

Just Outside the Window

Dear Diary

Ms Williams, my teacher, says that all of us have to write in a diary every day. She says that we will turn the diaries into her at the end of the month, but that we can have them back after.

Dear Diary

Piper did not come to school today. I wonder why? I thought you had to go to school. Maybe she caught the flu. I had the flu last month and it was horrible.

Dear Diary

There were hardly any kids at school today, but luckily Mia was still there. During lunch I invited her to come over after school. I hope mom won't be too mad. Last week me and Mia watched a Bratz movie at Mia's house and mom got super mad. She said it was inappropriate. I liked that movie because it was about saving an animal shelter and I love animals.

Dear Diary

I am MAD at mom! Mia never came over last night and it is all Moms fault. I saw her talking on the phone. I don't know who she was talking with for sure, but I bet she was telling Mia's Mom that Mia could not come over.

Dear Diary

Mom says I can't go to school anymore - she says it's not safe. It's okay though, there are hardly any kids there. There used to be a ton of kids. I don't know where they all went.

Dear Diary

My favorite book is The One and Only Ivan. It is about a gorilla. Did you know gorillas are my favorite animal? Even though I have already read the book, I wanted to listen to it on audio book with Mom. But Mom made us turn it off because she said it was too violent. I don't think it is too violent. If it was, Ms Williams would not have had us read it for school.

Dear Diary

Mom and Dad say that I am not allowed to leave the house under any circumstances. I don't know why, they always let me leave the house before. Plus I am a big kid, I am 10. I am mad at them. I guess at this diary gives me something to do at least. My house is so boring.

Dear Diary

Today I looked out the window and saw a scary looking person. Their face was all covered in blood and they were missing an arm. Mom screamed at me to go hide in my room. Then I heard her telling dad to board up the windows because more were coming. I am scared.

Dear Diary

I didn't sleep well. I had nightmares about the scary guy. Dad says the scary looking people are sick, and that they are very, very dangerous. If they're sick, shouldn't they be in the hospital? I am mad at mom and dad. They won't tell me why the sick people are dangerous. I miss my bff Mia. Mia and me would always play dolls. Her birthday is a week after mine so we always got to have our birthdays together.

Dear Diary

Mom and Dad won't stop fighting. Mom thinks we need to leave our house and try to drive somewhere safer. Dad says we are safe here. Mom says we are running out of food and that more and more of them are showing up outside. She says pretty soon we will be trapped in here. Dad says that soon the army will come and save us. Mom and Dad only fight at night when they think I can't hear them.

Dear Diary

Today I peaked through the slats between the boards on the windows. There was a whole lot of scary looking people out there, but I think I saw Mia. She looked hurt and I have to help her. When I told Mom and Dad, they said it was too late and that she was sick. I am very sad, and am still deciding whether I should help her. I don't understand adults, they always tell you that you should help people, but then when you want to they say no.

Dear Diary

Today Mom told me that if the sick people bite you, you will become one of them, and that's what happened to Mia. She says that's why Mia's arm looks like that.

Dear Diary

It is very hot in my house and sometimes the air feels heavy. I asked Dad to turn on the Ac, but he said we don't have Ac anymore. That confused me because we have always had Ac.

Dear Diary

Mom says we are going to have to leave and Dad agreed. I do not want to leave without Mia.

They say they have to make a plan, and that we will leave in a few days. They told me to pack my backpack with my most comfortable and practical clothes. I asked if I could bring my rock collection, but they said no. They said I can bring one smallish rock. I will bring my agate.

Dear Diary

Mom says that she is going to carry me, and dad will carry his gun, and that we will all run together into the car. She says that when she carries me I must close my eyes. But if she says run, she will put me down on the ground, and that I must run to the car. She says she will be running along side me and will unlock the car. She told me that I must stay away from the sick people and that dad will handle them.

If the sick people are so dangerous why are we leaving the house?

Dear Diary

This will be a long entry because I am all packed and have nothing else to do. Dad told me that we are going to leave tomorrow morning which means I have to let Mia in tonight. My plan is to stay up late and when Mom and Dad are sleeping I will let Mia in. Maybe we can bring her to the hospital in the morning.

Mom says she kept a diary when she was my age, but she hardly ever wrote in it. The only reason I write in mine so much is because there are no other kids here and I am bored. I can't wait to see Mia! I looked through the space between the boards, and I think I see her Mom out there as well. I will have to let them both in. I will unlock and open the door and then yell for them to come in. Mom and Dad are finally asleep. I am going to let Mia in. I guess this means I won't be writing as much cause I will have someone to play with.

I was trying to keep Kate safe and preserve her childhood. I'm sure if anyone is reading this, you know what happened. We woke up to her screams. She had let them in. Mike tried to shoot them off of her, but it was too late. The bodies of those things are strewn in a pile in front of the door. One of them is on top of the birthday gift we were going to give to Mia, its blood and brains staining the pink paper a grisly color. Kate must have grabbed the gift before opening the door. I told her that she could unwrap the present and play with it, as we weren't going to be seeing Mia, but she insisted on saving it. Kate is, or rather was such a thoughtful child.

Why didn't I drill it into her head that the thing outside wasn't Mia anymore? Why didn't I tell her that those things wanted to eat and infect us? I guess deep down I know why - I was trying to protect her from reality.

Our house is surrounded and we are out of bullets and I guess you know how this ends for all of us now. In the end, no matter what you tell your kids, reality will always be there just outside the window.