

CRUISE SHIP KID

**Kidnap
at Sea!**

For the real Tommy and Sylvia - Momma and Grandad.
Who would have led the conga line at the silent disco and
loved their water slide outfits.



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CRUISE SHIP KID

Kidnap at Sea!

EMMA SWAN

ILLUSTRATED BY KATIE SAUNDERS



CANADA

UNITED STATES

look how far we're sailing
without any stops for
CRISPS!

Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Basseterre, St. Kitts
Castries, St. Lucia

Bridgetown, Barbados

VENEZUELA

ENGLAND

JURSEY

Southampton

La Coruña

FRANCE

ITALY

SPAIN

Santa Cruz, Tenerife

have a good trip!

AFRICA

Off we go again
follow this way





MY NEW HOME

Day 1
Port Day
Barbados

WE HAVE MOVED SHIPS!

By "we", I mean Mum moved for her job promotion and so I, Silver (yes that is my real name), came too, obviously, and then The Gang followed.

 I'll tell you more about them later!

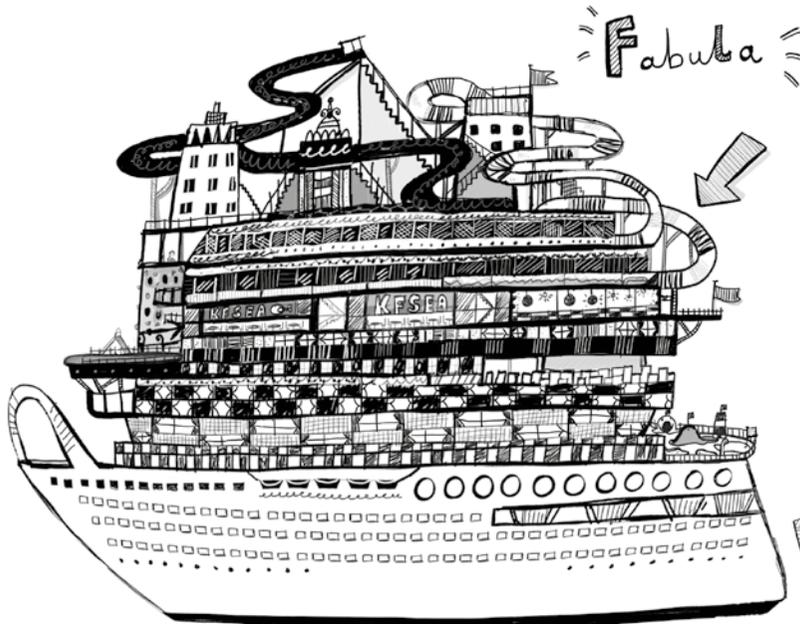
I LOVE our new ship. It is called *Fabula* and it has a water slide called... **THE MEGA SLIDE!**

It also has 20 decks!!! Our last ship, *Potentia*, only had 14 and did NOT have a mega slide. Onboard our new ship...

WAIT, actually, I'll show you...

 This is our new ship!

And did I mention there is a mega slide?!! Haha.



There's also an outdoor cinema, splash zone, disco deck, KFSea Takeaway, mini golf, an infinity pool and lots more!

Reader, would you try...

The mega slide? YES / NO

The escape room? YES / NO

The climbing wall? YES / NO

They look SO cool, but I haven't tried anything yet, as they aren't "officially open". They will be when the passengers get onboard, which is right now! YESSSSSS. Today is embarkation day and that means all the passengers are currently getting onto the ship. We are in Barbados, so they flew here to start their holiday.

Mum and me I flew here two days ago, as Mum has had lots of meetings with the Captain about a passenger who...

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT...sorry, READER, should I have

introduced myself properly first?

Nahhhhh... I had to start with the slide!

My name is Silver... in case you didn't believe me the first time.



I'm 10 and a ¼ and I live on a cruise ship.

This diary is to be written on and doodled in (or, if you're borrowing it from a library or friend, write your answers on a bit of paper).

Before I tell you/remind you about me, please tell me /remind me about you! (Woah...that sentence is tricky to say out loud. Try it 5 times, as fast as you can, NOW!)

My name is

I'm years old

Circle your answers

WHICH DO YOU PREFER?

CHOCOLATE or CRISPS

DOGS or PIGEONS

WOULD YOU RATHER...

WEAR SHOES MADE OF TOFFEE?

or

A HAT MADE OF ICE CREAM?

BE A CRIME-SOLVING DETECTIVE?

or

A WORLD EXPLORER WITH FRIENDS
WHO ARE ALL OVER 80?

(Surprise, reader – in this diary, you can be both!)

Do you now feel you know/remember me well and we're going to be friends?

A. "YES. I know everything about you, Silver, what a brilliant introduction..." Hey, thanks! Too kind... No seriously, stop, I'm going red!

B. "NO. You talk a bit quickly, Silver...but I think I've got it, just..." HA, you're funny, reader.

Where was I? Oh yes, THE NEW SHIP... *Fabula* feels ENORMOUS, but the weirdest thing is my room. Our new cabin is the same as our old cabin, but flipped. Okay, it's hard to explain what I mean, but imagine where you sleep...

Go on, shut your eyes and think about that room...

Then, jumble everything up! That's like our cabin now. Mum still has her big bed with the curtain around it, and I still have my pull-out foldy bed, but they are at different ends of the room. There is still the sofa and the drawers with the Secret Gap behind them (if you know, you know) but they have also swapped places.

Reader, you might be thinking, "So what, Silver? Who cares about your jumbly cabin?" BUT I need to tell you it was nearly a disaster on my first sleep onboard. I woke up for a wee in the middle of the night. I half-asleep-walked straight forwards, then turned left into the bathroom like I ALWAYS do and sat down on the loo.

When...dun dun duuuuh. Suddenly, I woke up!

I realized I was sitting in Mum's dressing area on top of a pile of her shoeboxes. She would NOT have been very happy if I'd peed in her work heels, or "you know what'd" in her handbags.

So, I seriously need to remember that the bathroom is on the RIGHT, not the left. ANYWAY, now you know about me, I need to tell you about my MISSION for this cruise.

The idea came to me when Amandeep gave me ship swap homework. This is 100% not a real thing and something she made up, but basically, when we left our old ship,

NOTE TO ME: Do not show Mum this diary, as she would tell me off for that rude sentence.

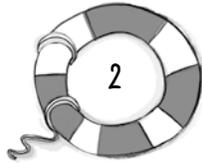
Mum and me I (grammar is HARD, Amandeep always corrects me on this) had a few days in a hotel in Southampton, before flying to our new ship. Amandeep thought I needed work to do in that time (wheere do grown-ups get these ideas from???) before our classes started again. Some of the staff from our last ship have moved with us, you see. Mum said it's a huge lucky coincidence that the people who gave me lessons onboard *Potentia* – Kind Pete (sport) and Amandeep (everything else) moved with us, too. Soooooo lucky, aren't I...?

The good thing is Amandeep's "ship swap homework presentation" inspired my MASTER PLAN for this cruise.

MASTER PLAN = To get a phone. Well, to get Mum to buy me a phone. Which I can't tell her. Obviously. That would ruin it.

PS I've written my presentation in the next chapter.

PPS Before the presentation, I needed a nervous wee and, reader, you will be relieved to know that no heels or handbags were harmed, as I remembered to turn right!



THE BEST PRESENTATION A TOWEL RABBIT HAS EVER SEEN

"Welcome, everyone, to my presentation." I looked apologetically at Shop Bear and One-Eared Towel Rabbit who were sitting next to Mum, on our new sofa, ready to listen to me.

"Silver, what's that? Have you used our first copy of *The Skyline* for your homework? How are we supposed to know what's going on now?" asked Mum.

On this ship, *The Skyline* gets posted underneath our cabin door every morning. They call it the ship newspaper but it's more like a giant leaflet which tells you everything, from where we are in the world, to what activities are on that day.

"Mum, the presentation has started."

"Silver, I wanted to go to a gym class after my shift.

How will I know when Roxanne's hips, bums and tums session is now?"

She stood up and then tried to PEEL OFF my title page that I had ingeniously stuck onto the front of *The Skyline*.

"Mum, stop!"

She did her scary eyebrow-raise thing but then sat down.

"Welcome, everyone, AGAIN, to my presentation. Amandeep tells me in debating I need to make my argument clear and concise with a catchy slogan...wait no was that our advertising lesson? Anyway, my title is... REASONS I WILL DIE IMMEDIATELY ON THE SPOT IF I DON'T GET A PHONE."

Mum snorted. I ignored it.

"Reason 1. Loneliness. In the summer I solved my first real crime and made my first real friend, Mo, and now I can't contact him, as he's back in his land home.



Without a phone I'll only have fish for friends." I paused dramatically.

"That was alliteration," I said, nodding at Shop Bear, who was now on Mum's knee.

"Reason 2. Lack of education. How can I look things up without a phone?"

"Well, sweetheart, there are these magical things called books."

"Mum! That was a rhetorical question which means you don't need to answer."

"Yes, we all know what a rhetorical—"

"Reason 3. Safety." (If she can rudely interrupt so can I.) "Without a phone, I could be kidnapped."

"People don't get kidnapped on cruises, Silver."

"Or thrown overboard!"

Shop Bear put up his hand.

"Yes, Shop Bear?"

"Er, Silver..." Mum gave him the same squeaky voice she used to give Sleepy Giraffe who I DO NOT sleep with any more. (Unless I'm poorly.) "If you are in the sea,

wouldn't your phone be broken in the water?"

"Thank you, Shop Bear. Some people might say this, but to those people I say—"

"I'm a bear not a person," Mum squeaked.

"To those bears I say... What if I got lost ashore? How would I contact any of you?"

I HAD the three of them there. Mum was thinking.

"And almost in conclusion..." I flipped the newspaper to the last poster. "Reason 4. Hand weakness."

I picked up an apple off the side.

"Research suggests—"

"What research?" said Towel Rabbit in an American accent.

"Some research that I found suggests—"

"So, you were able to research without a phone?"

Towel Rabbit continued, now sounding a bit Irish.

"—that kids with phones grow stronger muscles in their hands. In contrast, my hands will be weak."



I dropped the apple.

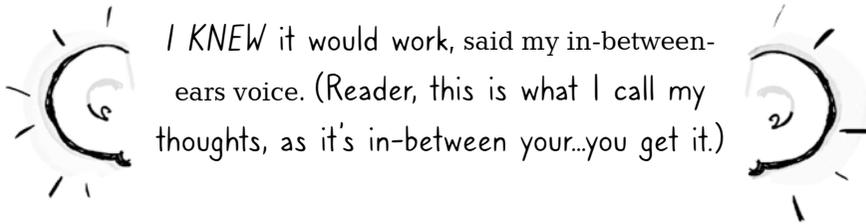
"Whoops! See! So, in conclusion for real, my call to action is...buy the phone! To save a life. My life. Your daughter's life." I bowed.

 Rule of 3!
KA-POW!

Mum didn't clap but Shop Bear and Towel Rabbit looked impressed.

"Silver, that was very original..."

"Thanks, Mum." I grinned.



I *KNEW* it would work, said my in-between-ears voice. (Reader, this is what I call my thoughts, as it's in-between your...you get it.)

"But, Silver, it didn't convince me that you **NEED** a phone. I want you to spend your time being creative, sweetheart, making and doings things, not staring at a screen all day."

Ughhhhh, groaned my in-between-ears voice. But I

WANT to stare at a screen all day.

Instead, I really said, "But I wouldn't stare at the screen ALL day, Mum, just most of—"

Suddenly, our cabin phone rudely interrupted me, as if it was jealous of this conversation.

"That will be the Captain, about this VIP coming onboard again." Mum sighed and then started speaking in her "on the phone" voice. "Hello, Cruise Director Jane speaking... Oh hi, Gwendolen, welcome onboard, how are... An emergency – what kind? How can I help... Okay, I'll tell her... Shall I come too or... No, just Silver, no problem... Are you...?"

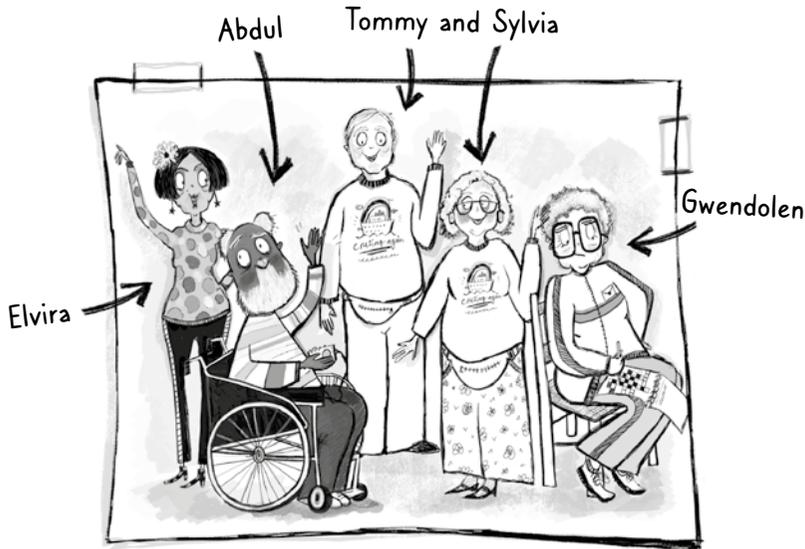
Mum put down the phone.

"She hung up, but it sounds like *The Gang* need you, Silver. They're outside Tommy and Sylvia's cabin on Deck 11..."

The door had already shut behind me, before she finished her sentence.

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT! I said I'd tell you who The Gang ARE! They are my pals onboard, and they're all over 80. While I run up the stairs to meet them, can you match the descriptions of The Gang to their names?

If you've never met The Gang before, read the clue below...
If you have, skip it and see if you can match them from memory!



CLUE: the first letter of their names and the first letter of their descriptions miiiiight be linked in some way, he he he...

Draw arrows to match the descriptions of The Gang to their names!

Always taking photos. He used to be an actor and is very cool for an old person.

Gwendolen

Everyone thinks she is glamorous and she wears sequins or leopard print everywhere! She also likes to sneak Spanish into sentences.

Tommy and Sylvia

Grumpy – she definitely can be! She used to be a headteacher and you can tell. She loves football and is suuuuper clever.

Elvira

Together for over 60 years, they like matching outfits...okay, she likes them more than he does!
His trumps are very smelly. (Not sure this is helpful, but I thought I should warn you.)

Abdul

If you're wondering where Betty is, she isn't on this cruise. MISS YOU, BETTY.

