DISASTER DIARIES

THE WORST BIRTHDAY EVER



Daffodil



Madrigal



Mum



Lupin



Grandma



Dad



Colin



Uncle Malcolm



Aunt Rex



Muriel



Hugo



Nirmal



Tonks



Ariel

Books by Joanna Nadin

The Worst Class in the World series

The Worst Class in the World

The Worst Class in the World Gets Worse

The Worst Class in the World Dares You!

The Worst Class in the World Goes Wild!

The Worst Class in the World: Total Mayhem!

The Worst Class in the World: Animal Uproar

Disaster Diaries:
The Worst Birthday Ever

DISASTER DIARIES

JOANNA NADIN

ILLUSTRATED BY RIKIN PAREKH



THE WORST BIRTHDAY EVER

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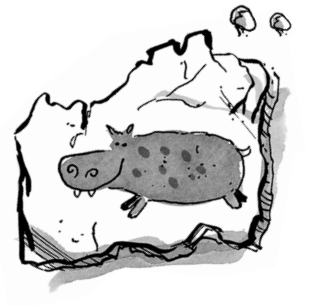
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For Paul, my best BOBBY DAZZLER

– J.N.

For Olive, Tom and Todd, Adani's
WONDERFUL godparents

– R.P.



This diary belongs to:

Daffodil Patterson

Age: 8 (nearly)

Height: 107cm (which Madrigal, i.e. my big sister, who is thirteen and who is mostly protesting about things, says is **UNUSUALLY** short and so I am **SMALL FRY**. But I say she is **UNUSUALLY** annoying)

Hair colour: Brownish

Eye colour: Brownish

Likes:

a) Pangolins (which are STRANGE and ENDANGERED, and look a bit like this):



b) Nirmal-Next-Door (who is my best friend, because we agree about everything except the best flavour of crisp, which he says is Beefy Hoops and I say is Cheesy Frizzles and I am right).

3. The biscuit bit of a custard cream

(but not the middle, but that is OK because Nirmal eats that).



4. BOBBY DAZZLERS, which means brilliant ideas (because Dad says ANYONE can have a BOBBY DAZZLER, i.e. look at Aunt Rex, who once had a BOBBY DAZZLER about photocopiers and now her house is massive and has a fridge with a drinks dispenser and a pedigree cat called Juniper who only eats minced fish. Our house, i.e. 43 Bean Street is SQUISHED and we

do not have ONE pet, although Lupin, who is my big brother, is quite hairy and smells of STALE).

e) Lists.

Dislikes:

a) Wasps (because they look like bees but aren't and Nirmal says they are always UP TO SOMETHING and I agree).

2. Slow worms (because they look like snakes but aren't and Nirmal says they are probably UP TO SOMETHING and I agree).



3. Being the smallest in our house because hardly anyone listens to me and sometimes I am UTTERLY forgotten.



4. Hugo Patterson-Dent (i.e. my cousin, because he is mostly saying things like 'I would not do THAT if I were you, Daffodil Patterson'. And I do THAT and he is right).

e) When BOBBY DAZZLERS go wrong (see 4) and Grandma calls us CATASTROPHE PATTERSONS and does a snort like a broken vacuum cleaner.

Aunt Rex says the going wrong is because of **ALL THE MAYHEM** at 43 Bean Street, and Mum says it is because me and Dad **DO NOT KNOW OUR LIMITS**, but I say I just need a better **BOBBY DAZZLER** and I will probably have one tomorrow.



Saturday

3ish

It is the **FIRST** day of the school holidays, which is normally **AMAZING** because me and Nirmal can **FOOTLE** all we like, which means **BIMBLE**, which means **HAVE FUN** by not doing anything very much. But it is also **FOUR**

days until my birthday and not **ONE** person has even **MENTIONED** it yet. This is because it is **NORMAL SERVICE** at 43 Bean Street, i.e. everyone is ignoring me. Dad is busy being a postman, Mum is busy at Glory Days Care Home with all the old people, Lupin is busy with his band in the **LAIR**, i.e. the shed, Madrigal is busy being **ANNOYING**, and Grandma is busy **MINDING HER OWN BUSINESS**, i.e. reading the newspapers and saying things like 'the world is a terrible place'.

But if we say she is wrong and the world is quite nice (e.g. what about chocolate cake and pangolins?) she says, 'You should be kinder to me, I could be **GONE** tomorrow.' And I do not know where, but she never is.

Nirmal says I should just **ASK** about my birthday, because one of



his mums, i.e. Call-Me-Ariel, says it is important to be **CLEAR ABOUT YOUR NEEDS**. This is because she is a **THERAPIST**, i.e. she mainly has long talks in her office with gloomy-looking people and then they go away looking less gloomy and smelling of candle. I am going to be clear about my needs in the kitchen right now.

4ish

Being clear did not go exactly to plan. When I got into the kitchen Mum

was arguing with Dad about when he was going to fix the **LAIR** (which she says is about to collapse and which he says has a 'good life ahead of it yet') and Lupin was staring into the fridge because he is always hungry, and Madrigal was yelling at Lupin for wasting electricity because he is **LITERALLY** killing polar bears every time he can't decide whether he wants cheese or hummus.

I did a cough and said, 'For

my birthday on Wednesday …'

But not **ONE** person even noticed me. So I said it louder and **STILL** not **ONE** person even noticed me. So I stood on a chair and said it **REALLY LOUD** and that is when it went wrong, i.e. Mum said, 'What birthday?' and Dad said, 'Ooops!' and Madrigal said, '**LITERALLY** dying!' but that was to Lupin again.

I said, '**I CANNOT** believe not **ONE** of you has remembered it is my birthday,' because that was being very **CLEAR**. And also, 'I bet



Aunt Rex has not forgotten it is Hugo's birthday tomorrow.'

And then it became **CLEAR** that they had all forgotten it was Hugo's (i.e. my cousin's) birthday too and Mum said she did not have time to get a present because of a crisis at Glory Days with Mavis Battenburg, so Dad said **HE** would get something.

Mum said, 'Do not spend a packet, Marv.'

So Grandma did one of her faces and said, 'You should have been



more like your brother.' Because Dad's brother is Uncle Malcolm, who is married to Aunt Rex, who is a **PHOTOCOPIER MAGNATE** (which is like a king only better) and has vans with her name on and also the fridge with the drinks dispenser.

Only Dad said, 'Quite happy being me, Ma, and **WHO IS TO SAY**

I won't make my fortune next week?'

Grandma looked like she was about to say it, only Dad said he was going to see Disco Dave, who is another postman (and also Chipping Grimley Ultimate Frisbee Champion), and who has a garage full of **BARGAINS** and he is often selling them to Dad, e.g.

1. Four dozen tins of baked beans.
2. A Cats of the World calendar with only November missing.
c) A soup machine.

I asked if I could come, because I quite like it at Disco Dave's house because of all the **BARGAINS** and also because he teaches me Frisbee tricks and no one tells me off if I, e.g. knock over a vase or get the Frisbee caught on top of a wardrobe, but Mum said no I could not, it was bad enough that Dad was going. And then Lupin moaned that he was only staring into the fridge because Madrigal and Luna (i.e. her best friend, who only wears black and looks a bit like a bat)

have eaten all the custard creams, so I have decided to go to Nirmal's, because he is an **ONLY** child and so his house is full of **PEACE**, and also biscuits.

6ish

Dad is always telling me to look on the **BRIGHT** side of things because there is always something to be happy about. So, on the **BRIGHT** side, Me and Nirmal have written a birthday present list and it is a **BOBBY DAZZLER**:

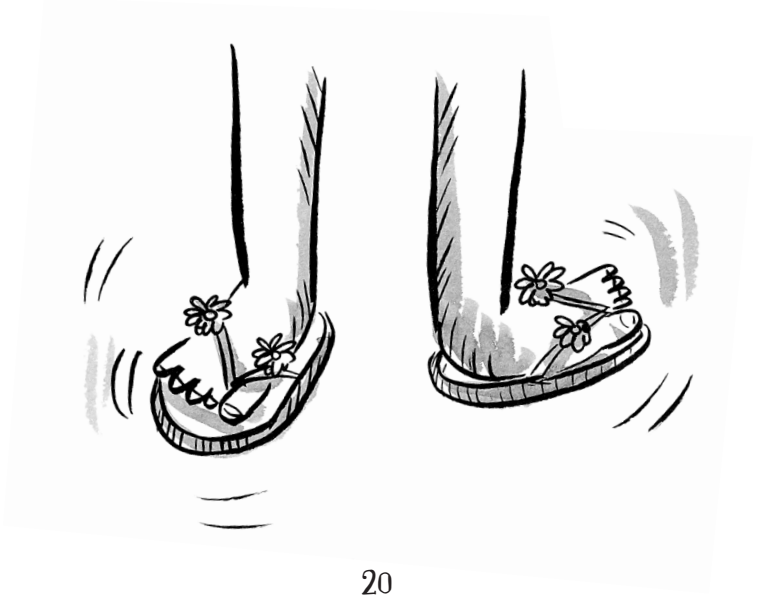
a) A pet (any kind, but preferably a pangolin, a pigeon or a raven who can talk).

2. Rocket boots.

c) A World of Wizard helmet of invisibility.

On the **GLOOM** side, Mum says I cannot have a pangolin because they are **STRANGE** and also **ENDANGERED**, or a pigeon because they do not know what is a toilet and what isn't, or a raven who can talk because it is too noisy

round here already. Also I cannot have rocket boots because they are not real, but I can have some new flip-flops as long as I do not do what I did last time and flip-flop them up and down the kitchen for five hours because I like the sound. I said I would try.



Then Nirmal said, 'What about the **PET SITUATION**, Mrs Patterson?'



And Mum did a sigh and said, 'I will **THINK** about it.'

Nirmal said this is a **GOOD SIGN** and probably I will get a hamster or a chinchilla or some sea monkeys, because he is **VERY KEEN** on sea monkeys.

I do not know where I would keep a sea monkey because the bath is **OUT OF ACTION** until Dad fixes the plug (which he says will be 'very shortly' and Mum says it had better be) so it is **SHOWERS ONLY**, but I wouldn't mind a hamster.



Sunday

10ish

Today is Hugo Patterson-Dent's birthday party and so I am **FULL OF GLOOM** because:

1. Nirmal is not invited because it is FAMILY and MATRAVERS SCHOOL only, and Nirmal goes to my school,