preferred Grey's Anatomy or ER. I wondered if there was another TV I could watch while they were watching 90210. I went upstairs and saw a room that looked hopeful. " Yes." I said when I saw, another, plasma screen TV. Then I remembered that me and my mom had always had loads of junk when we were watching Grey's Anatomy. I went downstairs hoping to find some sweets, I opened a cupboard, it was filled with junk. I took some chocolate, cookies and I got a glass of coke from the fridge. I went back upstairs. I turned on the TV and Grey's Anatomy was on. I was glad about that until I found out that it was an episode about a woman dying of lung cancer. I automatically changed the channel and curled up in front of the Simpsons. I had a couple of laughs but I couldn't help thinking if that woman on the TV show had a fifteen year old daughter that episode could have been based on me.

Almost Three Years Later

" So I was thinking I would ask Eric to the party but now I don't know because Kevin's nice too," said my friend Mary-kate

"Well I don't know, I mean it's only a party."

" Yeah I know but it's your eighteenth birthday party!"

It's my birthday in a couple of weeks and I plan to sell the house I grew up in and rent an apartment with the money from the house and the money they left me. I've stopped crying myself to sleep and I learned to love Jessica and

Alice. Me and Alice did go shopping... loads! And I recently found out that my dad didn't kill himself but was killed at the pub by a drunk guy. That didn't make me feel better but to be honest I knew it wasn't like my father to kill himself. Growing up for three years as an orphan taught me loads, and I plan to go to schools and tell kids about how dangerous smoking is. I'm looking forward to moving into an apartment...but sometimes I wish I was a baby again and I could hug my parents. I'm getting better but I still have my moments... but they'll stop... in time.

Back Together **by Adele Whelan**

I've been in care all my life. Ever since I was a tiny harmless baby. All the kids tell me my parents are horrible, evil selfish people, which makes me even more curious why they left me here. I know my mum would never leave me here for no reason.

There HAD to be a good reason. Even though I don't know my parents, I feel deep down I really do. I get teased a lot at the home. its horrible. its not my fault I have one purple eye and one luminous green one! That's why they tease me,

Because I look so weird. Natasha says I look like an alien. I definitely believe her but I don't show it. I tell her she's just jelous. She has lifeless green eyes and mousy brown hair. I said that to her today and she bit me on my arm so I slapped her across her cheek and left a big red mark. She ran off crying to Jillie, our annoying care worker who has it in for me, and told her I had pushed her onto the ground and shoved her and kicked her, (I WISH) so surprise surprise Jillie was like "Sierra, look what you did to poor Natasha, she would never hurt a fly" she said as she embraced Natasha. "Now you go up to your room, have a think about what you did, and when you are ready to apologize come on down."

"I will be in my room forever then because I AM NEVER SAYING SORRY TO HER!" I said as I marched upstairs.

"You BRUTE!" Natasha screamed up to me.

I ran into my bedroom and lay on my bed. After about ten minutes of crying I switched on MTV. There was some interview with some famous women called Leann spark. Cool! she had the same second name as me! When she came on it was like looking in a mirror! She also had one purple eye and one luminous green one! Then she started talking "I everyone, im Leann spark, as most of you know, and today I will be talking about my biggest regret" she said as a tear rolled down her cheek. "I had a baby named sierra. she was gorgeous she had lovely bond hair and one aluminous green eye and one purple Eye...just like me." my family all said I should give her up for adoption if I wanted to keep my singing career, and I stupidly agreed. I sent her away when she was just one week old. and I haven't seen her since. so if my Sierra is watching... I'm very sorry.

Then it ended. that was my mum! I have to see her! Now! I ran downstairs, past Jillie and into the coat room. She ran after me.

"Where in gods name do you think you are going, sierra spark?"

"Away from here anyway!"

"Don't you dare!"

"Try stop me"

Jillie grabbed my shoulder, "Go away! I want Leann spark!" I screamed"

"Who is she?" Jillie asked

"My mum! Please bring me to her!" I begged.

"Sierra, you know your parents died eleven years ago"

"That's a lie and you know it!" I screamed.

"Sierra stop it! You know even if your parents even were alive they didn't even leave an address."

I ran upstairs and cried myself to sleep knowing that I didn't have a hope in hell.

I woke up the next morning with the sun blaring through the banjaxed blinds. I got in my dressing gown and slipped on my slippers.

When I got downstairs all the kids were eating breakfast while Jillie made a fry. She told me I had a letter on the table. I picked it up. the envelope was pale pink with an exotic rose in the corner. it said my name in swirly writing. I ran up to my room with it and ripped it open. It said: Dear Sierra,hello! I think you might have seen my interview on TV last night...well I hope so. I'm your mam Leann spark. I'm soooo sorry I put you up for care! I regret it every day. Your dad died 4 years ago, I'm sorry I haven't been in touch for so long. I would love to meet up with you. How about this wednesday? Heres my address: 5 newbride castle monenna square .xxxxxxxxxxxx Leann.

I couldn't believe my eyes! like I'd go on Wednesday! I'm going now! Jillie agreed to take me. It took about an hour and a half before we were outside the door of a complete mansion! It was really modern and it was painted red! There were two huge jeeps and a huge garden. I confidently rang the doorbell. Jillie gave me a reassuring squeeze on my shoulder. Then a young glamorous looking women answered. It was Leann. "Come on in, I set out lunch." she said with a big grin.....

Curiosity killed the Cat**By Niamh Mc Gahon**

At last someone decided to build an apartment block on the vacant site beside our house. Bulldozers moved in on Monday morning and set to work on the foundations. When they went home one evening I was tempted to take a look. There was a fence with warning signs around the perimeter that said:

DANGER! DEEP EXCAVATING!
KEEP OUT!

Curiosity got the better of me, so I wriggled through a gap in the fence. Inside the gates was a huge building site. There was a layout of the new apartment block. Three JCBs were lined up against the wall. There were metal poles in big heaps- tied together with strong looking ropes – on the ground. As I strpped over a pile of bricks, my toe caught on one of them. I fell, catching myself with my hands.

“OW!” I squealed. Three big gashes appered in my left hand and two deep scrapes on my right. I dug around in my pocket for something to wipe the blood off my hands. Eeew, blood. I’ve always been squeemish about it. I’m fine about anyone else’s blood, it’s just mine I don’t like. I cleaned up my wounds, and continued on my way (a lot more carefully this time). I walked over to one of the three JCBs and ‘whooshed’ myself up onto the hard black drivers seat. There, I took out a Wispa bar and began chewing. I savoured every bit as I’d used up all of my pocket money for this week. When I had finished every little morsal I hopped down and wandered around. I looked about the place, making sure no one was watching, before clambering up one of the ladders to walk along the wooden planks. And up I went untill I was nearly at the top. I grabbed hold of a pole, and glanced out, seeing all of what was Swords Village.

“Oi! What are you doin’ ‘ere, young lady?” shouted a gruff voice from behind me. I turned around, startled.

“I, um, was just...” I struggled for words “I accidentally kicked my football over the wall...” That was a good enough excuse, right?

“Do you know how dangerous it is up ‘ere?” I was about to answer when a bird swooped over my head. I staggered backwards, but I ran out of space on the wood. As I fell the wind whispered in my ears “You’re not going to live Samantha, you’ll DIE!”

When I hit the ground it hurt - a lot. I heard shouting,

“Oh, my baby girl! How did this happen?” my mothers horrified voice screamed.

“She fell and hit her head real hard on the ground. I’m sorry but, your daughter is not going to live.”

The doctors grave words sent my mother bawling. Surely this was just a dream, surely i wouldn’t be so stupid as to climb all the way up there, fall off, and die. I wanted to tell my mother I was sorry. Tell her that I was fine, going to live. But then I slowly drifted into a deep sleep.

“May she rest in peace” the priest finished. I was looking over my own funeral, my friends and family wearing only black clothes, my little brother confused as to why his usually happy mother was crying, why his perky father wouldn’t speak to anyone, why his face was red and blotchy. This was *my* funeral, I’m the one who died, not some old great aunt that I’ve never even met. So that was it. I would never be able to live my life, never get to go to New York, never get my first kiss with a guy I really like, never never get a drivers licence, never get handed my diploma for graduating college, never get to have my arm linked with my father’s wearing a white dress, never get to walk through the threshold of my own house, never get to see my first child’s eyes gleaming, playing in the sun and giggling because you covered your face with your hands and then shout “Peek a boo!”. All those things I would miss, all because of my curiosity about the new apartment block. Just like the saying goes ‘curiosity killed the cat’.

Summer feeling.**By Sandra Carrillo**

The sun shines, shines,
And there are no tears of the rain.

I look at the sea

Crystal sky blue water

I wish I could smell a Daisy,
Or fall down onto a soft cloud.

As the air blows hard and cold

I look at the burning sun

And I think..

It’s Summer.

Summer is quite sunny**Usually it is****Most of the time it is but****Most of the time it for fun and games****Usually I go away this time I think I’ll stay this time.****Eat and drink all you want. I don’t it’s healthy at all****Rummage through your bedroom all you want but I’m outside havin’ abit of fun.****By Eoghan O’ Neill**

Emerald 23 By Robin Whelan

I'll never forget what happened on the seventeenth of July. I remember it all too well. I expected it to be the best night of my life. It wasn't, it was the worst. So I guess your wondering what happened on that night, so I'll tell you. I'll tell you what happened on the seventeenth of July 07.

Me and Aimee had been planning it for ages. The outfits, the make up, everything.

"OK" said Aimee BT2 for our make up – Benefit is having a huge sale, Arnotts for the dresses – they're bound to have big sales this time of the year and maybe if we could go to like.....

"Aimee" I interrupted "where will we get the money for this? What's next? Leighton Meester for our personal stylist?"

"Look Ronnie, this is the end of high school outing! No teachers, no parents, no rules..." I wasn't sure about the last bit.

"We deserve this, live a little!"

I watched her flip her hair around asking the shop assistant where to find the Lipsy dresses. Aimee was right we did deserve this! I grabbed a dress and went to the changing room. This was going to be the best night ever, I thought.

I couldn't have been more wrong.....

The last few days of school were actually pretty fun. Nobody did any work and the teachers didn't even try to keep us under control! I got home early one day and signed onto Bebo. Endless comments from Aimee saying "This is gna b gr8!" and "Did you ask him to the club yet?" I signed off. Next MSN. I checked who was online- Carly, Scarlett, Sophie and Aimee. I started a conversation with Aimee.

Aimee-Hey!

Ronnie-Hey whats up??

Aimee-Nm u?

Ronnie-Nothin' just excited about tmrw

Aimee-Yeh me too!

Aimee- Uh got to go mind my sis. Cya!

Ronnie-Bye!

I clicked sign off and went upstairs. I went straight to bed so I wouldn't have eye bags for tomorrow. I fell asleep really quickly and when I woke up I was so excited. I rang Carly to check she bought my bracelet- I couldn't get into town so I gave her the money to buy it for me. She texted back: Yep got it yesterday, Cya at Aimee's at two!

I got dressed and walked up to Aimee's- she only lived a short walk away. She answered the door looking very, very happy.

"HeeeeLOOOO!" she said

"Hi!" I said. I was excited but Aimee was over the top!

"The girls are inside" said Aimee

"Cool I'll go in" I said

Poppy, Lilly, Erin, Carly, Sophie and Amanda were in the living room.

"Hey!" they said in unison

"Hi whats up?" I said

"I am soooo excited and guess what!" said Amanda

"What?" we said intrigued by the thought of a piece of gossip

"Ok Ya'know Tracie Craim from 5th year?"

"Yes" we all said, eyes glued to Amanda

"Well she asked out Tori Channings brother!"

"Oh!" we all said.

I was hoping for something a tad more interesting but it was gossip- sometimes boring sometimes good.

"GUYS!!!" we heard Aimee scream from the kitchen. There she was holding a tea towel at arms length over an exploding pot of popcorn.

"Aimee..just Aimee AIMEE! Turn off the gas!!"

she flipped the switch and the popcorn stopped exploding.

"Phew that was close." She said.

I looked around at the popcorn on the table on the lampshade and scattered on the floor.

"Closer than close!" I said.

"Guys we need to start getting ready" said Erin, pointing at the clock.

"Yeh you're right!" said Carly.

We ran up the stairs with our bags of make up and dragging the cords of our hair straightners up the steps. I grabbed my bag that had my dress my shoes and my bracelet in it and went upstairs. Once we were in Aimee's bedroom the excitement really started to kick in. Lilly was the first to get into her dress but she decided she was going to change her shoes so she was the last to be ready. When we finally were ready to go, the taxi arrived and we got in. "I'm really nervous now" said Aimee.

"Don't worry!" I said even though I was shaking myself.

We got to the club in about 15 minutes. We got out of the taxi and looked at the glittering sign that read Emerald 23. We were so happy when we went in and saw how great the place was. There were flashing lights and balloons and smoke everywhere. The DJ was playing a mix of Papparazzi and Just Dance.

"WOW! I expected this to be good but this is amazing!" said Aimee. "I'm going to go dance!"

She ran off to the dancefloor and shouting at the top of her voice. I had to laugh at her. All you saw of her was a swirl of jet black hair and 6 inch heels. I went over to the drink bar to get a drink.

"Coke and lime please" I said.

"OK coming right up" said the bartender.

"Here you go" she said. "2.30 please.

I handed her the money and went to dance.

"HEY!!!!!" said Aimee twirling me around.

"Hey!" I said

"Isn't this awesome?" she said

"Yes, it's great" I said. We danced for about an hour and then the DJ announced that there was an emergency. I remember thinking that someone had collapsed from the heat or something.

"Stay calm there appears to be a fire at the main exit, if everyone could just stay calm and evacuate to the fire exit please" said the DJ

Me and Aimee looked at each other. I could see the look of terror on her face. Suddenly we heard a massive bang and screaming. The fire had gotten bigger. A lot bigger. Everybody was screaming and the DJ had began to look worried. A huge group of people ran for the fire exit. But it was too late for us. Another bang came and the sounds of a fire engine screeching in the distance. People were screaming and shouting and crying.. The fire brigade banged in and started spraying everywhere. People were still screaming and crying. I thought I was going to die. I felt something hot all over my body and realised I was on fire. I screamed as people tried to put me out and I tried to grab someone's drink but before I could even reach, I fell to the floor and heard Aimee screaming my name.....

I woke up in hospital beside an old woman who was fast asleep. Where was I? I looked around, totally confused. Then I remembered the fire. I saw a girl I recognised from the club who was coughing and the doctor was saying to her: "you are an extremely lucky girl, Michelle. Two more minutes of that smoke and you would have died.. The next few days were doctors checking my burns and I had to get my leg amputated because in the fire it had got so badly burned and it was dangerous to keep it.

I'm sitting in my wheelchair now wondering why this happened. They said someone started it on purpose. They're still searching for whoever it was. I roll my wheelchair over to the photo of me and Aimee getting ready and Aimee putting her hand in front of the camera lens because she wasn't ready yet.. I remember the dress, the lights and the DJ. It started out as the best night of my life. It ended as the worst.

SUNDAY WORLD NEWSPAPER 18TH JULY

FIRE KILLS 4 AND INJURES 17 AT TEENAGE NIGHTCLUB

A MASSIVE FIRE BROKE OUT AT TEEN CLUB EMERALD 23 ON THE 17TH OF JULY 2007. 17 PEOPLE WERE INJURED AND FOUR DIED AS A RESULT OF SMOKE INHALATION. POLICE ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE AND SAY THEY ARE TREATING THE CASE AS SUSPICIOUS. THE FAMILIES OF THE INJURED CHILDREN SAY THEY ARE DEEPLY UPSET AND APPEAL FOR ANYBODY WITH INFORMATION TO COME FORWARD. A STATEMENT FROM OFFICER WALSH: AS YOU KNOW THERE WAS A FIRE AT THE TEEN CLUB EMERALD 23, THE FAMILIES OF THE PERSONS AFFECTED SAY THEY ARE "FULL OF SORROW" AND WISH FOR ANYBODY WITH INFORMATION ON HOW THE FIRE STARTED TO COME FORWARD.

The Right Way To Go by Ellen Duggan

I walked back and forth on the creaky floorboards I blinked once, twice three times but the tears wouldn't clear. I tried to trace back every moment in my mind the gun, dad the screaming I sat down to calm my mind, suddenly the door swung open to reveal a tall man in a heavy black coat

"Hello"? he shouted. It was Thomas.

"Mary rent is well due... Mary"?? he walked further ...he had spotted me.

"Nora where is your mother...are you here by yourself?"

I stood up taking the burning candle with me his eyes widened as his gaze dropped to the floor he fell on his knees and drew back my mother's long silky hair to reveal a gash in her chest

".....Nora.....was it."- hes gone , I interrupted him

"I am gonna call down to Pat's house ...he used to work in the police force ... I promise Ill be back in 3 minutes"

He left shutting the door behind him I ran up to my bedroom didnt want to be here when they picked her up ...took her out. I could manage on my own just me ...I burst into tears, my screeching echo lingered in the empty house. I changed out of my blood splattered t-shirt I needed to keep occupied....the door swung open I heard them speak my name

"Nora"???" Nora Thomas shouted the Gardai are here and they want to ask you some questions.

I sat down on the dusty couch awakening the rusty springs

"Where were you at the scene of the crime " he asked taking out his quill and ink

"I was just home from school....well I was in the kitchen at the time it happened"

He wrote it down neatly and quickly.

"Did you know the person who did this"?

I hesitated.....what if dad camee back what if he apologised what if it was an accident ... I don't wanna be by myself.

"No.... I didnt and dont know who it was"

He raised his eyebrows but continued writing.

I couldn't bear to look when they carried out her body, her cold stone face still held an expression of terror.

I hadn't really known my mother well not really my dad had always minded me and than when my mother arrived it was like all the family back together again....but I knew it wouldn't last with dad's fiery temper and and mom's attitude.

The house was so empty, most of our furniture had blood splattered on them and the shelves in

our kitchen were so empty....I decided I had to go to town. I raided the house for money and than set off. The closest place I could find without crossing the border was a tiny corner shop containing fresh fruit and some sweets I bought a loaf of bread, butter and a litre of milk. I walked over to the counter placing my things while I rummaged in my bag for money. When I had found it I looked up...no one had come I rang the bell again and than looked over the counter a stone white man lay on the ground...he was dead I jumped back knocking all my food off the counter a woman who was quietly walking back and forth with a basket in her hand ran over and looked over the desk screaming to and than ran outside my curiosity got the better of me as I peered over the side of the counter again how could this happen? I thought.. such a young man....a shooskeeper?? Madness. Suddenly a large man ran in to the shop followed by the woman who had previously been here he looked over the counter and then grabbed my arm

"How long as she been here"?" he asked the woman

"Before me anyway" I could see where this was going. He dragged me out of the shop and placed me in a police car.

I sat at the hard table the man beside me who I was guessing was my solicitor (they had set me up with someone as I couldn't afford one of my own) flattened some papers and than sat down too "Do you promise to tell the truth and nothing but the truth"?" everyone mumbled stuff and than another solicitor stepped up.

"Nora was found in her house with her mother...who was dead by the time the police arrived.....Nora was also found in a corner shop and the shooskeeper was dead by the time the police arrived" everyone gasped

"Now obviously a little girl could not handle any weapons!"

"So I have come up with something believable and most likely true.....witchcraft" the judge nodded his head my solicitor stood up.

"on to your false accusations again are you"??

The judge raised his hand halting his protest.

"Guilty on the charges of murder and witchcraft"!

Two men came over pulling me out of the room

"GET OFF ME " I shouted almost in tears I pulled away but everytime I did their grip got stronger. I looked around the room trying to find a speck of light I could stand under. The cell was quite cold.

I still didnt know what they were going to do to me. Witchcraft! Were they out of their minds? I

wanted to act like a baby, scream, cry. I had always been so mature knowin that if I cried I would get on dad's bad side.

A guard walked by and opened my jail cell

"Nora Grant follow me please" I followed him outside into the pitch black dark he led me up steep stairs and turned around he left me standing beside a pole.

People stood outside I couldn't see their faces clearly but the candles gave away enough light to know they were there

I felt a rope pull against my neck I screamed in pain I immediately knew what was happening, I was going to die.

"LEAVE ME ALONE" I pulled on the rope but it just got tighter I kicked the pole but they raised me higher I leaned against the pole with all my strength but it wouldn't budge. I could feel it getting tighter I screamed until my voice was hoarse but it was muffled by my fierce tears. He pulled tighter and breathing got harder

I looked into the crowd looking for my dad the last thing that would possibly happen but I looked anyway one pair of eyes stood out from everyone else's as though they were glowing in the dark. I looked over at them. It was my mother. The rope got tighter but my gaze didn't waver from her. Dying in the presence of someone I love feels like the right way to go

Sisterly Love? by Skye O'Mahony

You wouldn't think Olivia and I were twins. I'm perfect, pretty and stylish and I have a cool name. But Olivia, well I have to force her to wear something nice, her hair sticks up and she refuses to cut it, she wears army shoes and she's just not like me. I'm obviously the favourite of us two. "Carla wake up you will be late for school!" said Olivia in her croaky voice. I glanced at the clock beside my bed. "It's only 8:00!" I moaned. I looked at her to see her reaction. I jumped out of my bed when I saw what she was wearing. She was wearing a long denim skirt and wellies, her hair wasn't brushed but tied up anyway. People tell me I over exaggerate with clothes but I'm pretty sure I'm not doing it now.

"Olivia get changed right now!" I ordered. And with that I grabbed her hair and started to rapidly brushing it. She changed her wellies to boots but in my opinion still looked weird.

"You should be more like me, Olivia," I said an hour later as we left the house for school.

We stood by the bus stop as the bus pulled in. We were just in time. "It's handy to live right beside the bus stop" I commented.

"No I'd rather live a little bit further away cause we'd get more exercise." She pointed out. "NO! Remember what I said last week always agree to people better than you, especially me."

"Carla over here!" four girls called from inside the bus. I jumped on the bus just before the doors closed leaving Olivia on the other side. I tried to stand up but one of my high heels was stuck in the door. I moaned to the driver to open the doors but he wasn't listening to me. I pulled my foot but my shoe fell off the other end. I started whining as I stood up and limped over to my friends. "My new shoe fell off and I'm going to have to get my nanny to buy me new ones." I whined as I sat down beside my friends. "Because your poor family doesn't have any money!" said Jordan my worst, my worst enemy.

"Leave her alone, Jordan." said Carla my best friend "No one wants you around!" Our friends behind us (Ally and Suzy) couldn't help sniggering as Jordan sat back down in her seat. The bus came to a stop and we all got out. I

marched into the school yard, the seniors teased me about my missing shoe. I ignored them and entered the school. Olivia ran in after me panting for breath "I found your shoe on the ground I figured you might want it. "than..." I grabbed it off her, "Why'd you bring it you freak." I put it on and walked into maths class. Maths was long and boring - fractions, decimals, I really don't care when I'm older I'll get my future bodyguard to do that for me. I looked at my timetable after class. "Science!" I moaned. I decided if I skipped school the day will go by quicker and my mam will never know because she'll be still in work. So I walked casually home and nobody noticed. A couple of hours past with me just watching telly on the couch. The door opened it was obviously Olivia. "I'm telling mum when she gets home that you are wearing high heels and your 13 and she said you can wear them when you're 16" Olivia teased. "Yeah but even you know that's ages away" She sat down beside me but soon got bored and went to do her homework. I heard the post box being opened and closed. I went to see if there was anything for me. There was a brown envelope with Olivia + Carla written on the front. I opened it, it was an invitation on the front to Suzy's disco party. "Saturday the 18th ... OMG that's tomorrow!" I whispered, "Olivia you're invited to Suzy's party, but don't go thinking your popular because Suzy has to invite the whole class." I called "I'm so mean!"

"Oh, okay, here's mam I'll ask if we're allowed to go." Olivia replied. The next day I had breakfast, lunch and then walked my dog Pom-pom while Olivia walked her dog Ruffy. I got dressed into a sparkly dress and matching boots and I curled my hair. "I look fabulous!" I squealed. Olivia came in with a long red dress and a sparkly handbag Oh my god that's just what I need!" and I grabbed it off her.

"NO I had it first!" she screamed

"Don't talk to me like that!" and I shoved her down the stairs.

She fell all the way down, my mam came running in saw Olivia on the ground and me at the top of the stairs holding her hand bag. Olivia ended up in hospital with a broken leg. I was badly punished, We are better friends now but I don't think she'll ever forgive me for what I did. But at least I don't look down on her now.

Who is she? by Giovanna Galasso

The door swung open to reveal the room that would be mine for the next few weeks. It wasn't too bad and I began to hope that maybe this place wouldn't be too dreadful. If only I'd known how wrong I was. The dark red room had a single bed and a tall wooden wardrobe. That night I was excited to sleep in my new room though it did look quite dark. During the night I heard a few noises.

"My name is Susie, you didn't eat my cream crackers!" said a ghostly voice.

"Who are you?" I asked frightened.

"SUSIE" she boomed.

I hid under the covers like a kid. The voice had stopped, I tried to go to sleep and finally I was calm. The next morning I smelt bacon and eggs, it lured me downstairs and sitting at the kitchen table was this little girl.

"Hello Julia" she said sweetly.

"Um hi, do I know you?"

"I'm your next door neighbour," she said.

I walked over to the kitchen table. The little girl was staring at me as I was scoffing down my bacon and eggs.

"Do you like my cooking?" she asked.

"Yeh how did you come into my house though?"

The little girl didn't reply she just tapped her nose. When the little girl left I got dressed for school and packed my lunch. I was walking to school when I met the little girl, she was waving at me wildly with a big grin on her face. I tried to ignore her but she ran down to me.

"Want to walk to school together?" she asked.

"No, sorry, bye," I said rushing off. The school looked very dull it had no colour, just dull grey. The corridor was covered in leaflets for after school clubs. I hurried into number 64, the children were working quietly until I stormed in, everyone looked up including the teacher. I walked in slowly with hesitation.

"Hello, darling, you must be the new girl?" asked the teacher.

"Yes". The teacher had long blonde curly hair she was wearing a long-ish top and white skinny jeans. "My name is Julia ballygowan," I said. The teacher brought me over to my desk there was this tall girl with brunette hair down to her waist; she was wearing a black skirt and a white top with gladiators.

"This is Georgina". I sat next to Georgina she just glanced at me.

"Hi" I said.

"Hey". I looked around the classroom; it felt so weird being in a new school. We started off with fractions - they were easy enough. I got 20/20. The bell had just rung for recess, we all lined up in alphabetical order. I was walking around the yard alone. Georgina came up to me and asked me if I wanted to with her in town after school. Straight after school Georgina clung onto me as if we were bff we went on the bus together and straight into the make-up shop. Georgina and me split up in the make-up shop and agreed to meet up at 3:30pm. As I was looking at the lip-gloss I seen the little girl, she was looking at the pink lip-gloss.

"Hi Julia! She shouted.

"Hey" I said slowly. The little followed me around the whole shop. I found Georgina. Georgina I have to go, sorry bye". She pulled me back from my arm and pushed me to the ground. I got up as quick as I could and ran away. While I was running down the elevator Georgina grabbed the back of my t-shirt and pulled me back.

"Get off, are you crazy!" I shouted. The little girl stood there with the pink lip-gloss smudged on her face. I was free at last, I ran home as fast as I could I was red as a strawberry. The little girl was following me.

"Do you want to play?" she asked.

"Do I look like I want to play?" I walked home feeling bad that I didn't play with her. I went into the bathroom to get some blistex for my lip. I heard a knock on the front door.

"Julia I'm back did you get your lunch?" my mum said. I ran downstairs and opened the door my mum walked in with two full shopping bags, I felt tired after what had happened today. I soon fell asleep but the voices came to me again.

"Its Susie, I'm coming to get you". The words echoed inside my head, I suddenly started to toss and turn. I woke up all wet, my bottoms and hair were all wet, I remember having a bad dream but how am I wet?. I hopped into a shower. I went downstairs to make breakfast I had beans on toast. My mum was still in bed there was still left over beans for her to eat. I heard a big bang upstairs, I walked slowly step by step up the stairs. The little girl was standing in the middle of the room she was staring hard at me not twitching she was wearing red lip stick (smudged).

"I told you I don't want to play" her face steamed up with anger she burst out of the room with one pigtail down and one up. I went downstairs to have a snack. After I ate something I put my pyjamas on and fell on my bed.

"Here I am coming to get youuuu, why didn't you play with me?! Im angry!!" said the voice.

"What?" I asked scared.

"I seen you in the shop I had lip stick smudged on my face!" she said. Its you, the little girl, Susie...

Dearer By The Dozen! by Jayne Dolan

"Aaaaaaaaaaagh!" cried mum basically being beaten up by her naughty children in the hall. "would you ever stop pulling my hair jimmy. And Timmy don't even think about bit- OWWW/WWWWW!" timmy or as I call 'Cannibal Boy' chewing on something chewy and my mum had a layer of skin gone off her arm where Timmy bit, her eyes started to water but just before she could burst into tears we all heard a loud crash from the kitchen and we all ran into it. Lola, Beccie, Georgia, Eva, Christi, Billy and Harry were all in the kitchen smashing mum's best China. Then Beccie picked up mum's (very rare, mind you) Ming vase that was a wedding present to her. I couldn't believe my eyes, all of us knew that that vase was the only thing my mum had left of her marriage because I don't know if I've mentioned it but my mother's a widow. He died a day after the wedding. I was born before the wedding but I was only two when it happened yet still remember it vividly. He was the best dad a guy could have. Now my mum is married to Ben and he's nice too. But, anyway, enough with the sad stories and back to the story! Jimmy and Timmy were clinging on to mum's legs. Mum tried to leap across the room but Jimmy and Timmy were still holding her legs so she just fell flat on her face. I'm the fastest person in my year, so I ran across the room just as Beccie drooped the vase. But, luckily I caught it in mid-air and slapped Beccie across her head. "What in the name of uncle Brendan's bald head are you doing?" I cried. I know that phrase sounds a little bit sad for a fourteen year-old boy but except if I said something normal like 'what the hell' my mum would give out to me. She's very strict about 'swears' (even though hell isn't even a bad word). I suppose it's because she has twelve children. "I was just messing" said Beccie innocently. "Oh, yeah sure! Like I believe that! When you saw me coming you dropped it straight away!" I cried with a fiery temper sneaking up on me. "My, my, Beccie. This really is the worst behaviour any of my children have ever been on!" mum said tutting. "By the by, Beccie, you're not getting any dinner tonight! Your'e going up to your room right now-" just then my mum got rudely interrupted by my horrible little sister as she started to amble out of the room. "And where do you think your doing little missy?" my mum said, hands on her hips. "You told me to go to my room right now so..." "So what?" "So I'm going to my room, duh!" My God, she's only four years old and she already has as much cheek as an un-trained dog! "Oh, you think your getting off that easy? No, no, no, your going to go up to your room while I print out some maths worksheets and then your going to do those maths sheets in your room, is that clear? Go on now, go!" mum said motioning Beccie out of the room. Beccie went up to her room sobbing. Lola, Georgia, Eva, Christi, Billy and Harry, seeing what a big punishment Beccie got suddenly looked nervous. The twins Christi and Georgia said together, "Em, don't worry mum, we'll clean this up!" while everyone else reached for a dustpan and brush. "Oh thanks pettles. I really needed someone to just come along and help me like that. You're all real pets!" said mum as the kids looked at each other with a wide grin on

their faces, thinking that they just got off a punishment. As I stared at mum in amazement she winked at me. I got the picture then! "Oh, and then after that you could GO UP TO YOUR ROOM AND THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO MY KITCHEN!!!" mum screamed. Just then my youngest sibling Lola started crying but we were used to it. She starts crying when she's cleaning up and then when she's in her room she stops (mainly because no one can see her there) and just stomps her feet because her room is just above the family room (where me and my mum usually chill out after the kids have been bold and sent to their rooms) and also the carpet in her room was taken up so now we could hear her stomping feet more clearly. After Georgia, Lola, Eva, Christi, Billy and Harry had cleaned up and me and mum were resting in the family room mum suddenly jumped up. "Oh my God, the twins," said mum, her eyes wide.

"What about the twins mum?"

"Where are the twins?"

"Christi and Georgia? They're up in their rooms remember?"

"No, no, no, not them Meryl and Jenny," mum started to look around the room.

"Oh no, they're usually the centre of attention and they haven't shown their faces for about an hour" As I began to start to help mum look around the house I started to feel really worried. Me and mum looked all around the house and couldn't find them anywhere so we decided we'd look outside. We didn't want the others to come with us because then they'd just get lost too. We rang Ben and he said he'd come home from work and see if he could see them on his way home. We looked up the road and down the road and up the road across the road and down the road across the road. No sign of them. We looked all over the housing estate we live in. No sign of them. We have a garden that is one hundred and fifty feet long (approximately!). At the very back of it there's a ten feet tall wall that Meryl and Jenny try to climb. Once they climbed up an easy tree beside the wall and then jumped on the wall to get on. As soon as I remembered that I suddenly ran to the back garden wall. When I got to the wall I jumped up (I'm quite tall). I jumped up but couldn't quite jump that high. So, I had to use Meryl and Jenny's technique. I climbed up the tree and jumped on the wall. As soon as my feet landed on the wall I lost my balance. I tried to regain it but I was already falling. Falling... falling... falling... I could hear my mother calling me.

"Darren, Darren, Darren," she cried.

RINNNNNGGGGGG

"Darren, Darren, Darren."

I'd been dreaming. Again. My alarm was going off and my mother as calling my name to wake me up.

"Come on, Ben has made us breakfasst. Were you dreaming of having eleven siblings again?" Mum asked with a morning smile.

"Yeah, I don't know ... it's just you hear people talking about their brothers and sisters and ... and sometimes it's just hard to be an only child. You know?"

I had a great stretch while my mum answered me.

"Oh, I know, honey. I just thought you were used to it. Okay, how about we go downstairs, have breakfast and just forget about the whole dream, ok?"

"Ok"

Going Going ... by Finnoughla Madden

At last someone decided to build an apartment block on the vacant site beside our house. Building machines moved in on Monday morning and set to work digging the foundations. When they went home that evening I was tempted to take a look there was a fence with a sign on it that said: DANGER! Deep excavating KEEP OUT! Curiosity got the better of me and I squished through a small gap in the fence and so began the most life threatening days of my life. Once I got in I looked around it was just an old building site but the I saw a man who looked like he was tidying up and shouted at me "Hey what are you doing here?"

I ran as fast as I could, I managed to sneak a look back over my shoulder and he was chasing me! If he caught up with me what would happen he could report me to the garda and what would my mam say - she has always been overprotective. As I ran past all the bricks, all the bulldozers and the cement I turned a corner, this is where I would get rid of him. I was too busy thinking of a plan I forgot to look where I was going and they must have been putting in new plumbing because I fell into a hole about 3 meters deep I tried to climb up but I think I broke my ankle. I could hear the man walking away. The hole was tiny I could just about fit my arms in and I was claustrophobic so that made it worse. I couldn't think of anything to do so I just screamed for help and cried. There were bugs crawling around me and dirt falling into my mouth. It was horrible! I was so uncomfortable it was starting to get dark and I got scared. I was so hungry I felt sick. I wondered would I ever see my family again? I missed my mam and dad, and cried myself to sleep. I was woken up by the sound of trucks

"beep... beep... beep"

my oversensitive mother was properly starting to go mad. At this point I had been going on without food for at least 20 hours! It was now the morning and there was hope of someone finding me. That was until I heard one of the builders start to talk. I could just about make out

"lets... fill...hole...ground...dirt."

"Nooooooooooooooooo!" I quickly tried to climb up, I was screaming so much but the noise of building was too loud. My heart was beating really fast. I could hear the truck backing up and when I looked up dirt and cement was falling on top of me and all of a sudden... I was gone.

Bye bye! by Aileen Kellegher

Ely was sitting in the room with Jorge and Jane there was an awkward silence until Ely back it "Why" Ely ask Jorge
 "Why do people" Ely took a breath, "die"
 "Oh I don't know " Jane burst out
 Jorge's face melted
 "Jane, just leave it please, " said Jorge
 Jane rolled her eyes
 Jane went out of the room, straight over to Kate and straight into conversation
 "The poor girl only 5 and she has lost her mum"
 Jane said
 "Oh then what am I? My mum died too and I'm 17, it still hurts."
 I can't think of her," Kate said trying not to cry.
 "I'm your ant it hurts too," Jane said.
 "I know you would not give my mum cancer "
 Kate said trying not to cry.
 "So you think this is all my fault "Jane said
 "No"
 "What will" she stopped for a second "happen to us?"
 "You will be fostered - is that ok?" Jane said
 "Yep"
 Kate walked into the room with Ely and Ely ran right over to hug
 "Jorge can I talk to you"
 "I am trying to talk to your sister about death before the social services do," Jorge replied
 "Please" Kate said
 "Fine ... Just for a sec" Jorge said.
 "What will happen to mum" Ely said
 "Noting will Ely"... "Jorge now" Kate said
 "Can you take Ely she is only young?
 Or she will be fostered and she will be so so sad being away from us and I now this is a big thing"
 "Fine" Jorge said.
 "Please wait ... what?" Kate said
 "It will be an adventure," Jorge said.
 "Yes" Kate said
 "Come on Kate we are waiting. I have your sister" Jane said.
 "No Jorge is taking my Ely."
 "Good for you."
 Kate we'd better go"
 "I go when I want to."
 Kate walked out of the room and went in to the car.
 "Bye, Ely" Kate said.
 "Bye, Kate" Ely said.

A Camping Trip by Sandra Carrillo

Emma and Ruby were talking about boys. Ruby's little brother Jackson was spying on them. His friend Max was drawing and writing.

"Ruby" said mum

"Yes" said Ruby "Would you like to come camping with grandad and your little brother?" said mum.

"Can Emma and Wendy come too?" said Ruby in a sad voice. Mum felt sorry for her. "Mum, is cousin Andrew coming?" said Jackson.

"Yes" said mum.

Soon they heard a car. It was grandad.

"Hello kids have you got your bags ready?" he said.

"Yes" said Ruby and Andrew together. "There they are your cousins Lizzy, and Andrew..."

"Come on children" said grandad. "Have fun said mum. Jackson and Ruby were in the car Jackson was talking Andrew. Lizzy was looking at Ruby with her blue crystal eyes, and her golden blond hair. She said "Hi I am Andrew's brother."

"Great! So you must be his little sister. Grandad stopped talking with the two mothers and sat down in his chair.

"Ahhhhhh!! my seat is burning" said grandad.

"Haha' grandad is on fire," said Jackson.

"Jackson, say sorry," said Ruby.

"Ok, sorry," said Jackson.

"We will be there in time," said Andrew and the motor of the car started Lizzy and Andrew and Jackson said we are all going round and round round. Ruby felt disappointed about her friends Emma and Wendy. She really wanted them to come. Grandad said "but the trip was only for family. Here we are, sunny camps. The perfect place for camping.

Andrew said "why don't we play hide and seek?"

There was a nine years old boy called Harry

He was wilder then ever

He had foster parents and a foster sister.

"1, 2, 3," said Ruby. Quick as a flash Harry scared Ruby.

"Ahhhhh, you monster," she said.

"Sorry but can't I play?" Harry said.

"Ok," said Ruby.

"Guys we have to start again," said Ruby.

1-2-3 Lizzy hid in a tiny corn field. 4-5-6 Andrew ran and hid in the roof. 7-8-9 Jackson was hiding in a car. 10 -11 -12 Harry was hiding in his tree.

"Here I come," she said. First she found Andrew then Lizzy. Then Jackson and last Harry. Then at 4.00 Anna Harry's foster sister joined in. First they did a treasure hunt. They had to use the map. Then inside a big bush there was cookies, ice cream, chocolate, cake, and mini cupcakes. Then they burned marshmallows and ate them. They did campfire songs. Then they went to sleep in their tent. Grandad woke them at 7.00 pm with a trumpet - they all shouted at the same time. They went straight to the car. There was always traffic on Sunday. They went home Lizzy and Andrew stay 7:00 to 12:00 pm. Because the mother had to go to work.

"Mum," said Ruby.

"Yes, dear," said mum.

"Can we go camping next time with friends?" said Ruby.

"Ok," said mum.

"Yippee!" said Ruby.