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Opening extract from

Doughnuts, Dreams and Drama Queens

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Published by

Usborne Children's Books

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Two Days Before What Will Definitely Be The Most Fabulous Experience Of My Life!

Friday.

Dear new Diary, which Mummy sent me all the way from America...

Howdy! Welcome to Clotborough, UK.

You must be so excited to be abroad, dear Diary. And maybe a bit scared, too, because of being in a strange country, where tomato is not said "tomato", but "tomato". Oh, that doesn't really work when you write it down. I mean, I say "tomato", you say "to-may-toe". Only you don't, since you are a diary and can't talk.



Anyway! Don't be scared, dear Diary – I will look after you. And so will my dad, Bill, and my best friend, Keisha, and her mum, Bev. Just think of us all as your new, happy family! Yay!

But who am I, you may be wondering? Well, it is no ordinary hand that writes in you. I am the famous Diary-Writer, and Almost-Film-Star, Bathsheba Clarice de Trop. Ta-dah!

Actually to be totally completely honest, I am not very famous yet. In fact, I am not famous at all yet. But! That is all going to change, because the day after tomorrow I am going somewhere very special and exciting.

Guess where I'm going! I'll give you a clue – it's a place where dreams are made and stars are born and fame is just a photograph away (tra la!).

No, not Hollywood. Although that's where Mummy is right now, and where the film *Bathsheba Superstar*, which is sort of about

me, is being made. Actually it is more about the not-real Bathsheba, who is the magnificent heroine of all the books that Mummy writes. What I mean is, although that Bathsheba is named after me, the film is really entirely about her and actually not about me at all. Sigh.

Maybe I should tell you a bit about me, DD (aka Dear Diary), since you're new. Well, I myself am just ordinary. But my mother is a super-successful writer of children's books! Yes, that's right. She writes the BATHSHEBA series. These – as you probably know if you have ever been anywhere near a bookshop – are all about a character, as I said, with the same name as me: Bathsheba Clarice de Trop. But the fictional Bathsheba is not ordinary at all. She is Highly Glam, and head of everything in her super-posh school, and she is always having sophisticated sleepovers with her royal best friends, or else saving the world, if it's daytime.

Last year, a Hollywood film company decided to make a film of Mummy's books. It is called BATHSHEBA SUPERSTAR! I did think that they might let me play Bathsheba – since my Destiny is to be a famous Film Star – but they gave the part to a horrible show-offy actress called Avocado Dieppe instead.

Because of the film, Mummy went to live in Hollywood for a year, to Network. I was going to go with her, but then…well, everything changed. I wrote about it in the first diary I ever had, which I actually called *Chips, Beans and Limousines*, but basically my Long-Lost Dad turned up, and I ended up going to live with him instead. He was Long-Lost for six years, and I only really got to know him properly this year, so sometimes I call him Bill, which is his first name, instead of Dad. But I love him the same whatever I call him!

Oh, and Bill and Mummy aren't together. Which is a very good thing really since they

would be sure to split up instantly if they were together, because they are TOTALLY different people. They are actually so different that I sometimes wonder how they managed to have me in the first place!

Anyway. Where was I?

Oh yes!

THE MOST FABULOUS EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE!!

SQUEEEEEE!!!!!

So, it's not Hollywood. But it's the next best place to Hollywood.

No, not Bollywood either! Give up guessing? Okay, I'll tell you.

Dear Diary, you and me are on our way to DRAMARAMA CAMP!!!

Dramarama ta-dah tra-la-la camp!!!

Yes yes yes yes yes yes yes!

Oh, hang on, maybe you don't know what that is, because you have only just arrived from Over The Pond (which means the

Atlantic Ocean, which is quite a big pond with whales in it). Luckily, I know the brochure off by heart, because I've read it so many times. This is what it says:

Dramarama camp is a prestigious (that means "important", dear Diary) holiday academy for aspiring actors and actresses aged between 11 and 16. The children taking part in Dramarama camp come from all over the world for two weeks of hard work, fun and new experiences. As a grand finale they stage an evening show, directed by the Dramarama Director.

The camp is split into two phases.

Week One: intensive drama training from Britain's best performers, supported by young and enthusiastic drama students (the Dramarama Assistants). Working on a theme

chosen by the Dramarama Director, the students learn new skills and gain confidence as performers.

Week Two: the public get to see what goes on at Dramarama camp, as TV cameras for the hit reality show, *Dramarama Diaries*, arrive, together with a mystery guest star. (Squeeee!) The mystery guest star is from the world of showbusiness and helps the students prepare for their final show, which will be staged in the camp theatre. *Dramarama Diaries* has launched the careers of many young stars of stage and screen. (Eek! That could be me, this year, dear Diary!)

A typical day at Dramarama camp starts with breakfast at 8 a.m., before the children go on to activities from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., with a mid-morning break and snack. At 1 p.m. there is lunch, followed by activities from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m., again with a mid-afternoon break

and snack. The children have a chance to relax for an hour before dinner at 6 p.m. This may be followed by meetings to organize the final performance, or the children may choose to relax, or work on preparing for the final performance. Bedtime – with lights strictly out! – is at 9 p.m. for younger children, 10 p.m. for older ones.

The second week of camp, when the *Dramarama Diaries* cameras and the mystery guest star are present, is usually geared towards rehearsals for the all-important final performance. This traditionally takes place on the last Saturday evening. Parents are very welcome to attend, and may take their children home after the performance or on Sunday as convenient.

On the front of the brochure is a big picture of Thespia Hall, which is the castle where Dramarama camp happens. Well, it's not really a castle – it's a big old house, but made to look like a castle. Right behind it is a new building with curved walls, which is the theatre. Ooh, dear Diary, I am so EXCITED I can hardly sit still! I can't believe I'm really going to spend two whole weeks there!

Bill keeps telling me to just relax and enjoy myself, but dear Diary, this is my Big Chance! If I'm good, then *Dramarama Diaries* will show me on television, and I might even get talent-spotted! How can anyone relax when they know their entire future depends on the next two weeks?!

And do you know what the most brilliciously excellent part of all is? I'm not going on my own! And not even just with you, dear Diary – though of course you are very important too. No, my best friend is coming with me! Keisha!