

Chapter Fourteen

The First Day

Hello, Alex.

How are you today? Me? I'm feeling fine. In fact I'm feeling super fine! I've never felt better. And yes, I am still in the hospital, but guess what? I'm going home tomorrow. Just a sec while I have a bop!

Not bad, huh! That's what Mum calls strutting my funky stuff! That's an oldie saying. I call it getting down with my bad self! And look! I danced around for ages and I'm not even out of breath. So this is what it's like to be healthy. I'd almost forgotten. It is so great to be fit! I feel as if I could run a marathon without even pausing to catch my breath. I've already packed my bags. It's been six weeks since my operation and I'm finally going home. It was beginning to feel as if Dr Bryce was never going to let me go. But today is the first day of the rest of my life.

The operation was a complete, utter and total success. Not only am I still standing but I'm running, jumping, dancing – you name it, I can do it. At last everything seems to be coming together. Mum and Dad are getting on much better now. Mum's getting a bit of a tummy bulge now so I can see you growing. It's amazing. Mum says when she has her next scan, I can go with her so I can see what you look like inside her. Next time both Dad and I are going with her. I can't wait. D'you know how I feel now? Peaceful. I don't have a thing in the world to worry about. I really feel like I could live for ever.

me. I know he can't phone me or come to see me because he doesn't know where I am, but let's just see what happens when I get home. He let me down.

I might forgive him.

But I won't forget it.

Mum says Marlon's family got paid a load of money for the world exclusive they gave to that tabloid. Well, I hope Marlon enjoys the money.

I trusted him. It'll be a long time before I do that again.

Dr Bryce called his press conference. Mum and Dad wouldn't let me watch it on the telly. They said some of the reporters were bound to come up with really stupid questions and comments and they didn't want me to get upset. They watched it though. When I asked them how it went, all they said was – OK. I do wish they wouldn't treat me like a baby or, worse still, a cretin. Michelle, Pete and all the other nurses wouldn't tell me what happened at the press conference either. I'm meant to attend a press conference this Saturday with Mum and Dad. Mum reckons that once that's over, we'll have the media off our backs.

I'm still taking my anti-rejection medication. I have one injection a day. Dr Bryce says I'll have to keep giving myself these injections for the foreseeable future. The injections sting a bit but I don't mind. It was a bit daunting at first to have to stab myself with a needle but now I'm used to it. Diabetics have to do this sort of thing every day so it's not as if I'm alone. I probably won't be making quite so many of these video recordings now. There's no point, is there? I'll be here when you arrive. I'll carry on until you are born though. I'll tell you things as they occur to me and as I live through them. It'll be a video diary from me to you.

Funnily enough, I eat much more healthily now than I did before the operation. I want to look after my new heart. I eat more salads and vegetables and fruit. And I don't eat red meat any more. Just fish and poultry. No particular reason. It's just healthier, that's all. I've decided to live until I'm 102. That's my lucky number – 102.

I'm looking forward to getting home and seeing most of my friends again. I haven't spoken to Marlon since I read the article in the Daily Press. I know it was Marlon who told. No one else knew. More than once I picked up the phone to call him and ask him why, but then why should I? He should make the first move, not

- 1) What does Cameron stop to do at the beginning of the recording and why?
- 2) How long has it been since his operation?
- 3) Why is Cameron feeling peaceful?
- 4) Why is he not going to make so many video recordings?
- 5) How has Cameron's diet changed?
- 6) How does Cameron feel about Marlon?