

MONDAY

7

JANUARY

Artem woke us up early this morning jumping on the bed telling us he wanted to go to the ~~area~~ aquarium to see octopus. I almost gave in and took him. After I dropped him at school Katerine and I sat in the kitchen talking about how great life in the UK will be and how we will pay off all debts.

John came round with details of my flights in the afternoon. My flight to London departs at 8.30am on Thursday so he says he will pick me up at 6 to make sure I am there in time to check in. He has been a great friend to me and Kat arranging a job with his friend Gary, working out my travel and paying for my flights. I must pay him back as quickly as I can and buy him a gift. He says that Gary will meet me at the airport by the exit and I can stay with him until I have money for my own flat. John joked that if I am earning £600 a week it shouldn't take long.

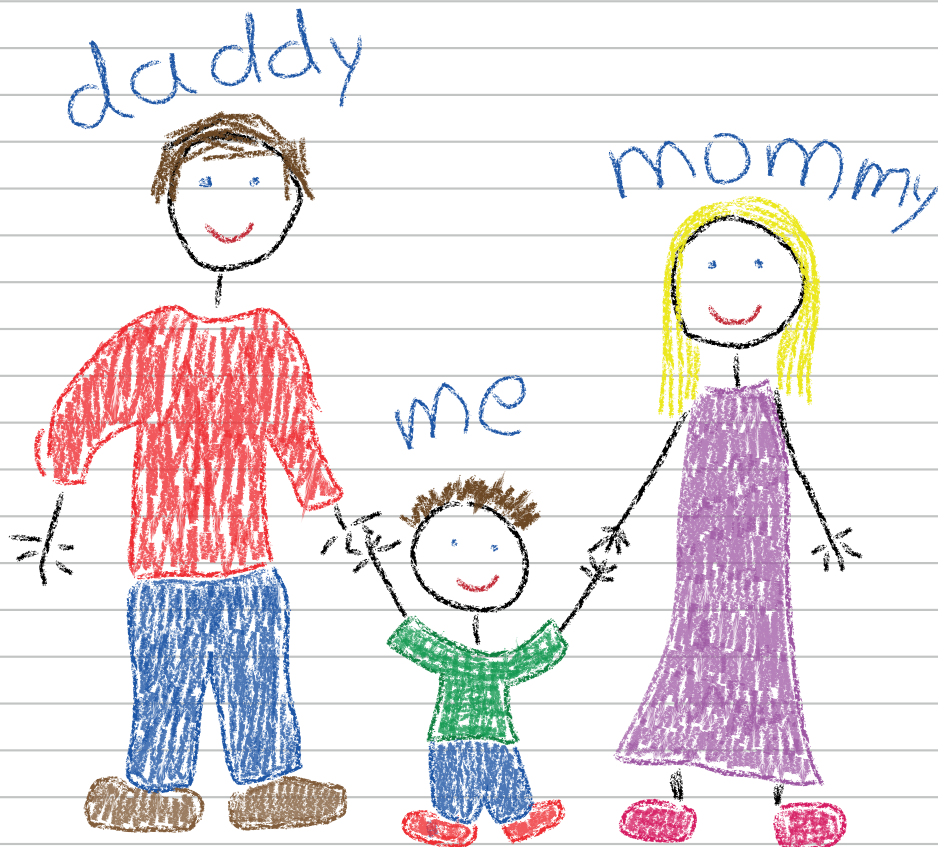
10th January 8.30am
L9766
Vienna
Frankfurt
London

WEDNESDAY

9

JANUARY

I begin my journey to a new life in the UK tomorrow. I have my passport, my bags are packed and I am all ready to go. My sadness will be leaving Kat and Artem behind until they are able to follow. I played with Artem a bit last night. He is terrible at hiding and thinks that if he cannot see you he is invisible. He stood behind the curtain with his hands over his face for a whole 5 minutes before excitement got him and he jumped out to make a surprise. He grows fast but is too young to know what happens now. I hope he will forgive my ~~absence~~ absence fast. It will be a short time before we are together as a family again. Kat cried so much I could do nothing to stop her tears. She fears what may happen to us and does not want me to go. It upset me that I won't see her for the next few months. I told her I love her and my new job will make us wealthy so she will get lots of money and gifts from the UK. I must look for somewhere to live and send for her and Artem as soon as I can. This is a great ~~oppor~~ opportunity for us and I will finally be able to use my engineering degree for something useful! John is picking me up at 6am so I should try to have some sleep but I am so excited! This could be everything for our family!



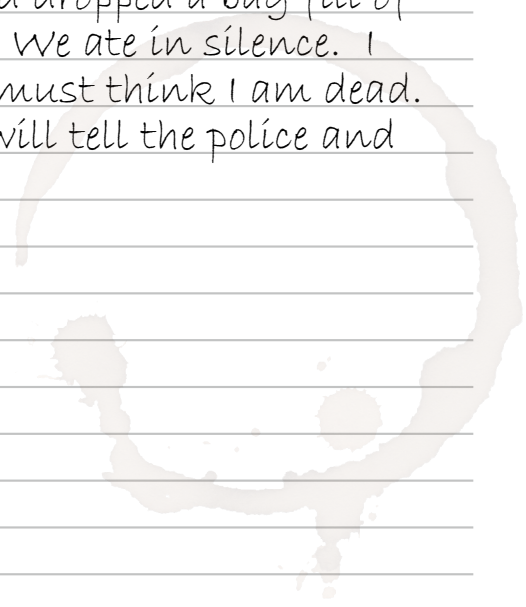
2019

THURSDAY

10

JANUARY

I have been kidnapped! Gary met me at the exit as promised and greeted me like an old friend. He took my suitcase and asked for my documents so that he could set up my job and a bank account. I gave him both. As we walked to his van a man got out and beckoned me sit in the passenger seat before getting back in between me and the door. Gary threw my things into the back and got into the pilots seat. We drove in silence for around 45 minutes before stopping outside some sort of shop. The man got out and pulled me from the van pushing me through a door and up a steep flight of stairs and throwing me to the floor in a room full of dirty looking ~~matreses~~ mattresses and trash. Gary came in behind us and pushed me down with his boot. He said something like "you work for me now until you have paid off what you owe John". Scared and confused I began to explain that I was meant to start my job at Gary's company tomorrow but he cut me off saying "we know where your family are, if you try to run...we'll kill them". They left me then locking the door behind them. Much later I heard the door being unlocked and a group of dirty looking men walked in. I thought they were going to beat me but they just collapsed onto the mattresses. I started to talk to one but the man from the van walked in and shouted "no talking" and dropped a bag full of sandwiches and a bottle of cola on the floor. We ate in silence. I wish I had never left home. Kat and Artem must think I am dead. When John finds out what Gary is done he will tell the police and everything will be fixed!



FRIDAY

11

JANUARY

This morning we were woken by a man I do not recognise. He threw cereal bars to each of us and told us to get ready for work. We were marched down stairs and into the back of a van. It was still cold and dark outside and the lack of windows made sitting in one spot difficult as we drove along.

Eventually the van stop and van man opened the doors, motioning at us to get out. As we did he told us "pick up a shovel and start working" and "remember to keep your mouths shut or it will end badly for you". I picked up a shovel from the pile and followed the other men to half excavated foundations for a house and began digging. Another man saw me looking as van man walked over to another man in a hard hat and bright yellow jacket, "that bastard Max" he said, indicating van man with a nod of his head. We worked for many hours before having a break to eat a sandwich and then straight back to it. Max returned after it had gone dark and we all got back into the van and returned to the flat above the shop. I am very tired but have stayed awake to write this by the light coming from outside. I must keep you hidden, if they find you then it will be bad for all of us.

TUESDAY

12

FEBRUARY


It has been 1 month since I was taken from my family. Every day is seems the same. We are woken up and given crumbs to eat before being marched out to the van and driven to somewhere to do work. The places we go change often. We work for many hours with little break before we are marched back into the van and returned to the flat where we are given food and some- thing to drink. I miss my Kat and Artem so much. They must be searching for me still? George says that we should try to escape and go to the police but what will happen to them if we do so?

WEDNESDAY

17

APRIL

John is here. He came today with Max. He looked at me for some time but I do not think he recognises recognised me through the filth which covers my face and the loss of weight. I almost tried to speak to him but then I realised he has been a part of this all the time! He must have been, he must have arranged it all. It is his fault I am here and not at home with my wife and child. It is his fault I am forced to work for nothing but a little food. It was he who gave empty words about how great life in the UK would be for us. It was he who said he knew a man who would give me work. It was he who pretended to be my friend and arranged everything! "It won't be long before you can rent your own flat" YEAH RIGHT!! ~~Bastard!~~ George is right, we must escape from here! I will speak to him tomorrow when they leave us.



2019

THURSDAY

18

APRIL

George agrees that the only chance we will have to get away will be when they lock us in for the night. We have decided to begin collecting things that we can use to get out. We have kept this to ourselves for fear that one of the others will tell Max or Gary to get favours. The only evidence is in my diary which I have kept secret from everyone, not even George knows of its existence.

2019

THURSDAY

13

JUNE

We nearly have all the items we will need to escape this life and find our way home. Both of us worry that Gary or Max will find our hiding places but neither of them seem able to stand the stench which must fill this room after so long so they do not look around. And after all, who would look in a bottle of urine!? There was a stroke of luck today. A man on site came over and started talking to us during our break. I saw him looking at us yesterday but as normal I put my head down and carried on working without a thought. He was very nice and asked if everything was okay. Each of us mumbled "yes thank you" but he would not leave us alone. Finally he understood and turned to walk away. As he did he knocked into me and I felt him push a small piece of paper into my hand. When I looked at it later it had the words 'helpline' and a phone number written on it. I have hidden it until we have chance to get away, although I do not know how we will use it.

Modern Slavery Hotline
0800 121 700

2019

THURSDAY

25

JULY

Our plan has come together. We have everything we need and will be leaving tomorrow night. Once Max goes to wherever it is he goes to sleep we will be off down those stairs for hopefully the last time. I will see my Katerine and Artem soon!

When we have the key we can call the helpline and finally escape. We will need these words...

10-10-12 7-13-28 18-7-12 25-1-11 9-17-2 17-5-19

12-6-17 18-5-7 11-16-16 7-3-14 13-7-3 10-21-12

Victor.

