

A hand-drawn title card is centered on a brown background. The card is white with black and red ink. At the top, 'THE' is written in black capital letters. Below it, 'ADRIAN MOLE' is written in large black capital letters. Underneath that, 'DIARY' is written in black capital letters. At the bottom, '1986' is written in large red capital letters.

THE  
ADRIAN MOLE  
DIARY  
1986





THE  
ADRIAN MOLE  
DIARY  
1986

TWO-CAN DESIGN

First published in 1985 by  
Two-Can Design Ltd  
71 Fanshaw Street  
London N1  
01-729 4000

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Text compiled from articles previously published in  
'Women's Realm' magazine and 'Airport' magazine.

Drawings Copyright © 1985 Caroline Holden

Edited by Claudia Zeff

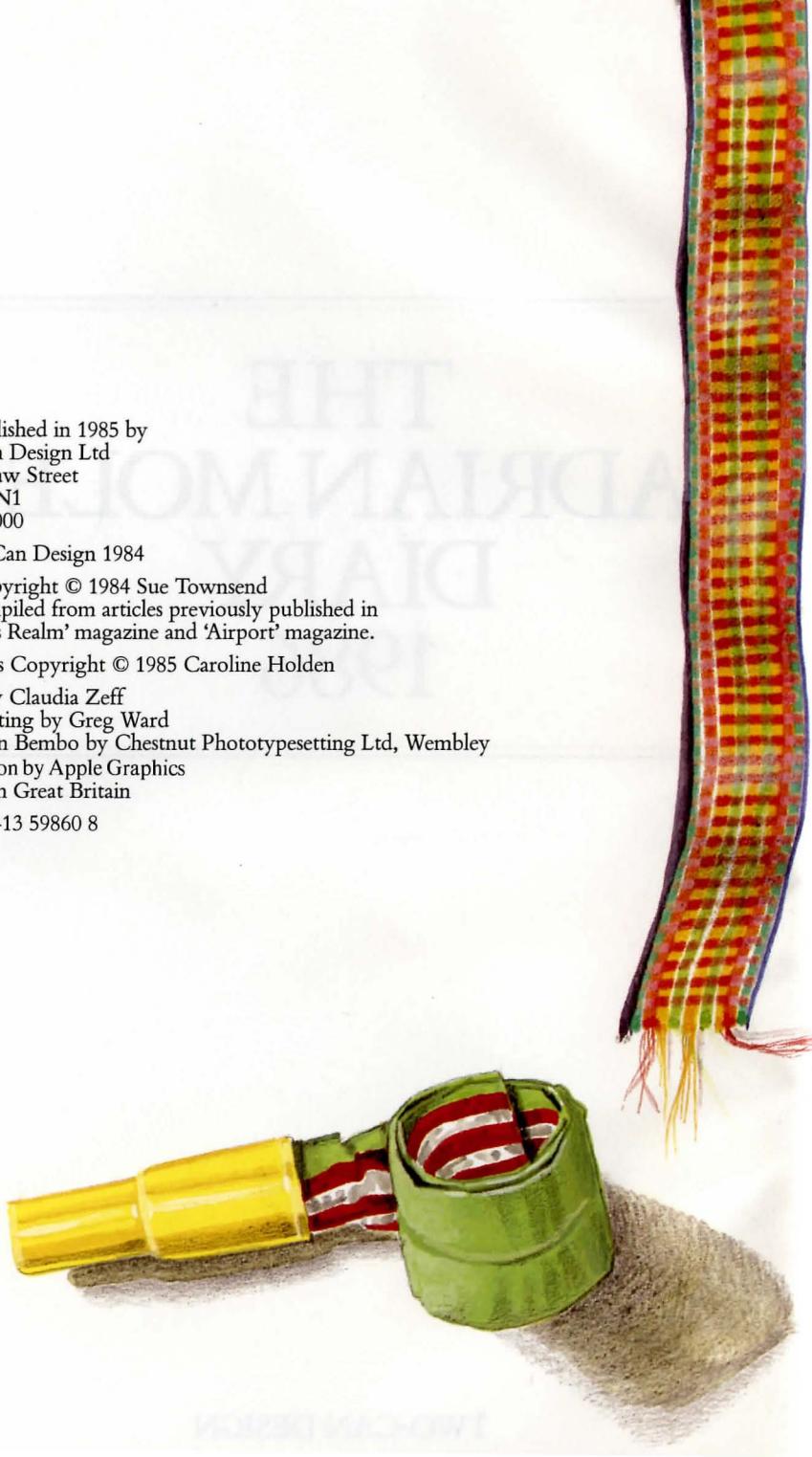
Handwriting by Greg Ward

Typeset in Bembo by Chestnut Phototypesetting Ltd, Wembley

Origination by Apple Graphics

Printed in Great Britain

ISBN 0 413 59860 8



THIS BOOK  
BELONGS TO  
**Adrian Mole**

# JANUARY

Thursday 2

Friday 3

When I got up this morning I vowed to do something out of the ordinary. I started my unusual life by washing behind my ears. Then I parted my hair in a different way. My parents didn't notice. They were too busy bickering over the electricity bill even to give me a second look.

Saturday 4

Sunday 5

Instead of calling for Pandora like I usually do. I went for a walk along the canal bank. I spent a most enjoyable hour there throwing stones at an old pram that a litter lout had thrown into the water.

## RESOLUTIONS

- ① I will try not to use so many exclamation marks.
- ② I will stop telling my mother that her hair is going grey.
- ③ I will stop telling my father that his hair is falling out.
- ④ I will be kind to people, animals and insects.
- ⑤ I will stop looking in the mirror 500 times a day.
- ⑥ I will forbid Pandora to smoke her stinking fags in my bedroom.
- ⑦ I will be dead rich and dead famous before I am 25
- ⑧ I will cut down on my drinking ( $\frac{1}{2}$  lager a week)
- ⑨ I will stop talking about the Norwegian Leather Industry.
- ⑩ I will never vote Conservative.

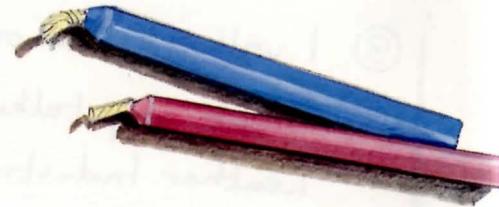
# JANUARY

Monday 6

EPIPHANY

Tuesday 7

Wednesday 8



Thursday 9

Mr and Mrs Singh have invited me and Pandora to their daughter's wedding. It is a Sikh wedding so I asked Mr Singh if I would be expected to wear a turban.

# JANUARY

Friday 10



Saturday 11

English weddings are dead boring compared to Sikh ones. We all had a brilliant time; nobody told us to be quiet or minded that we couldn't sing the hymns.

Sunday 12

Stayed in bed all day recovering from the wedding. Mr Singh and his relations are still celebrating. I don't know how they do it.

# JANUARY

## Monday 13

I have had a note from Mrs Singh's daughter. 'Thank you very much for your present. I have always wanted a wooden ash tray.' What cheek! It took me all of ten weeks of woodwork lessons to carve that bread board!

## Tuesday 14

My mother has been comforting Mrs Singh. She is dead upset at losing her daughter. Apparently after we all left the reception a row broke out between the two families. So it has been an English wedding after all.

## Wednesday 15

## Thursday 16

# JANUARY

## Friday 17

Pandora has been elected Form Captain. We had a secret ballot. There are 29 in our form. She got 28 votes and I got one. I voted for myself. I hope she doesn't find out.

## Saturday 18

## Sunday 19



# JANUARY

## Monday 20

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY (USA)

Felt sad.

## Tuesday 21

I'm getting dead worried about my GCE work. I am sure to fail my exams. My problem is I am too intellectual. I am always thinking things like: is there a God? And: where do flies go in the winter?

## Wednesday 22

Pandora is dead lucky: her brain is straight-forward so she can remember the names of all Henry VIII's wives. In order!

## Thursday 23

# JANUARY

## Friday 24

I keep telling my mother that our dog's behaviour is abnormal and I am always asking her to take it for special Barbara Woodhouse training but she refuses. I know why. It is because she is scared of being told off by Barbara Woodhouse. My mother spoilt the dog rotten when it was a pup, and now the whole family is suffering because of it.

## Saturday 25

## Sunday 26

I did body-building exercises for most of the day. I measured my muscles this evening, but there was no improvement.



# JANUARY

Monday 27

Tuesday 28

Pandora has reassured me that she likes skinny boys. She says that they have a greater depth, but it's not depth I'm worried about, it's width.

Wednesday 29

ADRIAN MOLE  
loves  
Pandora

# JANUARY

Thursday 30

We have got a dead good new bathroom carpet. It is 100 per cent acrylic shagpile. It is the height of taste and luxury. I feel like Omar Sharif when I am standing on it with my naked feet.

Friday 31

School was good today. My English essay 'Despair' got twenty out of twenty and was read out to the class. Everyone looked dead miserable at the end. Pandora's eyes were full of tears. I think I would like to be a full time writer, it must be a dead cushy job just sitting around writing essays.

Saturday 1

Sunday 2

## FEBRUARY

Monday 3

Barry Kent has been back at school all day now and we all thought he'd never come back. I think he's been here all day because you know it's not normal for

Tuesday 4

Barry Kent has been here all day now and we all thought he'd never come back. I think he's been here all day because you know it's not normal for

Wednesday 5

Barry Kent has been here all day now and we all thought he'd never come back. I think he's been here all day because you know it's not normal for

Thursday 6

Barry Kent has been suspended from school for writing on the toilet walls. He wrote: 'Why is there never any toilet paper in here?'

## FEBRUARY

Friday 7

Some more graffiti appeared on the toilet walls today. It said: 'Barry Kent is innocent.' It was written very nicely in blue felt tip pen during morning break. I know because I wrote it!

~~Barry Kent  
is inner~~

~~Barry Kent is  
is inners~~

Barry Kent  
is innocent

Saturday 8

Saw Barry Kent and his gang messing about outside the Chinese chip shop. Barry made an inarticulate speech about how I would make a good member of his gang. I tried to decline gracefully, but Barry Kent isn't the sort of boy you can say no to.

Sunday 9

A sleepless night worrying about Barry Kent's invitation. I have sent Barry Kent the following note. 'Dear Baz. Thanks for the honour of being invited to join your gang, but I must graciously decline. I cannot spare the time from my studies. Yours respectfully, 'Brains' Mole.'

## FEBRUARY

### Monday 10

I have wiped my graffiti off the toilet walls.

### Tuesday 11

SHROVE TUESDAY

Ate 19 pancakes. Only stopped because I ran out of lemons.



### Wednesday 12

ASH WEDNESDAY

### Thursday 13

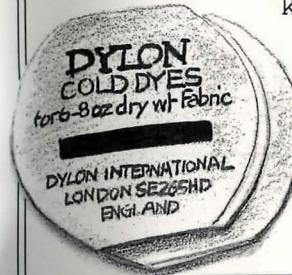
Nigel's parents are going to London for the weekend so Nigel is throwing a party for 50 close friends. All guests must dress in black from head to toe.

## FEBRUARY

### Friday 14

VALENTINE'S DAY

I asked my mother to buy me a pair of black jeans, a black grandad shirt, a black leather tie, a black vest, black underpants and black socks. But she refused. I have never known such a stingey woman.



### Saturday 15

Bought black dye for mixed fibres, put white shirt, burgundy cords, red socks and blue underwear in washing machine. Painted white training shoes with black gloss paint. Went back to washing machine to find everything a yukky grey.

### Sunday 16

The party was dead disappointing; it finished at 9.30 when a woman over the road told the police that black-clothed devil worshippers had broken into Nigel's house.

## FEBRUARY

### Monday 17

Nigel's parents have locked him in the house. He is not allowed out until the black footprints have been removed from the lounge carpet.

### Tuesday 18

### Wednesday 19

Pandora has got three spots on her face! She sent me a note saying that she would be off school until they had cleared up. Poor Pandora, I know how she feels, but if I stayed off school every time a new spot appeared on my face I would never have a mark in the register.

### Thursday 20

I rang Pandora to ask how her spots were. She said tearfully, 'I've got five today.' I tried to cheer her up by saying, 'That's nothing, I've got fifteen!'

## FEBRUARY

### Friday 21

### Saturday 22

I've swallowed a grape pip. Now I could get appendicitis.



### Sunday 23

In bed with stomach ache waiting for my appendix to rupture.

## FEBRUARY

Monday 24

FULL MOON

DOG WENT BARMY

Tuesday 25

This morning my Mother said, 'There is no way I'm going to spend the rest of my life in this dump!' She wants to live in the boring COUNTRY! She wants a wrecked-up cottage. And to keep goats.

Wednesday 26

My mother came back from the library with 'Goatkeeping - An Introduction' and a bird-spotting book. She stayed in the garden till dark staring at birds. Our tea was very late.

Thursday 27

## FEBRUARY

Friday 28

Saturday 1

It is Grandma's birthday today. I bought her a card and a £1 book token. I wanted the dog to sign it so I rubbed the dog's paw with black felt-tipped pen and then pressed its paw inside the card.

Sunday 2

I will be sixteen in one month's time.

# MARCH

Monday 3

Tuesday 25

Tuesday 4

We did "The Skin" today in biology. Mr Brunel the teacher drew a diagram of a big skin pore on the blackboard. It was revolting, full of gooey stuff. At break time nobody felt like eating their crisps.

Wednesday 5

Thursday 27

# MARCH

Thursday 6

Domestic science was brilliant today. We cooked chocolate. (I ate every piece on my way home.)

Friday 7

Saturday 8

Pandora and I had a good talk about life today. We both agreed that on the whole it is better than death so at last we agree on something.

Sunday 9

MOTHERING SUNDAY

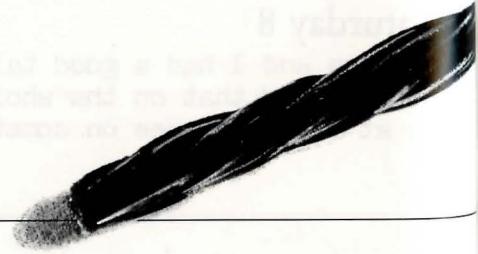
Paid two quid  
for scabby plant

# MARCH

## Monday 10

I walked to boring school. The row and chaos on the bus are too much for my nerves.

## Tuesday 11



## Wednesday 12

For once a smashing day at school. Several new dinner monitors were announced in Assembly and Pandora is one of them. She gave me three helpings of chips, so I know she still loves me.

# MARCH

## Thursday 13

## Friday 14

## Saturday 15

Did my own washing this morning because I'm fed up with wearing pink underpants and vests. My father is in charge of doing the washing but he always puts his red handkerchiefs in with the whites.

## Sunday 16

BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS

Rained All Day

## MARCH

Monday 17

ST PATRICK'S DAY (BANK HOLIDAY IN NORTHERN IRELAND)



Tuesday 18

Tuesday 18

Wednesday 19

Did my chemistry homework on the bus going to school. I think it's disgusting that Britain's roads are in such a state. Potholes and lumps in the road make my handwriting terrible.

Thursday 20

## MARCH

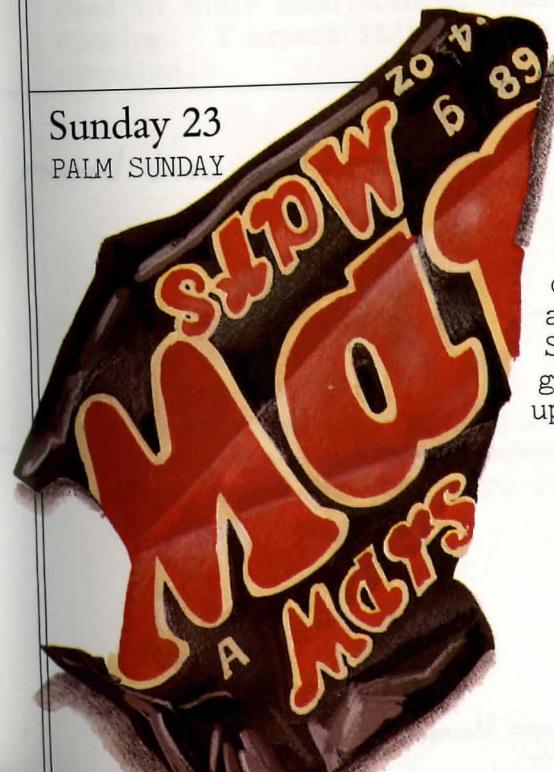
Friday 21

Saturday 22

Went to see 'E T' for the seventh time. As usual Pandora cried on the bus going home but I waited until I got into my bedroom.

Sunday 23

PALM SUNDAY



My mother has gone out for the day with her women's group. My father and me had tomato soup for Sunday dinner and a Mars bar and tin of beans for Sunday tea. It was dead good. Hardly any washing up!

# MARCH

## Monday 24

During geography I looked out of the window and saw what I thought was a condor flying over the school playground. However, Mr Baldrey, the geography teacher, said it was more likely to be a crow. Just my luck.

## Tuesday 25

Woke up with a tongue ache. I've never heard of anyone suffering from tongue ache before. Perhaps I will make medical history. My mother advised me not to talk to anyone, especially her. Had day off school. Ha! Ha! Ha!

## Wednesday 26

FULL MOON

Tongue ache a bit better.

Dog went berserk

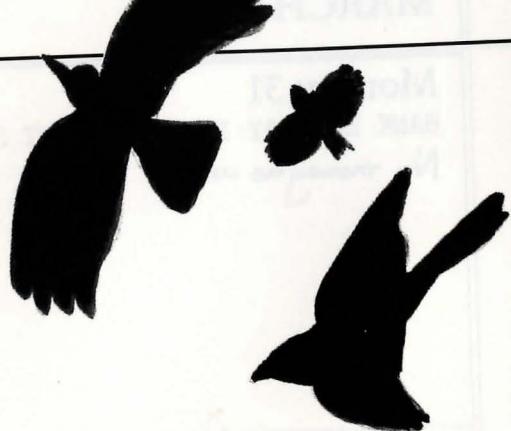
## Thursday 27

Tongue completely better.

# MARCH

## Friday 28

GOOD FRIDAY



## Saturday 29

Tonight I saw a programme on the cruelties of whale hunting. I told my mother she ought to throw all her lipsticks and perfumes away, because parts of whales are used in their manufacture. Must stop now - the phone is ringing. I expect it's Pandora planning our next campaign.

## Sunday 30

EASTER DAY

Had Grandma for tea. (We didn't eat her she just came. Ha! Ha!). The dog stole a bakewell tart. That only left three so guess who had to go without.

got pathetic small egg !!!

## MARCH

Monday 31

BANK HOLIDAY IN UK (EXCEPT SCOTLAND)

No money as usual.

Tuesday 1

ALL FOOL'S DAY

For a joke, told my father he'd won  
the pools. He hit me later.

Wednesday 2

Pandora has bought a pair of pink leather boots with very high heels, thus forcing me to walk on tip-toe. I prefer her to wear track shoes, it's the only time we see eye-to-eye.

Thursday 3

Pandora is beside herself with grief and despair. She caught a heel of her new boots in a grating and pulled it off. Ha! Ha! Ha!

## APRIL

Friday 4



I woke up with a brilliant feeling inside me today. Feeling really inspired, I started to write a poem before I ate my cornflakes.

I didn't finish it because my mum is a Philistine and wanted to clear the breakfast table. I bet William Wordsworth's mother didn't nag him when he was writing his daffodil poem.

Saturday 5

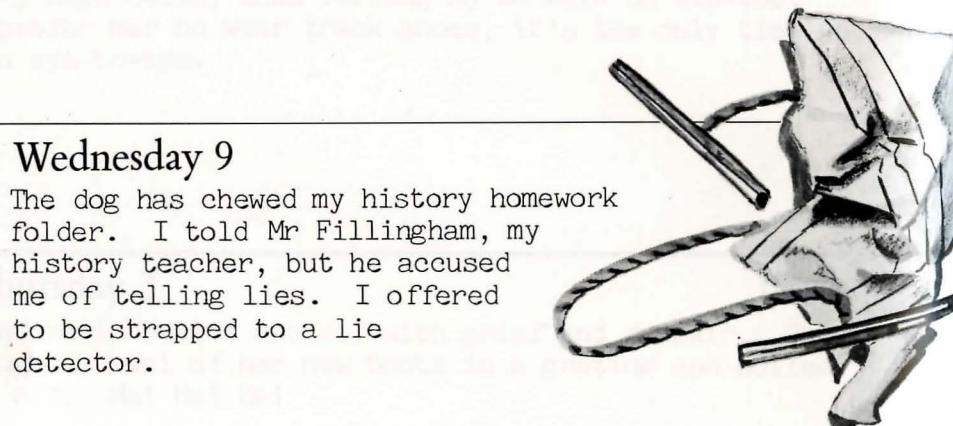
Sunday 6

## APRIL

### Monday 7

Did brilliant history essay. I wrote about the exploitation of child labour in the nineteenth century. Nothing has changed. My parents would send me up a chimney if we had a chimney.

### Tuesday 8



### Wednesday 9

The dog has chewed my history homework folder. I told Mr Fillingham, my history teacher, but he accused me of telling lies. I offered to be strapped to a lie detector.

## APRIL

### Thursday 10

Did history homework again. Locked the dog in the coal shed just to be on the safe side.



### Friday 11

### Saturday 12

Got up and left the house early, so avoided doing my homework. Went for a bike ride and tried to find some countryside but it was behind barbed wire, so I came home and had dinner.

### Sunday 13

## APRIL

### Monday 14

Oh joy!... Oh rapture! At last I have made my mark on the world of literature. My essay entitled 'A day in the life of an Air Stewardess' has won second prize in the inter-comprehensive schools fifth year creative writing competition. My prizes are: A Concorde-shaped bookmark enscribed by Melvyn Bragg and an all expenses trip to Leningrad.



### Tuesday 15

### Wednesday 16

My family has been in a blind panic ever since the telemassage arrived. None of us know how to get hold of a passport.

## APRIL

### Thursday 17

Pandora said I could get a passport from the head office in Peterborough.

### Friday 18

Mrs Braithwaite, Pandora's mother, took me to Peterborough on the back of her motorbike. For a Marriage Guidance Counsellor she certainly knows how to burn the road up.

### Saturday 19

### Sunday 20

## APRIL

Monday 21

My father has been trying to ring the Russian Embassy all day to enquire about a visa. So far he has had no luck. A bloke shouts 'Niet!!' in a growly voice and slams the phone down.

Tuesday 22

I rang Bert Baxter and asked his advice on how to get a visa. Bert said 'Visa?... You're too young to have a credit card ain't you?'

Wednesday 23

ST GEORGE'S DAY

Happy Birthday. Signed - A. Dragon.

Thursday 24

After school I went to the travel agents to enquire about a visa. A fair-haired girl with a heavy cold said I would have to go to London and take my passport and three photographs to the 'Intourist' office. Tonight before bed I made my mother write a note to school.

## APRIL

Friday 25

London!...  
The Celestial  
City!

Dear Mrs Fossington-Lane  
Adrian is unable to  
come to school on  
Monday because he has  
urgent business to  
attend in London.

Saturday 26

Sunday 27

## APRIL

### Monday 28

I felt dead scared when I got off the train at St Pancras. Somehow I had to get to Regent Street with only my father's AA map of London. When I finally got to the Intourist office a cockney girl behind the counter asked me ten questions, only one of which I could answer (Date of Birth). Then she said that my visa would be sent to me automatically. I said that my travel agent had told me otherwise. She said 'You should change your travel agent, sonny'.

### Tuesday 29

I sincerely hope my father has got an AA book for Moscow and Leningrad, for without it I am lost.

### Wednesday 30

### Thursday 1

## MAY

### Friday 2

### Saturday 3

I lay awake for hours last night worrying about Moscow and Leningrad. Would the Russians stare at my pointed head and make mocking remarks in Russian?

### Sunday 4



MAY

Monday 5

BANK HOLIDAY

Tuesday 6

For the past week my sleep has been invaded by nightmares about Russia. In my dreams Mr Gorbachov meets me at Moscow Airport dressed in a bear suit. He is holding a hammer and sickle in his paws.

Wednesday 7

ASCENSION DAY

2 a.m. just woken up to have another worry about the non-appearance of my visa.

4 a.m. woke up again to have another visa worry, so that's one thousand, nine hundred and twenty-three worries today... I can't take much more.

Got up at 6.30 worried about visa. Attended to my toilet. Ironed my third-best trousers and my fourth-best shirt. Thus fortified I sat on the stairs and waited for Courtney Elliot to arrive with the post.

At 7.30 I got bored, so I started to read 'The Guardian'. A headline immediately caught my eye: 'MOLE UNCOVERED IN MOSCOW'.

MAY

Thursday 8

Friday 9      DAY OF DEPARTURE

6.30 got up, checked spots in wardrobe mirror. Got dressed in second-best clothes, checked suitcase, tied labels on, checked medical supplies (junior aspirins in case I get one of my headaches).

7.35 will Courtney Elliot have my visa?

4 p.m. I am writing this on the plane. I couldn't write before because my hands wouldn't stop trembling.

5.45 we have landed.

Saturday 10

Sunday 11

It's brilliant in Russia. They eat cakes for breakfast. However I was amazed that a hotel such as the Cosmos could run out of milk...

4.30 I am going to the hotel dinner dance tonight. Apparently dinner jackets are seen by the Russians as the ultimate Bourgeois symbol. No wonder I was hissed as I drank my Beetroot soup.

## MAY

## Monday 12

Went to Red Square and the Kremlin today. St Basil's Cathedral is a bit over the top in my opinion, it looks as if a lunatic was let loose with a paintbrush.

## Tuesday 13

I went to the Museum of Russian Folk Art today. Saw it. Came back. Went to the Opera at eight...I fell asleep.

## Wednesday 14

## Thursday 15

## LENINGRAD

2:30 p.m. Just got back from a coach tour of Leningrad. It is a brilliant city; statues and monuments and museums and culture galore.

## MAY

## Friday 16

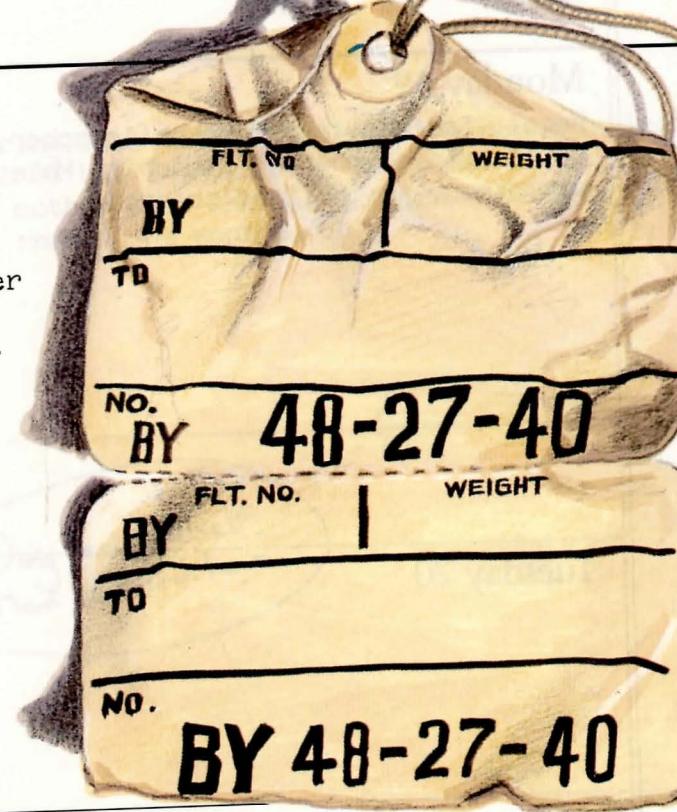
## PUSHKIN

Pushkin is where Catherine The Great ordered thousands of serfs to build her a Summer Palace.

They did a good job.

4:30 p.m. HERMITAGE

Such a surfeit of art and beauty in one day is just too much.



## Saturday 17

We saw groups of Russian people sunbathing against a wall. They had the forethought to put rouble notes over their noses as a guard against sunburned conks.

## Sunday 18

## WHIT SUNDAY

Grabbed two sets of Russian dolls from the souvenir shop in the hotel. They are dead good value, because within the largest doll nest eight more, so I will split them up and give the people at home one each. Ha! Ha! Ha!

MAY

Monday 19

Hegel, Lenin's favourite philosopher, said life proceeds by contradictions and I, Adrian Mole, aged nearly seventeen, am inclined to agree.

Tuesday 20

Wednesday 21

The sight of English consumers feverishly buying goods in the shops has sent me mad with culture shock.

MAY

Thursday 22

Found my mother staring into the mirror counting her wrinkles; she said she has got 18 but I could only see nine. However, I pointed out to my mother that she has got loads of grey hairs, and for some reason she went mad.

Friday 23

FULL MOON

Dog beside itself.  
Mad as march hare.

Saturday 24



Sunday 25

TRINITY SUNDAY

# MAY

Monday 26

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

Tuesday 27



Wednesday 28

I have just watched a programme on TV.  
It was all about the lack of food in the  
Third World. Then there was an advertisement showing  
cream cakes. I went to bed without eating my usual  
digestive biscuits.

# MAY

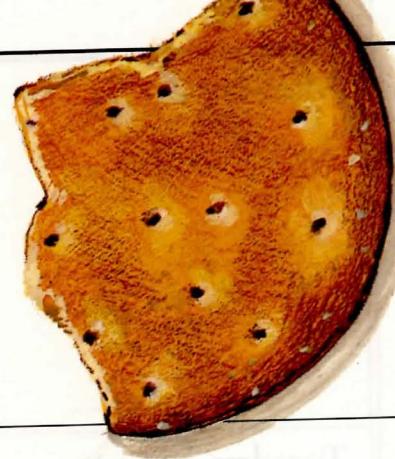
Thursday 29

Friday 30

Saturday 31

Sunday 1

Stayed in bed till 1.30 p.m., so missed breakfast.  
I asked my mother to donate the cost of my breakfast to  
the Oxfam fund, but she refused.



# JUNE

Monday 2



Tuesday 3

Bought my first Mars Bar for five days. It was delicious, and I only felt a bit guilty eating it.

Wednesday 4

Went to the barber's today. I asked for a 'flick-head' (the latest style). Pandora has agreed to go on seeing me but only on condition I wear a hat at all times. Grandma thinks my hair looks dead good. She says it reminds her of the War.

Thursday 5

Brillo pad news! Nigel has copied my hair style. He is the fashion leader at school so at last I can discard my wooly hat. Apparently the style is called 'The Ration Book'.

# JUNE

Friday 6

Saturday 7

Pandora and I went to Marks & Spencer and bought some half- English half-French micro pants. I look dead virile and sexy in them. It's a pity that nobody is going to see them.

Sunday 8



# JUNE

Monday 9



Tuesday 10



Wednesday 11

Thursday 12

I have taken up bird-watching, partly because it is a way of getting some fresh air and partly because I read somewhere that it is good for the nerves.

# JUNE

Friday 13

8 p.m. I saw 89 birds. I don't know what type they were because I haven't got a decent reference book yet. The children's encyclopedia is too big and heavy to lug about all day.

Saturday 14

I found a dead good bird book called 'The Observer's Book of Birds' for £2.50. It just fits into the pocket of my anorak.

Sunday 15

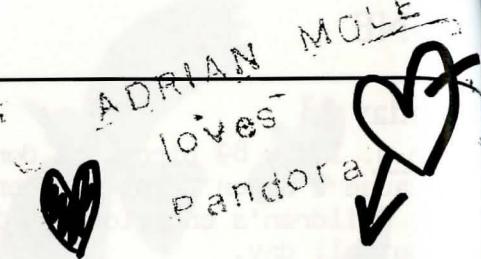
FATHER'S DAY

Bought him - 10 Fags  
1 Box of matches



# JUNE

Monday 16



Tuesday 17

Wednesday 18

I am sick of not getting enough attention. My mother spends all her time fussing over the stupid pot plants. She talks to them in a much kinder voice than she uses to me.

Thursday 19

# JUNE

Friday 20

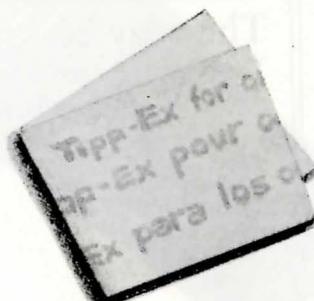
People for miles around have heard about my mother's skills and have started bringing dying plants to her. She has set up a plant recovery room in the corner of the kitchen.

Saturday 21

Pandora allowed me into her room to listen to her Flying Pickets record this afternoon. It was like a jungle in there. Through the greenery I tried to tell her I loved her but she was too busy repotting a Parlour Palm to listen.

Sunday 22

Went to Grandma's for Sunday tea. She gave me loads of attention.



# JUNE

Monday 23

June 23rd I have had time to go to the beach and swim with my friends. We also went to the cinema to see "The Wizard of Oz".

Tuesday 24

I have started a captive collection of plants on my bedroom window sill. It's the only way I know of getting my mother's attention. She spoke to me for half-an-hour tonight.



Wednesday 25

Thursday 26

I am going on a camping trip with the Youth Club tomorrow so I have spent all night washing and ironing.

# JUNE

Friday 27

Up at 5 a.m. to make a packed lunch for the journey. I woke my parents at 5.30 a.m. to ask if there was a jar of crab paste for my sandwiches. Their response was very unhelpful. Why can't they be more like the parents in the cornflake advertisement?

Saturday 28

I am writing this in a muddy desolate field somewhere in Derbyshire. We set up camp last night, but the wind blew it down this morning.



Sunday 29

Nobody except Pandora has spoken to me since last night, but it's not my fault the dog knocked the saucepan of stew over, is it?

## JUNE

### Monday 30

Morale is low. It wasn't my fault it rained and the camp fire went out, but as usual I'm getting the blame.

### Tuesday 1

Only one more day of this ordeal to go. I long for clean sheets and my electric toothbrush.

### Wednesday 2

At last I am back in civilisation. I told my proud parents that I have been trekking over wild countryside and climbing sheer rock faces.

## JULY

### Thursday 3

Got a phone call from a distraught Grandma this morning. She said: 'Come round quickly, Adrian, something terrible has happened to my lovely garden.'

### Friday 4

#### AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Grandma's garden is no more. Talk about a waste land. The gnomes stand amongst dead plants grinning stupidly.

### Saturday 5

The man from the garden centre called round this morning with the results of the soil test. He asked who had watered the garden last. It was a nasty moment for me. I said I had and I confessed to adding fertiliser to the watering can. Grandma said: 'You idiot boy, do you think a fertiliser would be called Killitoff?'

### Sunday 6

JULY

Monday 7



Tuesday 8

Wednesday 9

Thursday 10

I asked Pandora to marry me this morning. We were leaning over the frozen food cabinet at the time.

JULY

Friday 11

Tonight I asked Pandora if she wanted to get engaged to me. Pandora said, 'No, thank you - in fact I'm fed up with going out with you'.

Saturday 12

Pandora asked me not to stand outside her house and stare up at her window after dark. She said it gave her the creeps.

Sunday 13



JULY

Monday 14

I didn't call for Pandora on the way to school or sit next to her at school dinner, but I can't say she noticed.

Tuesday 15

I was watching Crossroads when Pandora telephoned and asked to speak to me. I instructed my mother to tell Pandora that I was out at a wild disco.

Wednesday 16

We are together again but there are conditions. I am not allowed to mention marriage or getting engaged or write Mrs Pandora Mole on the inside of my geography book.

Thursday 17

JULY

Friday 18

I asked my mother for advice. She said, 'Adrian, why can't you just be fond of Pandora? Why do you have to dramatise everything in your life?' She can talk - when she burns the toast she acts as if it was a scene from The Towering Inferno.

Saturday 19

Sunday 20

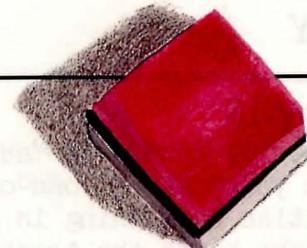
Mr and Mrs A. Mole  
Mr and Mrs Adrian Mole  
Mr and Mrs A. Mole  
Pandora Mole  
P. Mole

# JULY

Monday 21

FULL MOON

Dog HOOOWLING  
up at night sky



Tuesday 22

Wednesday 23

Thursday 24

My mother has pulled a muscle in her back. Dr Gray came and said she must lie flat on the floor for a week. She chose to be on the sitting room floor, which is most inconvenient.

# JULY

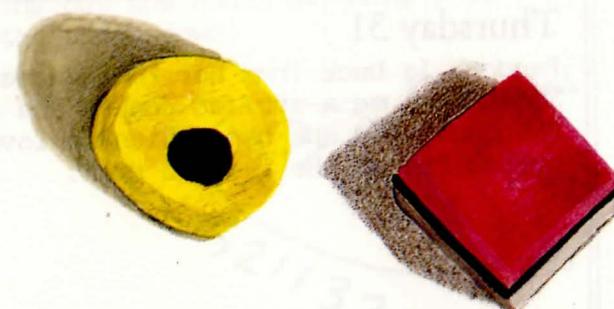
Friday 25

The window cleaner came just before I left for rotten school. He shouted through the sitting room window:  
'Drunk again, Mrs Mole?'

Saturday 26

I am worn out with fetching things for my mother.  
I'll be glad when her muscle is unpulled.

Sunday 27

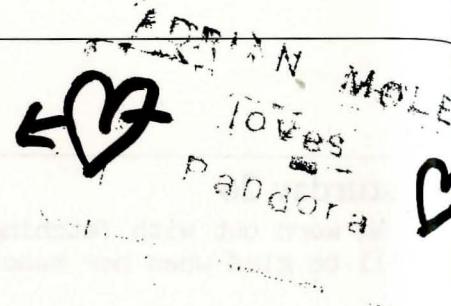


# JULY

Monday 28

Dr Gray called today and told my mother to lie on a door! How stupid can you get?

Tuesday 29

  
PANDORA  
LOVES  
MOLÉ

Wednesday 30

My mother's back is completely better but she is still not doing any housework.

Thursday 31

Pandora is back from her Portuguese villa holiday. She bought me a stuffed donkey and a straw hat back. She confessed she had fallen in love with a bloke called Pedro. He is dead rich.

# AUGUST

Friday 1

The horrible Pedro phoned Pandora last night.

Saturday 2

I told my mother about Pandora's new love and she said that Pedro was probably a waiter.

Sunday 3

I rang the hotel and asked for Pedro. A foreign voice said 'we ave two Pedros 'ere, one is a kitchen porter and the other is cleaning out the hotel swimming pool'. I said 'Aha!' and put the phone down.

Portugal  
Spain  
51  
5211320

## AUGUST

### Monday 4

I told Pandora the truth about Pedro. To my astonishment she accused me of being sneaky and underhand.



### Tuesday 5

Pandora received a postcard from Pedro today. He said he was coming to visit her and would be staying for three months.

### Wednesday 6

Pandora's holiday romance is over. She said she wanted to remember Pedro as she last saw him with his handsome face bathed in a Portuguese sunset.

## AUGUST

### Thursday 7

I have formed a club for non-smokers at school. It's called Stub it out, or SIT for short. Pandora is not in it because she smokes at least three Benson & Hedges a week.

### Friday 8

Barry Kent, who smokes at least ten No 6 every day, has just won the school's cross-country race. This has made me realise that there's just no justice in the world.



### Saturday 9

### Sunday 10

Grandma came for tea and stayed for supper and Ovaltine. She is breaking in a new pair of false teeth, so she didn't say much.

## AUGUST

Monday 11

Tuesday 12

Wednesday 13

Thursday 14

I asked my mother what the Family Allowance is spent on every week. She said, 'Oh, I buy things like Chanel No 5 with it - necessities like that'. It is supposed to be spent on buying MY food and socks etc.

## AUGUST

Friday 15

I asked my mother if I can have the Family Allowance money to myself. I said I would buy my own food and clothes with it.

Saturday 16

Saved money by not eating breakfast.

Sunday 17

I ate bread and jam for breakfast and dinner.

## AUGUST

### Monday 18

Shopped for food this afternoon. I bought  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound scrag end, 2 carrots, 1 onion and 1 pound of potatoes and an Oxo cube.

### Tuesday 19

I bravely turned down my mother's roast lamb and warmed up yesterday's scrag end stew.



### Wednesday 20

I delivered the following note to my mother this morning: 'I now realise that it is not possible to feed and clothe myself on £6.50 a week. I hereby give up my rights to the Family Allowance. Adrian Mole.'

### Thursday 21

## AUGUST

### Friday 22



### Saturday 23

I am really fed-up. Everybody is on holiday apart from me. I keep getting postcards from exotic places. Mr & Mrs Singh are in Katmandu, Bert is in Torquay and Barry Kent is in Borstal.

### Sunday 24

Moped about the house all day. Washed up twice. Cleaned the bathroom. Sunbathed in the garden until it started to rain.

AUGUST

ADRIAN MOLE

Monday 25

LATE SUMMER BANK HOLIDAY (UK EXCEPT SCOTLAND)

Stayed in bed all day. Read old Beano annuals.

Tuesday 26

Wednesday 27

Thursday 28

I am writing my diary in my darkened bedroom - a casualty of sunstroke, prickly heat and sunburn. This is just my luck!

AUGUST

Friday 29

I am reading Love in a Cold Climate by Nancy Mitford.

Saturday 30

I emerged from my bedroom today to face the boiling sun. I made sure that every surface of my body was well covered but my mother made me take my Balaclava helmet off before I went to buy some more sunburn lotion.

Sunday 31

# SEPTEMBER

## Monday 1

The sun has disfigured me. I look like a scabby peeling lobster with dried out hair. I will be glad when it rains.

## Tuesday 2

We have had salad for the sixth day running.

## Wednesday 3

At last! It rained today.

## Thursday 4

Pandora has got a magnificent tan due to a very expensive French tanning lotion. I don't know how she can even bear to look in my direction.

# SEPTEMBER

## Friday 5

It's raining again. I walked about in my Wellingtons feeling happy. I am a true Englishman. Foreigners can keep their rotten sun.

## Saturday 6

## Sunday 7



# SEPTEMBER

Monday 8



Tuesday 9

Wednesday 10

Autumn. My favourite time of the year. Season of fruit and being melancholy in mists. Pandora and me went to the woods to kick the rustling leaves about.

Thursday 11

# SEPTEMBER

Friday 12

It's my mother's birthday on Sunday and I've only got a quid in my money box. I know she needs new knickers because she is using her old ones as dusters.

Saturday 13

It took ages to find a pair of knickers for 99 pence, but Woolworth's had some. The cashier said in a loud sort of voice, 'Did you want these knickers in extra large?' I was so humiliated that I left the change on the counter!

Sunday 14

My mother was delighted with my present. She went straight upstairs and put them on. In the afternoon we had a birthday tea followed by a small disco. At 9.30 my mother's birthday knickers fell down and ended up around her ankles. I shouldn't have bought extra large - she is dead skinny.

# SEPTEMBER

## Monday 15

I went to school with a hangover. My father's fault for making me drink half a glass of wine.

## Tuesday 16

Barry Kent has heard that I was in Woolworth's buying extra large knickers. I am staying off school until the scandal dies down.

## Wednesday 17

Found my mother's extra large knickers in the duster bag. She will get nothing from me next year.

## Thursday 18

FULL MOON

Dog had a fit

# SEPTEMBER

## Friday 19

## Saturday 20



## Sunday 21

# SEPTEMBER

Monday 22

Tuesday 23

Wednesday 24

Thursday 25

Dear Diary, I'm tired and worn out. The reason for my extreme fatigue is not known. I told my mother that I was too exhausted to wash up tonight, but typically she showed me no sympathy. She said I was bone idle.

# SEPTEMBER

Friday 26

Yawned all the way through English. Ms Fossington-Gore was most unkind and sarcastic. She said, 'Adrian Mole, I have no wish to see the inside of your mouth. Kindly keep it shut. If I want to see a cavern, I will go to Derbyshire.'

Saturday 27

Fell asleep in my cornflakes. My mother said it was the last time she would bring me breakfast in bed. It took me half an hour to pick the cornflakes out of my hair.

Sunday 28

Didn't get out of bed until 6 p.m., so I missed Sunday breakfast, dinner and tea. Just my luck!

## SEPTEMBER

### Monday 29

Went to see Dr Gray, but fell asleep in the waiting room so missed my 6 p.m. appointment.

### Tuesday 30

At 3 a.m. my father came into my room and caught me reading in bed. He said, 'From now on, reading through the night is strictly forbidden.' I must admit to feeling a bit grateful. At least I can get a good night's sleep!

### Wednesday 1

## OCTOBER

### Thursday 2

### Friday 3

Couldn't get out of bed, so didn't go to school today. Why, oh why doesn't somebody do something to help me? The evidence seems pretty conclusive to me. I have got the sleeping sickness.

### Saturday 4



### Sunday 5

# OCTOBER

Monday 6



Tuesday 7

Wednesday 8

Thursday 9

Pandora is keeping a scrapbook of our romance. It is full of strange things. Tickets of bus journeys we have shared, a button from my P.E. shorts. She is dead romantic. My ardour for her grows daily.

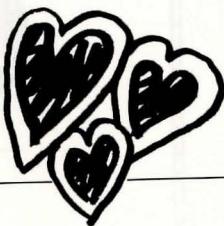
# OCTOBER

Friday 10

I suggested to Pandora that we have a night-ritual, that at 10 p.m. wherever we might be we kiss each other's photograph. I gave Pandora a photograph of myself taken at Skegness Pier. It is a brilliant photo. My spots don't show up.

Saturday 11

Forgot to kiss Pandora's picture last night. I'd better not tell her there was an absorbingly brill cowboy film on telly. Pandora went right out of my mind.



Sunday 12

Didn't kiss Pandora's photo because I was in the bath. I am riddled with guilt a bit.

## OCTOBER

### Monday 13

Saw Pandora on the way to school. She was showing my photograph to a gang of girls. That photograph should be a sacred, very private object to her.

### Tuesday 14

I avoided Pandora at school. At home time she came up to me and said. 'Is it all over between us, Aidy?' I ran off saying I'd got to take Bert to the chiropodist.

### Wednesday 15

### Thursday 16

Had a full and frank discussion with Pandora during school dinner. It is 10 o'clock, must stop.

## OCTOBER

### Friday 17

FULL MOON

DOG AT VETS - SEDATED

### Saturday 18



### Sunday 19

# OCTOBER

Monday 20

Tuesday 21

Wednesday 22

Thursday 23

Nigel came round tonight. He was wearing a new Italian T-shirt which cost £28! I asked my parents for a £28 T-shirt. They responded by going mad.

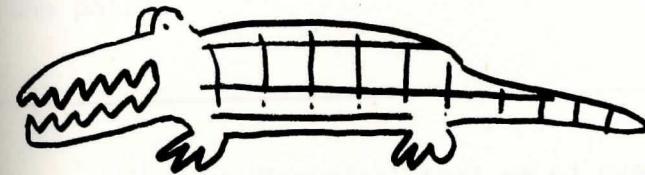
# OCTOBER

Friday 24

I tried to explain to my mother that my standing in the teenage community would be severely damaged unless she bought me a £28 T-shirt.

Saturday 25

My mother asked me what this T-shirt looked like. I told her it had a tiny embroidered crocodile motif on the breast pocket.



Sunday 26

BRITISH SUMMER TIME ENDS  
I want a £28 T-shirt.

Rained All Day

# OCTOBER

## Monday 27

Had maths test. Got one out of twenty. My mind was elsewhere, in Italy, where else?

## Tuesday 28

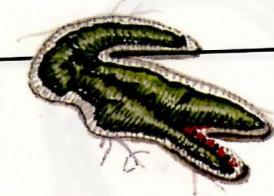
Oh joy! Oh rapture! My mother found a crocodile motif Italian T-shirt in an Oxfam shop for £2. I am wearing it as I write. Mama mia!

## Wednesday 29

Nigel broke the news to me that Italian T-shirts went out of fashion yesterday. Spanish trousers at £58.99 are now in vogue.

# OCTOBER

## Thursday 30



## Friday 31

### HALLOWEEN

My father bought a gnome with a fishing-rod and put it in the front garden. My mother objected, but my father went a bit barmy so she shut up for once.

## Saturday 1

Somebody has stolen the gnome's fishing rod! Is nothing sacred? My father has reported the theft to the police.

## Sunday 2

My parents are not speaking to each other. My father found the gnome's fishing-rod in my mother's underwear drawer. It was broken in two. He has informed the police.

# NOVEMBER

Monday 3

Tuesday 4

Wednesday 5

BONFIRE NIGHT!

Thursday 6

I have been rehearsing the school play. It is a free adaptation of The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekov. I am playing one of the cherry trees in the orchard.

# NOVEMBER

Friday 7

People don't know how difficult it is to act a tree.



Saturday 8

Good news! Barry Kent has dropped out of the play. I am now playing the leading tree.

Sunday 9

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Got home at 5.39 worn out with standing on my feet (roots) all day. My tree costume is far too loose.

dead sad day

## NOVEMBER

### Monday 10

Stayed up all night taking in the bark of my trunk.  
Must stop the show is about to begin.

### Tuesday 11

I can hardly bear to write about last night, but I must face myself... On second thoughts I just can't do it. I am a broken man.

### Wednesday 12

The following extract from a review of The Cherry Orchard appeared in the local paper tonight:  
'...the cherry tree (lugubriously played by Adrian Mole) fell...the trunk split open to reveal A Mole resplendent in his underwear.'

## NOVEMBER

### Thursday 13



### Friday 14

### Saturday 15

My mother said if I ever played a tree again she would take the part of a lumberjack.

### Sunday 16

## NOVEMBER

Monday 17

Tuesday 18

Wednesday 19

Thursday 20

I counted my BBC rejection letters today. So far I've got seventeen - not bad considering I am only sixteen. Perhaps I would stand more of a chance if I typed my poems. I will ask my mother to teach me.

## NOVEMBER

Friday 21

Saturday 22

Grandma came round this morning and broke the wonderful news that she has been elected Editor of the Evergreens Monthly Newsletter! So, I have a blood relation in a position of literary influence. I have submitted one of my best poems, 'Frisky Goats' .

Sunday 23

Grandma came to tea. I was especially well-mannered and attentive. All right, dear Diary, I admit I am trying to bribe her into accepting 'Frisky Goats' for publication, but publishing is a cut-throat world and us poets have to be ruthless sometimes.

## NOVEMBER

### Monday 24

I am in anguish! The Stupid Evergreens have rejected 'Frisky Goats'. Grandma said, 'We didn't like it because it doesn't rhyme.'

### Tuesday 25

### Wednesday 26

### Thursday 27

Oh joy! Oh rapture! The Voice of Youth have published two of my poems with a smudged photo of myself looking surly. Underneath the photo it says: 'Adrian Mole. A future Poet Laureate?'

## NOVEMBER

### Friday 28

My mother is thrilled about my poems being published. She went out and bought two picture frames, pasted the poems on old postcards, mounted them inside the frames and then hung them on the wall of the downstairs lavatory.

### Saturday 29

### Sunday 30

#### ST ANDREW'S DAY

Went to have Sunday dinner at Grandma's and was amazed to see my poems pinned up on her front door.



## DECEMBER

### Monday 1

The Voice of Youth has sold out and has had to be reprinted. So I am now a best-selling author!

### Tuesday 2

Pandora advised me to stop wearing a floppy bow round my neck. She pointed out that poets stopped wearing them a hundred years ago.

### Wednesday 3

A very nice man called Brother Ludovic has just called at the house and spoken to me at great length about the meaning of life. Brother Ludovic belongs to a religious society called The Purple People.

## DECEMBER

### Thursday 4

I am going through a religious experience. Brother Ludovic said that money, exams and work are evil. He advised me to give him all my money and not to do my O levels.

### Friday 5

Now my parents have found out about my involvement with the Purple People. They have decided I can't be trusted to keep my Building Society savings book in my room. My father said: 'You'd give your money to every Tom, Dick or Ludovic who asked for it.'

### Saturday 6

### Sunday 7

My parents have gone out for the day. I was not invited. I am feeling a bit hurt about this.

## DECEMBER

Monday 8

Tuesday 9

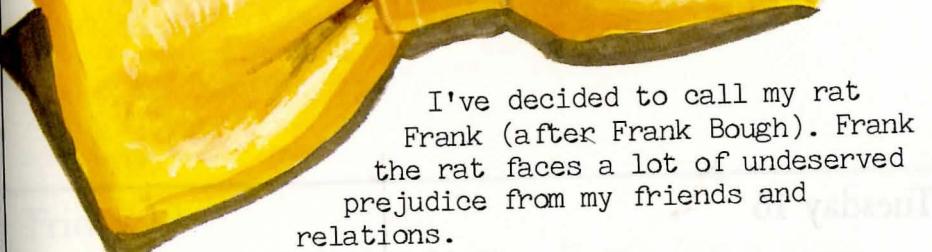
Wednesday 10

Thursday 11

I've been busy training my new pet rat, as yet unnamed.

## DECEMBER

Friday 12



I've decided to call my rat Frank (after Frank Bough). Frank the rat faces a lot of undeserved prejudice from my friends and relations.

Saturday 13

Took Frank for a walk today. The dog sulked because I used his lead.

Sunday 14

Pandora has refused to come into my bedroom when Frank is there, so we didn't have our usual Saturday night kissing session.

# DECEMBER

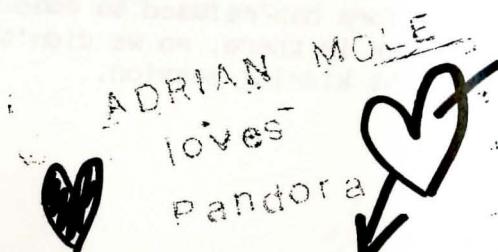
## Monday 15

I have written this letter to David Attenborough:  
Dear Sir, As a Rat owner I am concerned...

## Tuesday 16

## Wednesday 17

Took Frank round to Bert Baxter's after school. He was dead pleased (Bert, not Frank). On the way home I made enquiries at the pet shop about buying a bat.



# DECEMBER

## Thursday 18

## Friday 19

I had a brilliant letter today. It was from a bloke called Humphrey Pilkington. He wrote to say that he had heard I was a poet and he wanted to print a collection of my latest work! All I have to do is send him £50! I am going to start saving up.

## Saturday 20

## Sunday 21

Dear David Attenborough

As a Rat owner I  
prejudice by the public to  
Can nothing be done to  
society. Can you come to  
start it? Half-seven would

## DECEMBER

Monday 22



Tuesday 23

Wednesday 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

2.15 a.m. Just got back from the Midnight Service. Once again the Nativity playlet was ruined by having a live donkey in church. To be fair, the effect of the Midnight Service was dead moving. Even to me who is a committed nihilistic existentialist.

Thursday 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

I got the grey zip-up cardigan I asked for (like Frank Bough's). But the best present was the electric shaver. I have already had three shaves. Dinner was late as usual, my mother has never learnt the secret of co-ordinating the mechanics of a meal. In the evening we had a desultory game of cards.

## DECEMBER

Friday 26

BOXING DAY

Pandora was ecstatic to see me at first, she raved about the present I bought her (a solid gold bracelet from Tesco's, £2.49) but after a while she cooled a bit and started going on about the Christmas house-party she'd been to. She made a lot of references to a boy called Crispin Wartog-Lowndes. I got into a silent jealous rage. I got into bed at 1 a.m. I am worn out with all the emotion.



Saturday 27

Sunday 28

## DECEMBER

Monday 29

Tuesday 30

My father is growing what's left of his hair. He says it is the new fashion for men. He says he had hair down to his shoulders in 1965. I think he's going through the male menopause.

Wednesday 31

My father got his hippie beads out of the attic last night. If he starts wearing them, I will run away from home.

Thursday 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY

## JANUARY

Friday 2

The dog is at the vet's again. It trod in the glue my father was using to tile the kitchen floor. Its paws got stuck tight and my father had to cut round the dog with a Stanley knife. I told the stupid dog to keep still, but would it listen?

Saturday 3

The dog woke me up by jumping on my head. Its mangy tail got in my mouth (I have been spitting out dog hairs all day).

Sunday 4



## ADDRESSES

A

B

BBC Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London. (POEMS)

Simon Bond, 1 Teddy Bear Walk. (Knock three times.  
The answer is 'Ready Brek')

Colin Broadway, 10 Lovelorn Avenue, Riverside Park.

C

Carole Hayman, The Joke Shop, 48 Netherhopping Road.

D

Dentist Mr A Grony, 96 Payne Close. Ha! Ha! Ha!  
Mr A Bruce, 96 Kangaroo Court, Ha!

## ADDRESSES

E

Eddington, the lousy Vet. 2 Barking Road.  
Elizabeth (not the Queen) Van Gogh Gardens.

F

Janet Fillingham, Travel Agent, Doughty Street.

G

Giles Gordon, (Community Policeman) 10 Percentage Close.  
Glitter (GARY) c/o BBC Centre

H

Caz Holden, (Spike) c/o The Laurels Hostel for Girls,  
Penance Lane.

Roger Harris, (Maths Tutor) Charles Street.  
Bunny Higginbotham, 99 End Close.

## ADDRESSES

### I

Irene, Fran, Nancy and Kate. 1, 198 Pollution Park,  
Los Angeles, USA Zip code B2192.

### J

The Royal Hospital, Grosvenor Road,  
London, W1X 8AA, United Kingdom.

### K

Katrina Wakefield, 91, Royal Court Mews, Acton.

### L

Loans and Securities, Unit Two, Starky Avenue.

## ADDRESSES

### M

Muggy Watson, Borstal, North Sea Camp.  
Michael-De-La-Noy, 4 Denton Court.

### N

Neil Joblin, c/o Casualty Department, Royal Hospital.

Knut Johansen, Norsk Rikskringkasting,  
BERGEN, Norway.

### O

Oggy Clarke - ?

### P

## ADDRESSES

### Q

Queen Elizabeth, Buckingham Palace, Buckingham Palace Road, London.

### R

Rizakyyz Wzyzzamzzy, 9 Kizzaki, Zwizzily, Poland.

### S

Auntie Susan, Holloway Prison, London.  
Grandma Sugden, 10 Dolt Pastures, Norfolk.  
Sean (B.A.Hons) Oxbridge Road.

Simon Shatzburger, 147 Star Close, Nottingham.

Geoff Strachan, (Editor of Community Magazine 11 New Fetter Lane.

### T

Dan Townsend, 21 Bob Marley Way, Mandela Park.

John Tydeman, (Adolescent Poetry) BBC, Portland Place.

## ADDRESSES

### U

Eunice Mole, Ward 9, Secure Unit, High Towers Hospital.



### V

Auntie V (see under S)  
Vicks, (future star in my opinion).

### W

Wanker Williams, 69, Mulberry Bush Avenue.  
Wilfred, c/o Careers Office. (If not there try dole office. If not there try pavements outside factorys and work places. Look for placard. it says 'Please give me a job'. Wilfred will be carrying it.)

### XYZ

'X' Films, Dirty Franks Video Hire, 1, Pawn Way.  
Yobby Dickson, Church Lads Brigade, Scout Hut.  
Zenophobia Society, 47, England Parkway.

NOTES

NOTES



# ADRIAN MAN OF MOLE LETTERS ONE OF THEM

Dear Mr Bing Taylor,  
 Thank you for your honourable request for me to write about my favourite books. However I must reluctantly turn the project down on the grounds of severe illness. I am suffering from paralysis of the finger (the one next to the thumb) caused by carrying a large shopping bag from Sainsbury's to the bus stop, and then from the bus stop to the house where I live.  
 (Alas I can no longer call it home since my parents' marital infidelities became known to me). This paralysis makes writing difficult for me and I do not wish to exacerbate the condition and probably jettison my future career as a full-time wordsmith.

I note that you live in London Mr Taylor, do you know of any finger specialists in Harley Street? My own G.P. (National Health) is proving to be very unsympathetic. He claims that the paralysis of my finger is due to a Psychopathic disorder, (or Psychosomatic... something Psycho anyway) brought on by fear of the G.C.E. exams I am taking this year.

Anyway Mr Taylor, thank you for asking me but I must demur.

I remain Sir,  
 Your most humble and obedient servant  
 A.Mole. A Mole

P.S. Pandora has just pointed out to me that the above letter, turning down your request is almost as long as the article you request. So, I have decided to put up with the pain and write the article.

## THE GOOD BOOK GUIDE

Dear Mr. Mole,  
 The literary world,  
 ourselves your  
 magazine on  
 literature being  
 world be  
 available to  
 for The  
 willing to  
 promote  
 I look  
 forward  
 eager to

about  
 ourselves  
 magazine  
 literature  
 world  
 available  
 for  
 willing  
 to  
 promote  
 I  
 book  
 forward  
 eager?

you  
 ask  
 for  
 your  
 response  
 Yours,  
 Bing Taylor

Braithwaite & Taylor



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 91 Great Russell Street  
 London WC1V 3PS  
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 01-637 2538 (Editorial)

# NOTES

# NOTES

**The Diary of a Nobody** George Grossmith and Weedon Grossmith I don't know why people laugh at poor Mr Pooter. He is a kind, respectable man. O.K. he is at odds with the world occasionally but is that any reason for the populace to snigger at his intimate jottings? I think George and Weedon Grossmith should be ashamed of themselves for finding and publishing his work.  
Penguin p240 [P]

CMD022 £1.95

**William Shakespeare: The Complete Works**  
Edited by Peter Alexander I am trying to start a Shakespearean playreading society at school. We would meet during the dinner break; I am sick of standing around in the windy playground wasting my brain power. So far, only Pandora has joined, she wants our first reading to be Romeo and Juliet. But I want to do Hamlet which is a role perfectly suited to my introverted nature. We had a row in the cloakroom during which Pandora carried on like a shrew. I am no good at taming so she got her own way. Hopefully, our first meeting will take place in the Domestic Science room next Wednesday at 12.30, all welcome. We are doing Romeo and Juliet.

Collins p1408 [P]

CMB022 £4.95

**William the Bad** Richmal Crompton William Brown and I have nothing in common. He is badly behaved, (indeed, he would be in the care of the Social Services if he lived today) and he still wears short trousers. Whereas, I am very well behaved (in fact almost a saint) and have been wearing Crimplene trousers for ages, (not the same pair).

Miss Richmal Crompton writes very well and is not afraid to use long difficult words. This book and the other William books force loud, undignified snorting and chortling laughter from me. Several times my parents have burst into my room thinking me to be in the middle of a severe fit, so unaccustomed are they to the sound of my laughter. I am not the sort of teenager who laughs easily; the world is a dead serious place. A word of advice from one who knows; the only William books worth reading, buying or borrowing are those that are illustrated by Thomas Henry.

Macmillan p272 [P]

CMC025 £1.50

# NOTES

# TES

**Pieces and Pontifications** Norman Mailer Mr Mailer is clever and intellectual. The essays and short pieces in this book are a bit overpowering so only one or two should be read daily (before meals).  
It is my opinion that Mr Mailer must have been under the influence of drink or New York at the time of writing this brilliant book.  
It is just my luck to be a tee-totaller and living in a cul-de-sac.  
Granada p192 □

CMC026 £3.95

**The Life and Loves of a She-Devil** Fay Weldon I found this amongst the squalid mess on my mother's bedside table. It is all about how a very tall unattractive woman wreaks revenge on the husband who deserted her. By the end of the book the woman is medium height, rich and beautiful, and the husband is a gibbering penniless wreck.  
I think my Father should read it before it is too late.  
Coronet p240 □

CMC027 £1.95

**War and Peace** Leo Tolstoy I don't know why people moan on about how long it takes to read this magnificent book, it only took me two days. All you have to do is to flick through it and skip all the boring descriptive passages. In fact even Tolstoy got fed up with describing all the battles. 'The Russian army, having retreated from Borodino, paused at Fili', is a good example of how he chickened out occasionally.  
Penguin p145 □

CME967 £4.95



**Scoop** Evelyn Waugh This is a dead funny book about newspapers. It is especially interesting to me, because in between writing poems for a living when I'm grown up, I may, occasionally, dabble in a little light journalism. I wrote a fan letter to Ms Waugh last year (enclosing some of my poems) but alas she didn't reply.  
Penguin p224 □

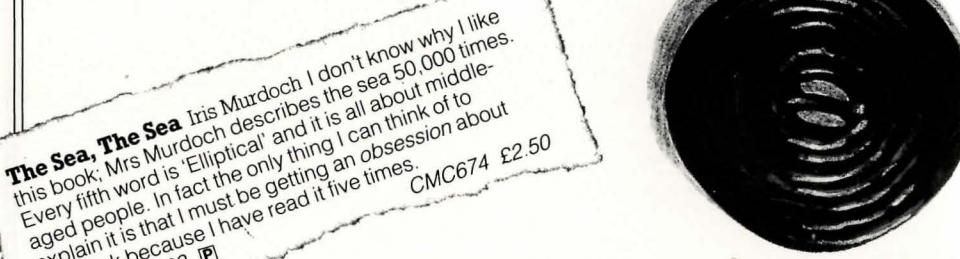
CMD021 £1.95

# NOTES

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**The Sea, The Sea** Iris Murdoch I don't know why I like this book; Mrs Murdoch describes the sea 50,000 times. Every fifth word is 'Elliptical' and it is all about middle-aged people. In fact the only thing I can think of to explain it is that I must be getting an obsession of to the book because I have read it five times.

Granada p502 [B]



**The People of Providence** Tony Parker Before reading this true book I thought that people living in council Tower Block flats were boring and ordinary. But as I read on I was gripped with fascination. Mr Parker allows the council tenants to ramble on about their lives in the flats. It is much better than being a fly on the wall. Flies have got disgusting habits and don't live long.

Penguin p373 [P]

CMB023 £3.95

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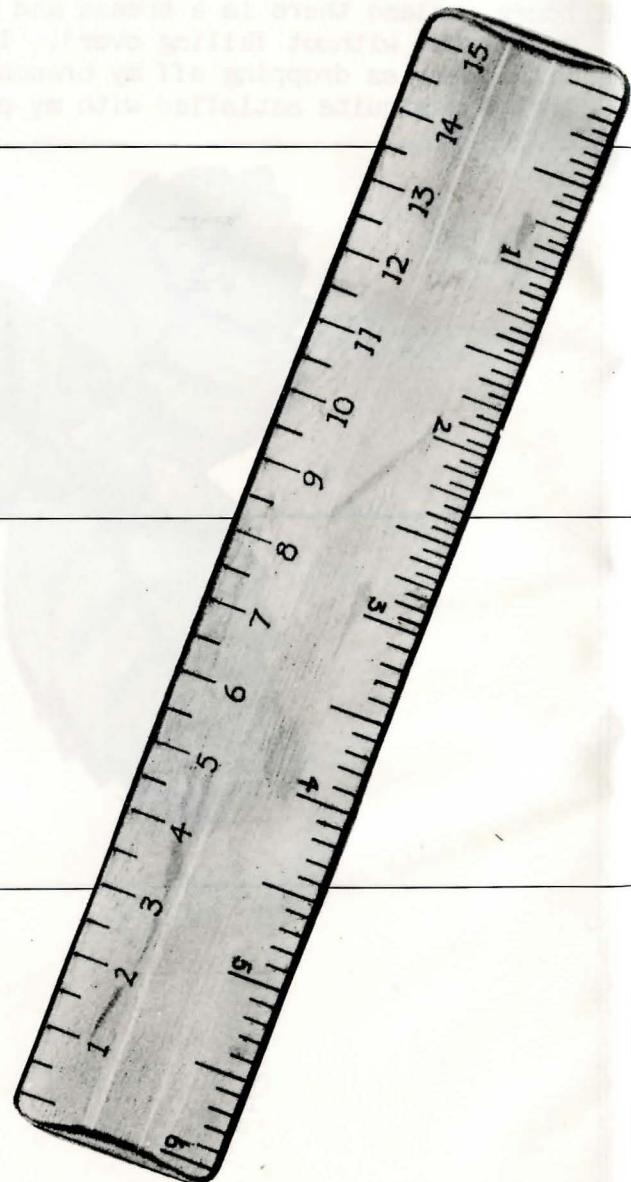
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People don't know how difficult it is to act a tree. It means that you must stand very still for nearly three hours (unless there is a breeze and then you must sway gently but without falling over). I had a few problems with cherries dropping off my branches but apart from that I was quite satisfied with my performance.



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17. Went to see Mr. H. H. Shantz and was told that he would release all specimens upon depositing them in the Canadian Museum. He gave some very good advice concerning the collection of material and I have followed it. Went home and began to go through the specimens and make notes concerning the collection.



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