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Opening extract from

Amelia Writes Again

Written by

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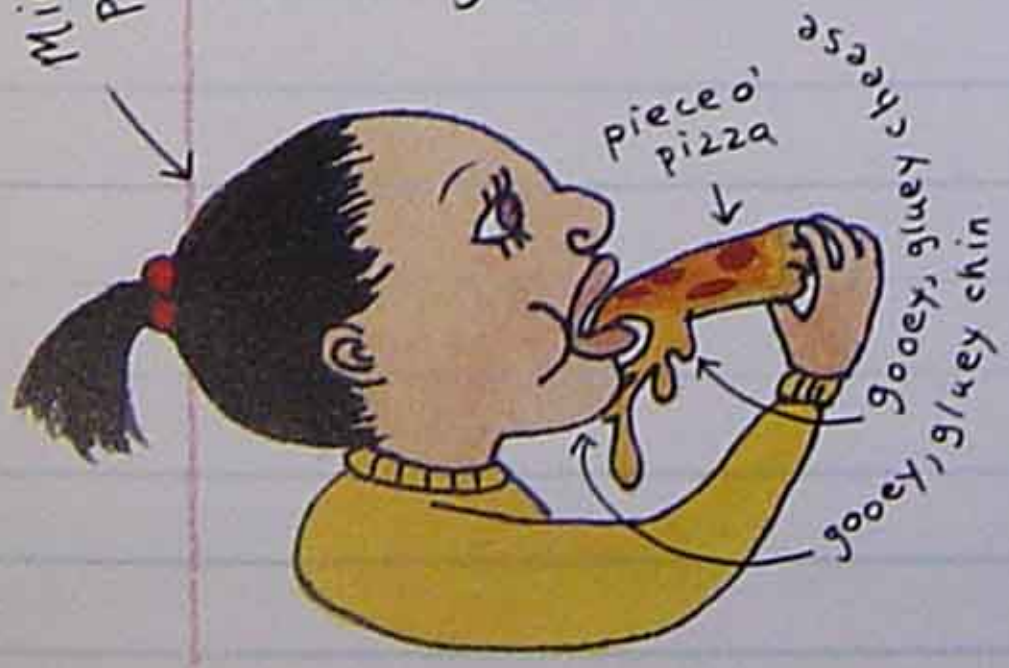
Please print off and read at your leisure.

10 10 10 10 10 10

This is my beautiful, new, BLANK notebook, waiting for me to fill it with words and drawings. But I feel as blank and empty as these pages. I mean, I just turned 10 exciting years old, but I feel exactly the same as when I was 9. And I look the same,



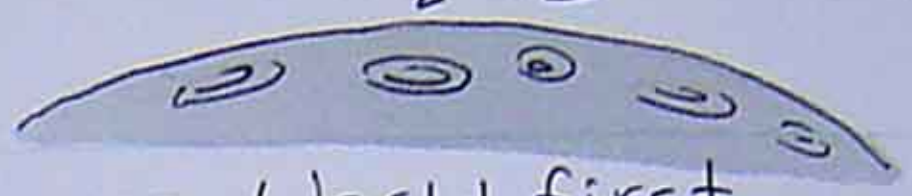
I still had a good birthday, but I expected SOMETHING would change. I thought ten was close to teen — almost a teenager. It's not.



Cleo says no matter how old I am, I'll always be a jerky little sister. And she'll always get to do things first. But she's wrong.



souvenir stamped penny from SpaceWorld



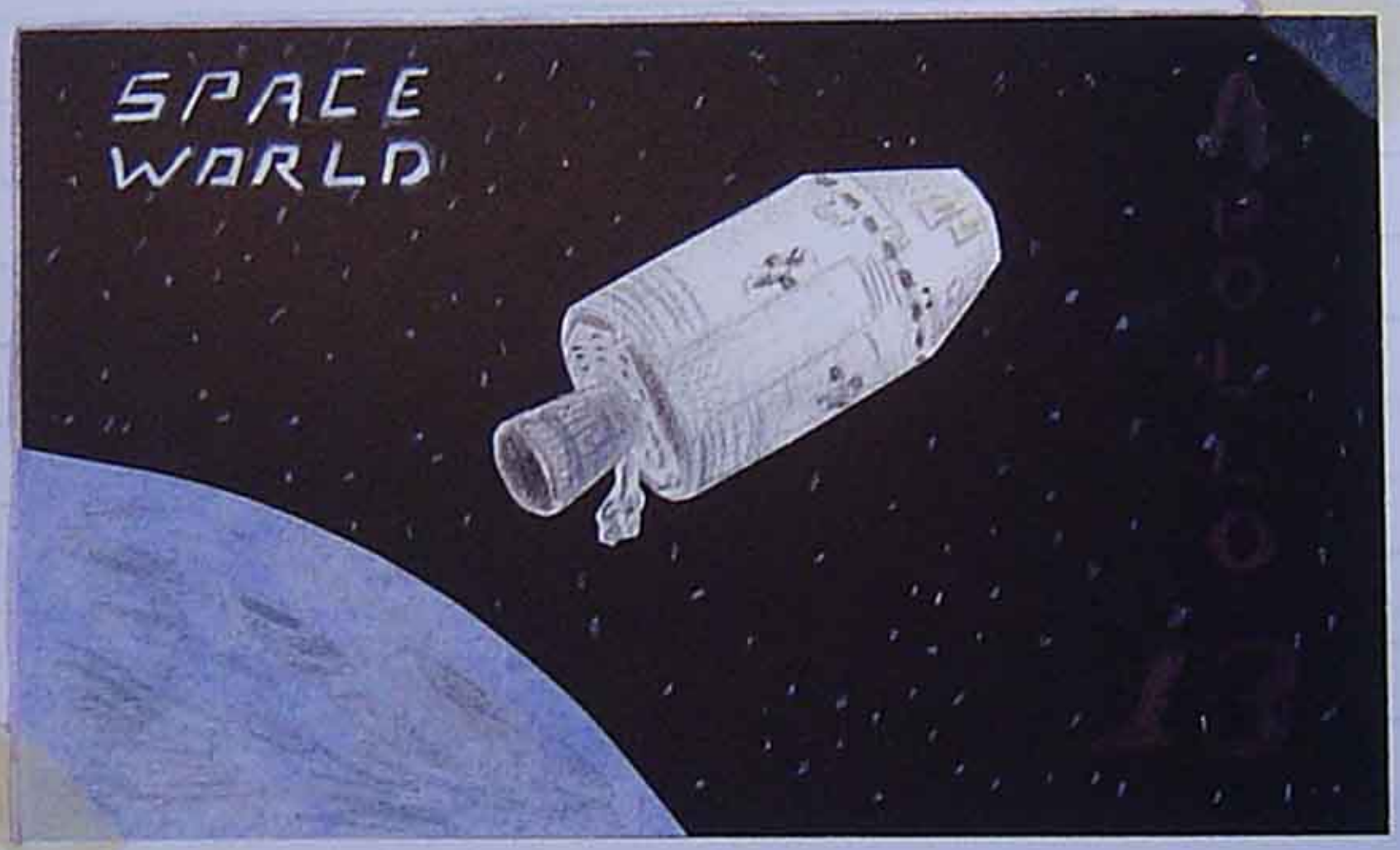
lunar surface - not swiss cheese

I got to go to Space World first, for my birthday. Just me, Mom, and Leah. The best part was the Lunar Landing Ride. When Cleo asked what it was like, I said she'd have to find out for herself, if she ever gets to go.



ticket stub from Space World

postcard from Gift Shop



I bought this postcard just to put in my new notebook. But when I did, Leah asked if she could see what I write in here. I said maybe. She may be my new best friend, but I don't know if I want her to see my private thoughts and drawings. What if she laughs at me or thinks I'm dumb?

One thing is sure, I NEVER want Cleo to see what's in here.

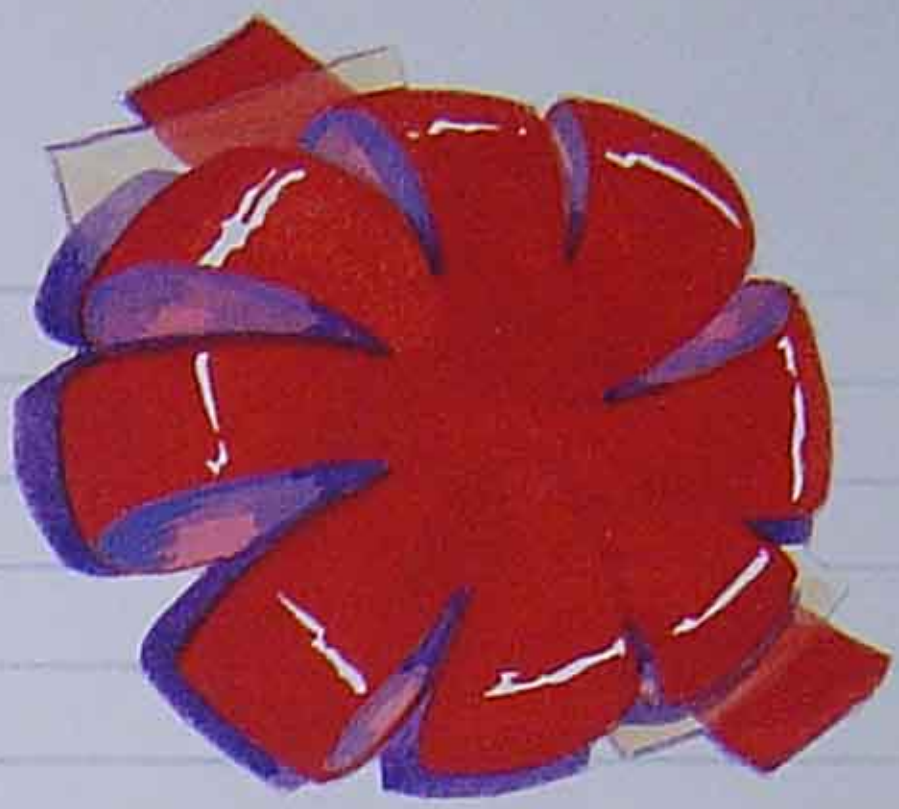
Special sensitized magnetic strip that sets off Cleo-alarm if she touches any part of this notebook



my new paintset

my new brush

Anyway, guess who gave me this notebook for my birthday? Not Nadia. She sent me a beautiful watercolor set with a great brush. Not Leah. She gave me a charm bracelet to match her own. Not even Mom. She gave me a Walkman.



↑ ribbon from Nadia's present - she's still my best friend, even far away, but Leah's my best friend, too, now. Can you have 2 best friends? Isn't one always best-est? I know Nadia better, but Leah's here, which is definitely better, except when she asks to read my notebook

birthday card from Nadia - she drew it herself



← spilled grape juice - NOT! it's purple paint from my new paint set



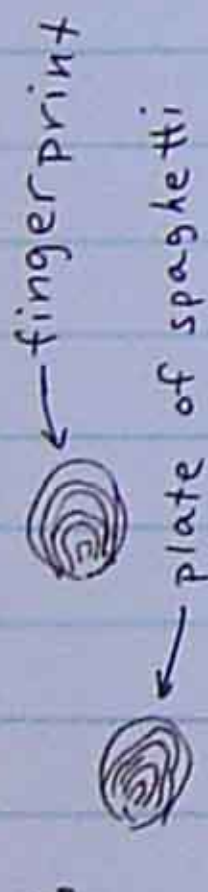
↑ birthday card from Leah

It was Cleo!!! She said now I could write something NICE about her for a change.



She didn't say EVERYTHING I wrote about her had to be nice. Just <u>something</u>.

Here goes: Cleo does have 1 good thing about her — her hands. She has long, elegant fingers and she doesn't chew on her fingernails the way I do.







Some hands have short, stubby fingers. I call them Glove Hands.





Some hands are all bony.