

In a far away place...

There is a world overflowing with fairy tale kingdoms. And the most magical tales of the most magical places can be found in fairy tale books. You may know these stories. You may even know my story, recounted in the pages of The Little Mermaid. That's me, The Little Mermaid. My friends call me M. What you don't know yet is that before those fairy tales happened, we all went to high school. Those of us lucky enough to be particularly good at music, theater, dance, writing, painting – all the creative arts -went to an extraordinary high school that helped us reach our full potential, and overcome a few bumps along the way. That place was Fairy Tale High.

Welcome to my private diary. Here I share my personal experiences at Fairy Tale High.



The Little Mermaid



Nickname: M.

Favorite color: Green

Favorite hobby: Swimming, diving, water ballet

Likes: Acting, Singing, Helping friends

Fear: Drying out

School: Fairy Tale High

PHOTOS





POSTS



M: Does anyone want to practice lines for the show with me after school?



Belle: I'd love to. But only if you promise not to laugh – I'm not really an actor.



M: Don't be silly. I'm sure you'll be great.



Belle: Playing the cello, maybe. Not acting.



M: Says you. Anyhow, acting is just like playing the cello...practice makes perfect.



Tink: That's fore sure!



PHOTO HERE Name: (Nickname) School: VALID FROM: GOOD THRU:





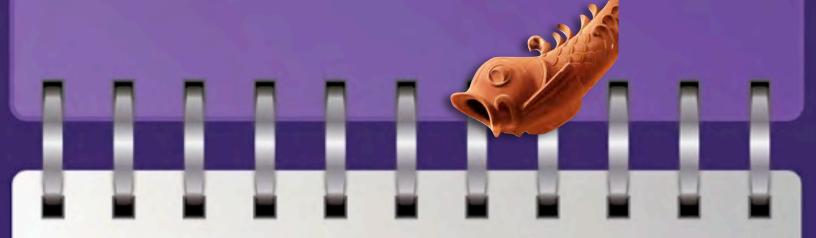
Sunday - The Last Day of Summer Vacation

Dear Diary,

I am SO happy that I've been granted a daytime air-pass to attend Fairy Tale High. It has always been my dream to act in plays, and now I can finally take classes to get more experience and perform on a real stage. There aren't too many people to perform for under the sea...fish don't count!

Tomorrow is the first day of school and even though I am excited, I must admit, I am trembling a bit. I have only been out of the water a few times and never for very long. How am I going to get through a whole day? What will my hair look like when it's dry? Will I need a brush?

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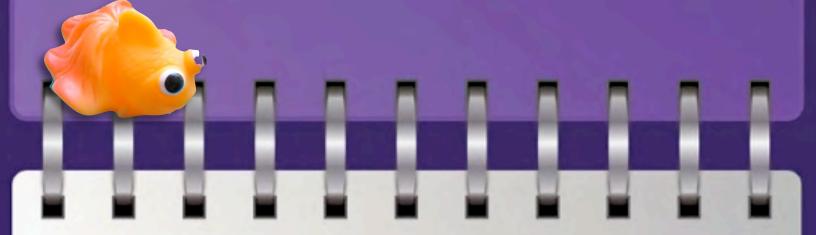


Mom and Dad came to my room earlier and gave me a special bottle with a spray nozzle. They explained how I should fill it with seawater before I leave for school. That way, I can spray my face and body whenever I feel dry.

1 am prepared! I've got my waterproof backpack, spray bottle from my parents, a hair brush (just in case!), my air-pass and a cute pair of shoes. I'm also bringing a scene from my favorite play — I want to be ready for my first acting class! As soon as the morning sun beams make the coral reef glow, I'll know it's time to leave for school. (My father taught me to use the sun's light to tell time.)

What am I most looking forward to? Meeting new friends and getting a part (I hope!) in a school play.

"M"



Monday - Freshman Year

Dear Diary,

The first day of school was very hard! I wasn't as prepared as I thought. I had classes in ALL the arts, even the ones that are not acting. Every student has to get what the principal called "a well-rounded education." That means that even though I am at school to become an actress, I still have to take an instrument. I signed up for voice — tra la la la! I also have a poetry class, painting, and a dance class. Dance? Me? I am having a hard enough time walking with my out-of-the-water wobbly legs as it is. (My mom calls them "sea legs", which makes no sense since they're really land legs. I guess I have a lot to learn at home, too.) Now I am going to have to learn ballet. I hope it is similar to water ballet.

(more to come)



And Diary, I made a NEW FRIEND! Alice, a new student (like me) who is in my painting class. She's SO talented.

And nice. I'm so happy.

But today was tough, too. 1 got to school early so 1 could shake the wobble out of my legs, but 1 had a hard time getting used to walking on land. 1t felt as though 1 was bobbing from side to side down the halls, and 1 stumbled a few times. So embarrassing.

(read onward)



I'm not sure about the boys at Fairy Tale High. There were a few rough-looking guys hanging out by the lockers. I heard them snicker at a poor kid who looked lost, and one of the boys flicked a wad of chewing gum at him and said, "Go back to wherever you came from, dweeb!" Jerks! I turned to hurry away, but not fast enough. "Hey, check it out," they jeered. "Here comes the mermaid! Here, fishy fishy fishy." Oh no, I thought, expecting a wad of gum to nail me for sure. But just then, Alice walked by and I could swear I heard a loud hiss. A snake? A cat?

(still more)



I didn't see anything, but the boys must've heard it to because they scattered. Alice and I headed off to the Royal Food Court — that's what they call the lunchroom. Turns out Alice was on the boat that anchored off Flower Rock a couple weeks ago, and she's the one who waved to us as we sunbathed on that little island. I waved back. So that means we met each other before we met in painting class. How cool is that?!

Okay, Diary. That's all for today. 1 have LOTS of homework to do. In addition to all my creative classes, there's math, science, English and History. 1 better get started before the sun goes down and the light stops reflecting off the coral reef.

Ta ta for now.

www.xoxo



Tuesday - Freshman Year

Dear Diary,

I am so psyched to have Ms. Goose for drama class. She's amazing. Right now we are reading scenes from the play "A Giant Came to Dinner." There is no play to try out for just yet, but so far, so great! I hope I get to experience what it's like to be on stage and bring joy to an audience soon. I'm ready!

It took me a while to figure out what to do about lunch in the cafet—I mean, Royal Food Court—so I brought my lunch from home today. Seaweed salad and kelp rolls. But it turns out I'm not the only vegetarian here, and we are trying to convince the school to put in a salad bar. Yea!

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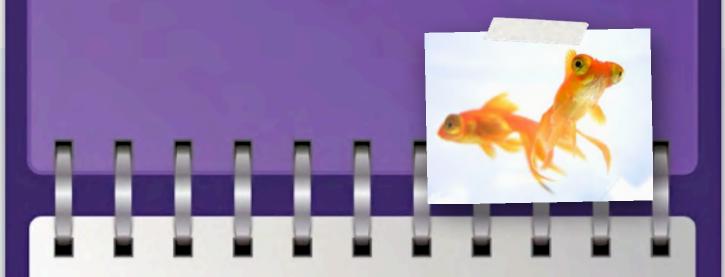


I made another new friend today too. Alice and Tink were outside trying to fix Alice's lemon-of-a-bike, so I was sitting by myself. I had just shoved a delicious bite into my mouth when I heard someone say "Oooh! Seaweed! I simply adore seaweed!"

I turned to look. The words were pouring from the well lip-glossed

I turned to look. The words were pouring from the well lip-glossed mouth of the most elegantly dressed high school kid I'd ever met. She sat right down next to me and introduced herself. Her name is Belle and she plays the cello. I was impressed by her confidence. I complimented her clothes. She went on to tell me how her outfits need special planning, since you have to sit in an unladylike position to play the cello.

(more)



I shared my lunch with her. She had never had fresh seaweed before. Apparently, when you live on land, you can only get the dried kind, which you then have to soak in water so it doesn't taste the same. I told her I would be happy to bring her some more fresh seaweed. She told me her mom was very strict about only eating vegetables and fruit just like me. Then she invited me to come to her house for dinner whenever I wanted.



Oh yeah, I almost forgot. Team tryouts are tomorrow. I am going to try out for the swim team. I am most comfortable when I'm in the water, so it would be really cool if I could swim at school.





"This is my cousin Cassandra. She's a goldfish.

She loves to jump. Except 1 have to keep putting her back in the bowl, because her fins don't turn into legs!"



Wednesday - Freshman Year

Dear Diary,

This morning I ran into Belle on my way to school. It turns out her father owns the country club by the beach where I emerge from the water every morning. She plays tennis there before school every morning — I bet she's good! And she has a car and driver to take her to school. She told me she would be happy to drive me to school too since my legs are always wobbly in the morning right after I get out of the water.

Belle seems really nice — she's always offering to help others. I wonder if she ever needs anyone to help her?

So Diary, here are my friends so far: Alice, Tink and Belle.

"M"





Thursday - Freshman Year

Dear Diary,

Today in class, something awful happened. Bluebeard, Blackbeard and Jimmy Hook — the three bad boys who were throwing gum at people by the lockers — snatched my spray bottle. Everyone knows that I'm a mermaid and need to keep moist. They're mean and they'll pick on anyone if they think they can get a laugh. I'm too shy to fight back, and they know it. I started to panic. Alice tried to calm me down. But I needed to re-hydrate fast! I grabbed the nearest liquid I could find and gulped it down. Yikes — the teacher's coffee!

The coffee did not help, and I started getting really wobbly. It was like my legs had a mind of their own. I bolted out of the classroom and raced to the water fountain where I was finally able to cool off and calm myself down.





Friday - Freshman Year

Dear Diary,

I had the best day! Belle picked me up at the beach club in the car. Then Tink met me before school and helped me figure out a way to fasten my spray bottle inside my backpack so I'd be able to use it without taking it out. This way, those nasty bullies won't be able to snatch it again.

Later, in class, I held my head high and tried to stay calm as I made my way past the boys' desks to sit next to Alice. I have resolved NOT to let the bullies bring me down.





Sunday - Freshman Year

Dear Diary,

Today my sisters and I had a picnic on Flower Rock. It is our favorite hang out spot in the warm season and we always stay until sunset. Today was no different.

We took the long way there, swimming through the waves and stopping to play along the way. Marietta showed us how to do underwater cartwheels, which were a ton of fun. She always shows us how to do new things, probably because she's the oldest. Then we played a game we made up called "inside out roll." We all hold hands in a circle, kicking with our legs in the center. Then, all at the same time we do a big somersault flip. We always crack up laughing, because at least one of us always messes up, or ends up with a face full of hair.

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Once we got to the island, we collected five different kinds of seaweed for lunch—the red kind, the bubble kind, the stringy green stuff, the fat yellow kind and the clear kind, which is my favorite. We made a special dressing out of crushed flower petals and loquat juice. Loquats grow all over Flower Island and they are tangy and delicious.

After lunch, we took turns diving off the cliff, which is actually only 7 inches above the water and not dangerous at all. It makes a great diving board since it hangs over the deepest part of the water. We always have to be super careful that the water is deep enough for diving.

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So anyway, after our yummy lunch, we stretched out to sun ourselves on the fuzzy pink moss. Ahh. I feel relaxed just thinking about it. But now I am thinking about school tomorrow. After I finish my homework, I think I'll plan something nice for Belle, Alice and Tink.







Monday - Freshman Year

Dear Diary,

Swim Team tryouts were today. I thought it would be easy, since I spend most of my life swimming, but there were a few surprises. For one thing, we had to wear bathing caps which felt weird and uncomfortable. I couldn't figure out how to stuff all my hair into that small cap. When we dove into the pool, the water had a sharp smell that made my nose sting. I got used to it eventually. There was a coach giving us instructions and someone else keeping the time.

THERE'S MORE....



We had to see how many laps we could swim in 5 minutes.

Some people could only swim a couple laps, and others swam five or six laps. 1 swam 18. Guess what? 1 not only made the Swim Team — I'm the captain of the team! Whoo whoo!

The coach said our goal was to get the team into the regional finals. He also told me I could help the other girls with technique since I do have the most underwater experience.

My goal — to win!











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