

Penguin



Readers

SUE TOWNSEND

THE  
SECRET  
DIARY  
OF

ADRIAN  
MOLE

AGED  
13 $\frac{3}{4}$

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**WINTER**  
**CHAPTER ONE**  
**Help, I've got spots!**

Thursday January 1st

These are the things I am going to do this year. I will help poor people. I will put my clothes in the cupboard. I will stop squeezing my **spots**\*.

Just my **luck**. I've got a big spot on my chin! I told Mum, "It's because I never have any **vitamin C**!" She said, "Go and buy an orange, then."

Monday January 5th

Dad is ill. Mum bought him a vitamin C drink. But I told her, "It's too late now."

I saw Nigel on his new bike today. He is brown from his expensive Christmas holiday in a hot country. He hasn't got any spots.

Thursday January 8th

Now Mum is ill. I have to **look after** them both. Just my luck! I have been up and down the stairs all day. I cooked a big dinner for them, but they didn't eat any of it. I never want to be a doctor.

\*Definitions of words in **bold** can be found in the glossary on pages 78–79.

Sunday January 11th

My parents **coughed** all night. They didn't **care** that I needed to sleep. Dad was in a bad **mood** in the morning. This means that he is feeling better. He said something angry to Mum, and she cried. I made her a cup of tea without her asking me. She cried about that as well. Some people are never happy!

My grandmother came. "The house is very dirty!" she said. I showed her my room because it's always clean, and she gave me fifty **pence**. She squeezed the spot on my chin. Now it looks worse.

Monday January 12th

There's a new girl in our class. She sits next to me in geography. Her name is Pandora. She's got long blonde hair, and she's pretty. I think that I might love her.

Tuesday January 13th

Mr Lucas from next door came to see my parents. They were still in bed. He brought a "get well" card and some flowers for my mother. She was very happy when he was here. I think that Dad was asleep, but I'm not sure.

HELP, I'VE GOT SPOTS!



I'm going to bed early to think about Pandora. I will go to the doctor's on Saturday if the spot is still there. I cannot live like this. Everybody is looking at my chin.

Wednesday January 14th

Good news! Dad is going to work again.

When I got home from school, Mr Lucas was drinking coffee with Mum in the kitchen. Why was he here? I don't know. She's not ill now. They were laughing together until I came in. I never see Mr Lucas laugh with his wife. I don't think that they are happy together.

I've written a **poem**, and it only took me two minutes. That's faster than the famous writers! It's about life. I **showed** it to Mum, but she laughed. She hasn't washed my clothes for school tomorrow. She's not like the mothers on television. Anyway, I don't care. I'm sending the poem to the TV programme "People's Poems". She won't laugh if they read it on TV!

Friday January 16th

I sat next to Pandora in geography again. She looks more beautiful every day.

Her eyes are dark brown, like a dog's. I told her that, and she smiled. I lent her my blue pen.

The spot is HUGE today. Nigel said, "I can't see a spot!" but he was just being nice. I found a book about vitamins and **skin**. I left it on the kitchen table because I want Mum to see it. I'm going to visit the doctor about the spot tomorrow.

Saturday January 17th

Dr Taylor is a terrible doctor! He didn't really look at the spot.

"It's just a spot," he said. Then he asked, "Is everything all right at home?"

"No, it isn't," I told him. "My mum never gives me vitamins!"

"Go home, Adrian. You're fine," he said.

Monday January 19th

I am now in a group at school called the Happy Helpers. We help people in Leicester. On Saturday, I will start helping an old man called Bert Baxter. He's 89, so I might not have him for long.

Pandora smiled at me today. I was drinking water, so I couldn't smile at her. Just my luck!

Tuesday January 20th

Mum's looking for a job! Who will look after me? What will I eat? I'll have to eat **chips** and sweets. My skin will be worse than now. She's a terrible mother!

Saturday January 24th

Today was the worst day of my life. Mum has got a job in an office! She starts on Monday! Dad is in a bad mood because Mum won't be at home to clean and cook.

But worst of all, Bert Baxter is not a nice old man, and his house is very dirty. I had to cut the grass, and it was really hard work.

But even worse than that! Pandora is **going out with** Nigel!!!!

Sunday January 25th

10 a.m. All the **stress** is making me ill, and I cannot eat.

6 p.m. Pandora! My lost love! I will never touch your beautiful hair! (But you can still use my blue pen.)

8 p.m. Pandora! Pandora! Pandora!

10 p.m. Why? Why?