

Kennedy King is typing...



Illustrated by Wotto



SIMON & SCHUSTER

London New York Amsterdam/Antwerp Sydney/Melbourne Toronto New Delhi

First published in Great Britain in 2025 by Gallery Kids, an imprint of Simon & Schuster UK Ltd

Text copyright © 2025 Emily-Jane Clark
Cover and interior illustrations © 2025 Wotto

This book is copyright under the Berne Convention.

No reproduction without permission.

All rights reserved.

The right of Emily-Jane Clark and Wotto to be identified as the author and illustrator of this work has been asserted by them in accordance with sections 77 and 78 of the Copyright, Design and Patents Act, 1988.

13579108642

Simon & Schuster UK Ltd 1st Floor, 222 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8HB

www.simonandschuster.co.uk www.simonandschuster.com.au www.simonandschuster.co.in

Simon & Schuster Australia, Sydney Simon & Schuster India, New Delhi

The authorised representative in the EEA is Simon & Schuster Netherlands BV, Herculesplein 96, 3584 AA Utrecht, Netherlands. info@simonandschuster.nl

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-3985-4352-2

eBook ISBN 978-1-3985-4354-6

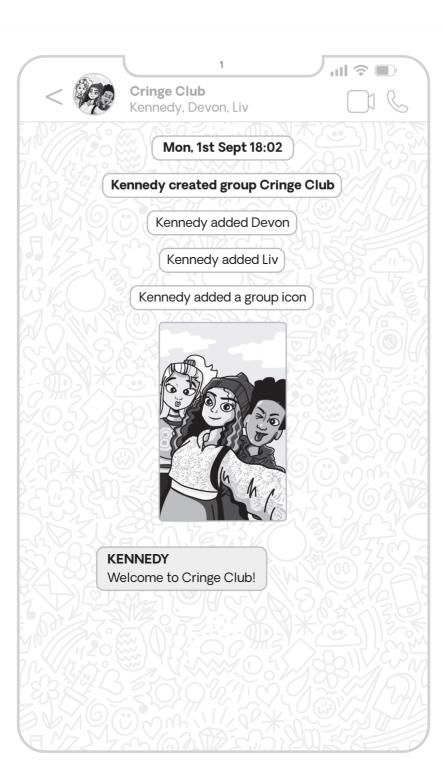
eAudio ISBN 978-1-3985-4353-9

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places and incidents are either the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual people living or dead, events or locales is entirely coincidental.

Printed and Bound in the UK using 100% Renewable Electricity at CPI Group (UK) Ltd
Typeset in the UK by Mandy Norman













KENNEDY

Rules of Cringe Club:

- 1. Members must swear on Taylor Swift and all things good and holy that what is said in Cringe Club stavs in Cringe Club.
- 2. Members are NOT permitted to tell anyone about Cringe Club or else!
- 3. In fact, there is NO Cringe Club *WINKY FACE*
- 4 Get it?
- 5. Basically, this is a super-secret group for people (us) that are victims of cringe.
- 6. We should SO start a band called VICTIMS OF CRINGE!
- 7. Anyway, welcome to this group that does not exist.

LIV

Hiiiiiiii guys.

OMG I LOVE the name of this group, Kennedy!





DEVON



LOL! I hereby declare that I agree to all the CRINGE CLUB rules 😭







Me too ⊿ 🛇





GOODI

Because I've officially had the most CRINGE day ever at my new school and I NEED you both to tell me that everything is fine and it's not that bad

DEVON

Everything is fine and it is not that bad



KENNEDY

LOL, you haven't heard it yet.

Seriously, it was total CRINGE ON A STICK!!

DEVON

Well, my day was a CRINGE BINGE of epic proportions.

LIV

Same (...)

Complete CRINGE-ATHON



KENNEDY

I bet mine was the worst 😩







HV

Not possible 🛞

DEVON

No way will either of yours be as bad as mine. In fact, I challenge you both to a CRINGE OFF!

HV

Bring it on!

KENNEDY

Okay, here goes. My official Cringe-Off entry ... It was our first registration this morning, so our form tutor asked us to introduce ourselves and picked ME to go first!

DEVON

That's not that bad!

My tutor made us do that too.

LIV

And mine!

You're not going to win with that, Ken!

KENNEDY

Ah but you haven't heard HOW I introduced myself $\ensuremath{\begin{tabular}{l} \ensuremath{\mbox{\tiny HOW}}\ensuremath{\mbox{\tiny E}} \ensuremath{\mbox{\tiny E}} \ensuremath{\mbox{\tiny I}}$

I stood up, and said \ldots







Glad you find my disaster so hilarious! Obvs everyone else just said, 'Hi, I'm Emma' or, 'I'm David' like normal people. I DIED.

Even our tutor, Mr O'Beef, was trying not to laugh 😩

DEVON

Wait, what? Your form tutor is called Mr O'Beef?



KENNEDY

His real name is Mr O'Keefe, but everyone calls him O'Beef because apparently he eats about six corned beef sandwiches for his lunch every single day!

LIV

Soooo clever ...



KENNEDY

City kids are rubbish at nicknames.

There is one boy everyone calls Big Pencil Case because he has a really big pencil case.

How big? 😯





Cringe Club Kennedv. Devon. Liv



KENNEDY

Massive.

DEVON

Being well-stocked in the stationery department is nothing to be mocked. I bet he's got loads of Sharpies.

LIV

Ooo I love Sharpies!

KENNEDY

Anyway, I am DYING of shame and it is only day one.

Everything about living in London sucks. Apart from Deliveroo.

LIV

No way you can get Deliveroo! No such luck out here in the countryside! Well jel

KENNEDY

And we're getting one tonight! DeliverWoohoo!

DEVON

You're lucky. Dad said we were getting a takeaway earlier and came home with a bag of pies 😧









KENNEDY

PLUMPS PIFS!?!?!?

Aww I miss them



LIV

Ummmm, don't you hate them Kennedy!?

KENNEDY

Yes, well, I miss hating them. I miss you guys and the countryside and my old house. It's too noisy and busy here.

DEVON

PIE miss you too.



LIV

That looks gross 😥











DEVON

Look me in the PIE and say that.



KENNEDY

Lol, stop it. I am pie-ing with laughter!

LIV

Guys, your jokes are lame. Ken, does Taylor hate it there too?

KENNEDY

You mean THE FAVOURITE???

NO! Of COURSE she loves it!

Apparently, she's already made friends 😠

But enough about boring old Taylor please - tell me about your cringes to make me feel better.



Cringe Club Kennedv. Devon. Liv





DEVON

Okav. but be warned it is a total CRINGEtastrophe!

KENNEDY

Ooooh spill!

DEVON

Okay. So, at lunchtime I sat with some boys who I played football with at break.

KENNEDY

YOU played FOOTBALL?



You hate football!

DFVON

I do not!

KENNEDY

Er, you told our PE teacher at primary school that your feet were 'for tango-ing, not for tackling'!

DEVON

Yes, when I was like, a Year 6! Things change, Ken! I thought I would take a break from dance and try some new stuff. Starting with football. Or 'footy' as the cool kids say

LIV

Do you even know how to play?



Cringe Club Kennedv. Devon. Liv



DEVON

From what I could work out: run around for a bit until the ball comes near your feet, then kick it in the big net thingv ...

LIV

OMG it's like Cristiano Ronaldo has joined the group chat 😂

DEVON

Who?

KENNEDY

Seriously, Dev?

LIV

Anyway, tell us your cringe?

DEVON

So, I opened my lunchbox and out falls the WORST thing that could fall out of a lunchbox on your first day at secondary school!

KENNEDY

Your dad's pants?

DEVON

Worse 😩

LIV

Your dad's pants WITH POO STAINS in them? 🛡 💩













HV

Please tell us Dev, before Kennedy gets even grosser.

DEVON

Okay. What fell on to the table for all to see, was ...

A NOTE FROM MY MUM ()







LIV

OMG!!!

DEVON

Strap in, gang, it gets worse ...

Nick Knight, aka esteemed leader of The Boys Who Kick Balls at Lunchtime, aka most popular boy in my form, grabbed the note and . . .

READ. IT. OUT. LOUD.

KENNEDY

OH NO! What did it say?

DEVON

'Good luck on your first day!'





HV

That's not too bad!

DEVON

Oh no. There's more.

'Love you from your head to your ...

TWINKLETOES'

KENNEDY

Oh no!!!!

DEVON

And the final nail in the cringe coffin was that my dearest mother had signed it:

'Love from ... MUMMY' &



LIV

OMG OMG OMG OMG

DEVON

Told you it was bad. So now everyone calls me 'Twinkletoes' and I'll never be able to show my face at school again 🛞

They'll probably have forgotten all about it by tomorrow.



DEVON Too soon, Kennedy, too soon 😂

Liv, please tell us about your CRINGE to cheer me up.

LIV
I don't mean to brag but it's totes the cringiest (









Picture this:

Girl (me) walks into the busy school canteen.

Boy (tall, dark, hot, North Face coat) waves at Girl and gestures for Girl to come sit next to him

Girl thinks how nice and friendly Boy is.

Girl walks over and sits down 😍

A second boy walks over and asks Girl why she has sat in HIS seat $\ensuremath{\mbox{\@oldsymbol{\textbf{G}}}}$

Girl realizes North Face Coat Boy was actually waving at second boy and not her

Girl literally DIES of shame $\begin{tabular}{l} \end{tabular}$

THE END.

DEVON









KENNEDY



Cringey? Yes. Worse than mine? NO.

DEVON

Come on. My cringe definitely wins.

KENNEDY

No way, Twinkletoes.

DEVON

Still too soon, Ken!

LIV

We are not cut out for secondary school, guys 🥲

DEVON

AND IT'S ONLY THE FIRST DAY.

KENNEDY

At least we have Cringe Club!

This phone might be the only good thing about moving . . . although The Mother WON'T win me over that easily.





I am going to need this group!!!



DEVON

Me too Which brings me to the results! The winner of today's Cringe Off is . . .

All of us! 🖫

LIV Yay!

KENNEDY

At least we have WON at something today.

LIV

Things can only get better!

DEVON

They can't get much worse, can they?