

# Marty's Diary

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# Marty's Diary

**June 12th**

My dad remarried yesterday. He married Linda Fleming. She says she's pleased to have gained not just a husband, but a daughter too. But I know she's lying. She never talks to me if she can help it.

And she's always hanging around and never giving me and Dad time on our own. Linda's never been married before and she doesn't seem to have many friends except for her younger sister, Paula, who lives in Leeds. She's always writing her letters. How Jane Austen is that? Nobody writes letters in this day and age. She's even had headed paper printed. *From The Desk of Linda Richmond.*

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I think she's been presumptuous. I mean, she arranged that before they were even married.

They got married in the registry office on Ridgeway Street and it was a pathetic ceremony. Not like the photos of Mum and Dad at their first wedding. This time there was nobody extra except us and Auntie Wedgie, my dad's sister, and Uncle Bill, her husband. She's not really called Wedgie, but everybody calls her that. She's okay, is Auntie Wedgie. I don't think she likes Linda either.

Just before we went off to the registry office, Linda asked me if I wanted to borrow some of her eyeshadow. She's always trying to pretend we're best mates and that, but I said no. I don't want to borrow her poxy eyeshadow, and besides it was a horrible colour.

When Mum got married she had pink roses, and there were some pink roses in the registry office yesterday. My throat felt prickly when I saw them because I thought of

Mum. But anyway, Mum probably wouldn't care because she's happy living in South Africa with her new husband, Vusi. They've got a baby now and he's nearly six months old. It seems funny to have a little step-brother who's a baby. His name's Thabo. But I'm cool about Mum being there.

Then we went to have a reception at the Happy Duck, and Linda raised her eyebrows when Dad gave me a lager because she said 16 was too young to be drinking. Honestly, I think she lives in the dark ages sometimes. The reception was OK I suppose, but Linda needn't think me and her are going to be best friends or anything. Dad looked a bit stupid if you ask me, the way he was smooching around Linda all the time.

### **June 20th**

I was doing my project work today for Miss Hammond when Linda came in and asked me what it was about. It's really boring and I don't think she would understand it, so I said I could manage. Then she said she would do my colours with Colour Me Beautiful.

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I want to find out if I am a winter or spring or whatever, but I said no. I bet Linda's a spring. My mum's a summer for sure. She always wears pale blue and pink and that, and she looks great. Linda's not bad-looking, but she wears really old-fashioned gear sometimes. That fits in with her letter-writing thing, I suppose.

*From The Desk of Linda Richmond*

*June 22nd*

*Dear Paula*

*Well, we've taken the plunge and tied the knot. It was very low key which is what Kevin wanted, but Marty was a bit sullen. She's quite polite, but I get the sense she doesn't like me a lot. I've taken your advice and am trying to make friends with her, but she makes it hard. Sometimes I look at her watching me and she almost seems to hate me. I knew it would be difficult to be a stepmother, but I didn't realise it would be this hard.*

*And Kevin makes such a fuss of her, you'd think she was two years old. I suppose she is his little princess and has a special place in his heart, but it always seems as if he puts her needs first.*

*All the best*

*Linda*

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*From The Desk of Linda Richmond*

*June 24th*

*Dear Paula*

*There's been an email from Kevin's ex in South Africa. She wants Marty to go and visit her later in the year. I think it's a good idea, but I know if I make too much noise about it they'll think I want to get rid of her. That sounds a bit childish, doesn't it? But a bit of me would find it easier if she wasn't around. Kevin doesn't seem to understand I want some time with him alone as well. Anyway, we'll just keep on going and see what happens.*

*All the best*

*Linda*



*From The Desk of Linda Richmond*

*June 28th*

*Dear Paula*

*I am really struggling with this girl. I suspect that beneath the sullen attitude there is probably quite a nice girl trying to get out, but at the moment she's so far under the surface it's impossible to reach her. I tried everything, even offering her a chance to do Colour Me Beautiful with me to see what her colours were, but she turns me down flat each time. It's a bit discouraging.*

*Actually, I think I'm also over-sensitive. Between you and me, I sometimes feel quite embarrassed about behaving like such a child. She's supposed to be the teenager not me, but she winds me up so much. And I do resent the way Kevin treats her as if she's a fragile piece of china. Everything that she wants and needs comes first. I think the problem is that I'm not really used to kids anyway, especially rebellious teenagers. I'll just have to keep on trying my best, but I*

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*really wish I had a bit more quality time with my new husband without Marty being boot-faced around the place all the time. Some honeymoon eh?*

*All the best*

*Linda*