

CODENAME: "1853/3 Days"

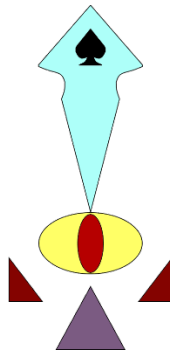
The Tragedy of Mysteo

Compiled by [REDACTED] in 201X

[The following document is a recreated excerpt from a diary, which had been generously donated to CORTX and the Cult of Ice.

It is also the only evidence that a person by the name of Chenoah Shionne ever existed. The author of the original document is an elusive angel named Mysteo who must be eradicated at all costs before it is too late. We were this close to capturing her, and yet she got away. We have not been able to find her since. She was young at the time, and so all spelling mistakes have been corrected.]

[PROPERTY OF CORTX]



June 19, 200X

Today is supposed to be a special day. I didn't know why at first. But I learned that today is something called a "birthday." I never had a birthday before. In fact, this is supposed to be my sixth. I have been alive for 6 years and I never had a birthday. I was told that on my birthday, I get cake and toys. I love cake and toys. I want the new DSi because it has a camera, but I have no money. Maybe if it's my birthday, I can get it for free. I wish I knew who my mommy and daddy were, because I see all the other girls spend time with their mommies and daddies. I only have my cat, Axel. We're misfits, but we're taken care of. The police do a really good job at doing so. We go to the station for food and stuff. I'll talk to you later, I'm gonna go to GameStop.

June 19, 200X

Oh no I made a mistake. I went to GameStop and asked for a DSi. The guy at the desk told me how much it was and I said it was my birthday so I get it for free. He said that wasn't how that works, what a jerk. I threw Axel at his face and ran off with the DSi. I think he called the police because I hear sirens coming this way. I don't know what to do so I think I'm gonna go hide out in this alley.

June 20, 200X

Axel came back! I'm so happy! But I can't go back to the police because I might get arrested. That sucks because I am hungry. Like, really hungry. I have to go somewhere. There is a home for troubled orphan girls across the street. Maybe they can help. But I just saw a police officer walk in, so it's not safe, either. I need to sneak in. I'll try the fire escape. It's really hard to carry this diary, the DSi, and Axel at the same time, but I'll try my h

June 23, 200X

Finally, I got the diary back. I accidentally dropped it, but luckily it was just on the previous floor of the fire escape. Me and Axel have lived a pretty good life here so far. I'm scared that the foster ladies here might know that I'm the thief and turn me in, so I have to live in secret. There is an empty room, which seems to have been unused for quite some time. Surely no one will suspect that I am in here. When the girls are all asleep or at their activities, I sneak into the kitchen and grab some food. I have been stockpiling for a while. I make sure to grab some extra tuna cans for Axel. It also occurred to me that my DSi has no games. I can't risk going back to GameStop, so I think I'll just fidget with the built-in stuff for now.

June 27, 200X

Sorry I haven't written about anything for a while, but not much important stuff has happened. Until today. Axel escaped. Oh dear, I hope he's okay.

June 27, 200X

They got Axel. I heard the ladies screaming, and I saw the animal control van. Godspeed, Axel. But now who will be my friend? I am sad and lonely. Goodnight.

June 28, 200X

Despite my sleep, I am still mad. This diary is STUPID! Goodbye forever!

August 16, 200X

I'm sorry.

August 17, 200X

It's been a really long time, hasn't it? I missed doing this. So much has happened, I'm starting to feel so much better now.

Yesterday, I was watching all the girls at their play, when suddenly one of the girls approached me. She said her name was Akira, which I thought sounded tough. Not at all like how she looked or acted. So I called her "Kira." It was so much cuter.

We became quick friends, but we had to play and stuff in secret. I still didn't want the foster people to know I was here, because I still didn't know if they were gonna turn me in. Kira usually sneaks into my room at night or during her boring classes. We usually talk, play with toys she smuggles in, or play on our DSs. She even let me borrow a couple of her games! I like this one game called *Kingdom Hearts*. The rest of the name is super confusing, but it's pretty cool. I don't really understand what's going on because the text is all scribbles though. Roxas is awesome, and his friends are sweet. But I can't help feeling like something is off about this game. It's like reverse déjà vu, or I guess a premonition is more like it. Oh well. I love this new life. Even if Axel never comes back, even if the police come for me and arrest me, and even if my parents never find me, I wouldn't trade this for the world.

August 18, 200X

My parents. Who are they, anyway? Sometimes it feels like I just sorta showed up one day. I don't know anything other than the fact that my name is Mysteo. I don't even have a last name. Does that mean I don't have any parents? And how do I know my name is Mysteo? The police have always called me Jane Smith, but my heart has always told me my name was Mysteo. I never wanted to

correct them because I know they would ask me for my last name, which I do not know.

August 19, 200X

Kira brought a new friend today. Her name is Chenoah. She seemed really shy, and at times almost as lost and confused as I am usually. But once we introduced ourselves, something just... clicked. Do you like that technique I just did? Those three dots. It's something I learned from another game I borrowed called *Castlevania: Dawn of Sorrow*. It's like a comma or a period... but more advanced! Kira and Chenoah always teach me the stuff they learn in school, just to help me get to their level. I think we're gonna be the best of friends.

August 22, 200X

I am so bored today, and my friends have been so caught up in their activities and whatnot. At least I know Roxas's got me... even though I can't understand what he's saying.

August 22, 200X

I came up with such a genius idea. What if I snuck Kira and Chenoah out of here? We could go hang out somewhere and just watch the sun set. Maybe we can talk about life. My room is pretty boring.

August 22, 200X

That went so beautifully. Kira was nice enough to buy us all ice cream, too. We decided to spend the rest of our day at the park downtown. When the sun was going down, we snuck to the top of the clock tower in the middle of the park. The sun looked absolutely beautiful, and its reflection made the river below look like amber. We talked about life, what brought us together. Kira seems to believe it was fate, while I think it might be something more divine. Chenoah thought it was entirely chance, what a mood killer. Though, she would say that she liked the odds. I wish today would never end.

September 21, 200X

The past month has been mostly the same. Every morning I wake up, then Kira sneaks me some breakfast. I spend most of my time either drawing, napping, or playing on my DSi, until my friends' classes end. Then they share with me their notes, and we do their homework together. After that, we sneak out, go to the park, play around in the fountain because I can't wash myself at the orphanage if I'm hiding, then buy some ice cream and climb to the top of the clock tower. It's very fun, but because this is mostly what happens every day, I'm only going to write when something interesting happens. I hope you understand.

September 28, 200X

Something interesting has happened. My friends have to do something called a "book report." Basically they read a book, then write about what happens. I didn't want to be left out or make them jealous, so I decided to do one, too. Instead of going to the park, we decided to go to the library so we can pick out some books. Kira found a book called *Dork Diaries*. It was new, and she got it because she said it reminded her of me, haha. I really am a dork, huh? Chenoah's so smart, she's already reading chapter books. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was what she picked. An interesting choice. And as for me, well... I couldn't quite decide at first, but I decided to go with a classic: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. I remember when the movie came out, but I never really got a chance to watch it yet.

October 4, 200X

Sorry it's been so long, I've been so hard at work with my book report. I've been reading a lot. I'm already on the penultimate chapter of my book. I like that word. "Penultimate." It means second to last. I don't remember where I heard it, but it's a fun word. Well, I think it's been long enough. I have a plan. When the reports are due, I'm gonna come out to the staff. Is it risky? Yeah. But I don't care. "Risky" is my middle name. See you then.

October 11, 200X

I'm gonna do it.

October 11, 200X

They weren't mad at me!! They welcomed me with open arms, even though most of the bedrooms are full. I told them about the vacant room I had been using and they said I could keep it.

October 12, 200X

Sorry, but I figured I should let you know ahead of time. I'm starting to get bored of writing, haha. I might be off and on, but just don't be surprised when nothing new is written for a while.

October 13, 200X

This day might be the last time I write for a long while, because I have gotten so bored of this writing thing. I better make it count, because there's a lot that I need to tell you all about. Today is Friday, which means the weekend is almost here. Kira said that there's gonna be an ice cream party today, which I'm absolutely stoked for. We will be going to watch a mystery movie. I can't wait to find out what it will be. Today is also when the book reports are due, and I'm allowed to turn mine in! How awesome is that?

October 13, 200X

I hope I get a good grade on my report. Anyway, the party was an absolute blast. The movie we ended up watching was something called *Bridge to Terabithia*. It was so sad, I must have cried like five times watching it. If any of that happened to me, well, I don't know what I'd do. Kira comforted me, though it was Chenoah who really cheered me up... because she tried to steal another kid's ice cream and accidentally got it all over her face. It was really funny. Such great friends I have. But the movie... I can't stop thinking about it. Can it really last, our friendship?

November 27, 200X

See, I told you I would be off and on! Anyway, yesterday was Thanksgiving. Man, I've never had so much food in my life. It kind of reminded me of what it was like, living on the streets. Very little food, unless people took pity on me, or I stole some. I often wonder how I survived. Well, regardless, I'm just thankful I'm beyond that life now. I've got friends, family, and food. The Three Fs. Apparently today is something they call "Black Friday," and everything is on sale. Kira said she's going on a trip with the older girls to buy presents for the next big holiday, Christmas. She's been saving up her allowance all year for this. Lucky her, haha.

November 30, 200X

I forgot to mention, I got an A on my report. Yeah, I'll probably see you guys on Christmas.

December 18, 200X

Never mind, we're doing Hanukkah. Apparently Chenoah is Jewish, which means she believes in Hylia, but not Zelda and the Triforce. Or at least I think so, I've never heard of this religion until now. Either way, we're doing Hanukkah. It's a fun holiday. You eat fried food, sing songs, light candles, and give presents for eight nights in a row. It's like Christmas before Christmas, but I hear sometimes it can be on or after, too. I didn't get anything because I didn't celebrate until tonight, but I don't care. As long as I get to spend more time with my friends, I'll always be happy.

December 24, 200X

It's Christmas Eve! Aside from the cold, this was the only time I actually didn't mind living on the streets. The pretty lights and decorations, the blaring carols, it all just felt so warm and inviting. I didn't feel so lonely. We all gathered in the living room, as one of the staff leaders, Miss Maggie, lit a fire and put on a movie. The movie was called *Home Alone 2*, and it made me feel... I don't know, actually. Was it sadness?

Happiness? Wanting to go back in time? I don't know. It made me cry, which was a little embarrassing, but Kira and Chenoah hugged me and made me feel better.

December 25, 200X

And now it's Christmas Day. Time for presents! I'll report back what I got.

December 25, 200X

GUYS THIS IS THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER!!!!!!!!!! First was Kira's gift. She gave me the English version of *Kingdom Hearts Three Five... Something Something* on my DSi! Now I can understand what they're saying! And then Chenoah said she went down to the shelter and GUESS WHAT SHE FOUND??? AXEL!!!!!! WE'VE BEEN REUNITED AT LAST!!!!!!!!!! The big black hole in my heart has been filled!

December 31, 200X

Tonight is New Year's Eve, and we get to stay up past midnight for once. Right now it is 9:24 at night, and Miss Maggie has prepared a lot of snacks for us. Swedish meatballs, tortilla chips with spinach and artichoke dip (the other kids think it's gross but I love it), and those really good strawberry ice cream cups. Those were my favorites, but there was a lot more.

January 1, 201X

It's midnight, haha! I am very badbooty!

January 1, 201X

Oh wait I just realized we are in the 10s now. Nice. Why are the years Xs though? Why isn't it 2010? Wouldn't that make it confusing next year when it's 2011? Or later when it's 2019? Why did they do th

January 1, 201X

Sorry guys I fell asleep. I was not built for staying up past midnight LOL (lots of love).

February 12, 201X

Valentine's Day is coming up soon. I want to give my friends something to show that I appreciate them, but I don't have any money.

February 12, 201X

Good news! Miss Carolyn, another one of the staff, said that she would take me to the store and help me pick out Valentine's gifts if I help her wash the dishes!

February 12, 201X

I broke a plate, and I thought that Miss Carolyn would be mad at me, but she wasn't. She said that accidents are just a part of life, as are breaking things. If something breaks, try to fix it, and if it can't be fixed, then just start again. Anyway, we're going to the store first thing in the morning tomorrow.

February 14, 201X

It's Valentine's Day, and don't worry, I didn't forget the gifts. I got Kira a month of Unlimited Access for *Pirates of the Caribbean Online* because she really liked that game, and I got Chenoah the fourth *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* book because I thought she would think it was funny. Speaking of funny, I think I misunderstood what a Valentine's Day gift was supposed to be. They only got me chocolate, haha!

March 28, 201X

Guys, I thought there was only a break for Christmas, but no. There's a SPRING BREAK, too! I'm learning so much about life. Now me and Kira and Chenoah can spend all the time we want together... except there was nothing stopping us before, heh.

April 1, 201X

Dear diary, I am burning this diary forever. Goodbye.

April 2, 201X

SORRY I FORGOT TO WRITE "APRIL FOOL'S" SORRY SORRY SORRY PLEASE
DON'T HURT ME DIARY

June 19, 201X

It's been a while. Sorry I haven't been writing, I've just been so focused on school. After school was done, I spent a lot of time binging *Kingdom Hearts Days* (which is what I'm going to call it from now on because it will spare me from getting a headache trying to remember the title). It was supposed to just be a marathon, getting to where I was at in the Japanese version before I switched over to my new English version. But then I just kept going. And going. And going. And now I'm on Day 352. But I decided to take a break from all that today, because it's my birthday. It's been one whole year since this adventure began. Since Axel and I went into hiding. Since I st-- No. I don't want to think about how I got the very thing that has kept me happy and led me to meet my new friends, my new family. What's done is done. Anyway, I'm another year older. I'm 7 now. How will I celebrate?

June 19, 201X

Well, I guess I'll celebrate by having the first normal birthday of my life. Cake. It's good. Vanilla with white frosting.

Presents. Got a new game for my DSi. *Pokémon SoulSilver*. Cool. I also got some candy, and a t-shirt, and a pair of jeans, and some Converse, and *Brand New Eyes* by Paramore, and *The Powerpuff Girls Movie* on DVD. Cool. But why? Why do I have all this stuff, why do I have all these friends, this family, but I can't feel happy? I can pretend. I don't want everyone to feel bad. But it doesn't make me feel good. At all. I feel like I'm lying to them, just so I don't break their hearts. Why? Why do I feel this way?

June 20, 201X

I decided to tell Kira about how I felt. She didn't really understand, but she tried. Chenoah told me I was depressed, but how do 7-year-olds get depression? Something's going on here. Maybe I should ask my heart.

June 20, 201X

My heart has told me that all it will feel is pain until I know the truth. Why am I here? Who are my parents? Why don't they love me? Why did they leave me? Who am I? Until I can answer these questions, I will know nothing but pain and suffering. That's what my heart told me. And my heart never lies.

June 21, 201X

I decided to go on an expedition. I needed to find my parents. I needed to answer the questions my heart keeps asking me. I needed to make the pain stop. I couldn't tell my friends. They'd try to stop me, and even if they didn't, they couldn't come with me. This is a journey of self-discovery, not group-discovery. If you don't hear back from me, then something bad will have happened to me. But I don't see why anything bad would

Close one. A crow just attacked me for no reason, haha.

June 21, 201X

I saw a really weird person outside. I was just walking to the mall, when I saw someone dressed in funny-looking clothes and one of those weird masks you would find at Michael's. I could hear him talking, but I didn't fully understand what he said. All I could hear was "Number Three," which seemed to be the name of the person he was talking to through his headset, and then he said something like "Glory to Crust." Is he a priest, or a government guy? Or is he stupid?

June 21, 201X

WOW THAT WAS SO SCARY. The man saw me and chased after me. I went into the mall, and he was still following me. So I went

into the one place I knew he could never follow me into: the girls' bathroom. I just waited in there for a while until I thought it was safe to leave, and when I did, he was gone. Before he left, though, I swear I could hear him say, "It doesn't matter. The angel has been located." What does that mean? Am I the angel? I think that man is just really crazy. Maybe I should call the police... no. Never again will I go to them. They might still take me in for the DSi. I should play it safe from here on out, only stay in crowded areas. No one will find me.

June 22, 201X

Somehow, a whole day has passed, and I'm still alive. But I'm really hungry. I need food... After the mission. This is more important. I walked to the library, but my feet hurt so much. I did nothing but walk all day yesterday. I thought that maybe there were newspapers or something inside that could help me.

June 22, 201X

Excuse my French but damn it (I'm sorry). Of course, the first person I see when I walk into the library is Kira, the bookworm. She scolded me, you know, your "Where have you been?"s and your "I thought you were dead!"s. I told her to leave me alone, that I wasn't done yet. She didn't care. She took me straight back to

the orphanage. All that work for nothing. When I got back home, all I could do was sulk and cry in the corner of my room.

June 23, 201X

Somehow I fell asleep. When I woke up, I was in my bed, tucked in. Kira came back, thinking I was in a better mood. I was. She asked me some questions. "Where have you been?" "Out and about." "Why did you leave?" "I needed answers." "Answers to what?" "Everything." "Why?" "To make the pain go away." Kira was confused. I knew she wouldn't understand. But she knew I was troubled, and she knew she could help me somehow. She said she's going to tell Miss Maggie about my sadness, but she won't tell her about anything else.

June 24, 201X

Chenoah told me she had actually been protecting me this whole time. She didn't want anyone else to be stressed out about my disappearance. Only she and Kira knew about it. She had been telling everyone that I had been sleeping all day because I'm so addicted to my games. She's been taking meals to my room, pretending to bring them to me, but she was only feeding Axel. I love her. She's my best friend. Anyway, starting tomorrow I'm going to see a psychologist. I think one will help me a lot.

June 25, 201X

I met with the psychologist for the first time today. Her name was Mrs. Harley, but she told me to just call her Astrid. We got to know each other. She told me she lived in Idaho, but worked in Washington. She told me she had a daughter around my age, and a son who she never gets to see. She told me she was related to Eleanor Roosevelt. I started to cry. I had nothing to tell her. I didn't know my family. I didn't have a family, except for Kira and Chenoah. So we talked about it. And talking helped me feel a little better. She told me that having a found family is better than having no family, and that I'm very lucky to have Kira and Chenoah looking out for me. I told her about my attempt at running away to find my family. I told her that's what my heart told me to do. She explained to me that when my heart tells me things like that, they're called "intrusive thoughts." She told me not to listen to the bad things my heart says, because they're not true. I do have a family. I can make the pain go away. I don't need answers. I need love.

July 4, 201X

It's getting better. It really is. I haven't thought about looking for answers since the failed expedition. I haven't felt any pain, either. Astrid is helping me a lot. So are my friends. Speaking of, we went to go see the fireworks tonight at the

park, since it's, you know, the 4th of July. We usually hang out at the clock tower at dusk, but this time the sun had already set. The experience felt weird, but in a sort of cozy way. The three of us watched the fireworks while we ate our Bomb Pops. One of the fireworks happened to go off right next to the tower and it startled me pretty badly. I remember falling off the tower, feeling so scared that I had to close my eyes. When I did, I saw a weird vision. In the blackness, I saw myself, as if I was staring into my reflection. She said, "This is not how it ends. You are not ready." When I opened my eyes, Chenoah had grabbed onto my wrist. She pulled me back up. I don't think the clock tower's very safe anymore.

August 17, 201X

It's been one year since I met Kira. In two days, it will have been one year since I met Chenoah. School will be starting in less than a month, so I've decided to really focus on *Kingdom Hearts*. I need to see how it ends, and I'm almost there.

August 18, 201X

I've made a mistake.

August 19, 201X

Don't worry, it's nothing too serious. It's just... I don't want to fight Xion! I want her and Roxas to stay as friends! Axel, too! I want them to stay as best friends forever, eating ice cream at the top of the clock tower! I used to want to be like Roxas. Now I want Roxas to be like me. The moment Xion attacked Roxas, I turned the game off. I love the game, but respectfully, I'm never playing it again. It's too much for me.

August 19, 201X

I feel so embarrassed. Kira heard me crying and asked if everything's alright. How do I tell her I'm crying over a video game without making it seem like I'm pathetic?

August 20, 201X

I told Astrid about yesterday, how thinking about the game made me want to cry, and how embarrassing it felt. She told me it's okay to cry when things are sad, or happy, or upsetting, or scary. Crying is just the natural way we express emotions. There's nothing to be embarrassed about. I then asked why I thought it was pathetic? She told me lots of people believe that. It's just as normal to think crying is pathetic as it is to actually cry. The difference is that one makes you feel better than the other in the end. She asked if it felt good to

call myself pathetic. I said no. So she said that logically, I shouldn't feel embarrassed about crying. I think I finally get it. Then she asked why the game made me sad. I told her it was because there were three friends who loved each other, but one day they were all angry with each other and started fighting. It scared me so much. She asked if it was because of my friends. I told the truth. It's not that I want Roxas and his friends to be like me and my friends. It's that I don't want me and my friends to be like Roxas and his friends. I don't want my friends to fight with each other. I don't want to fight with my friends. She asked if that was happening right now. I told her no, I was just afraid it might. Then she told me that even though it's just a fear, it's good to be thinking about things like that. Even if thinking about my friends fighting makes me scared, it can end up being helpful for me when they actually fight. Before I left, Astrid told me she had the day off tomorrow and invited me for lunch at a place called Atilano's. Just us. I said I would love that.

August 21, 201X

Astrid kinda lied, LOL. It wasn't just the two of us. She brought her daughter with her. She was a little shy, but that was okay because I was, too. I thought of what Kira would do in this situation, and that helped ease the shyness. I introduced

myself to the girl. "Hi, I'm Mysteo. What's your name?" She looked at me. I could tell she was nervous, but brave. Just like me. She pushed her glasses up with confidence. "My name's Bail." "Nice to meet you, Bail. Do you like video games?" "Yes. I just got the new *Legend of Zelda* game last Christmas. It's called *Spirit Tracks*, and it's my new favorite game. I bring my DS everywhere I go. Do you have one?" "Yeah! I love playing *Kingdom Hearts* on it. It's like a Disney game, but you don't play as Disney characters." "Here, you can have this game. It's called *Phantom Hourglass*. I already beat it, and *Spirit Tracks* is way better anyway. Next time we meet each other, you should bring you DS and we can play something together." "Thank you."

October 31, 201X

Sorry for the absence, I've just been so busy with school. This time I mean it when I say it's getting better, okay? I've played a little bit of *Phantom Hourglass*, and it's pretty fun. A little confusing at times, but fun. It's weird, though, seeing a character in the game named Astrid. I bet Bail felt even weirder about it, haha. *Pokémon* is also really fun, and I like the way the girl character looks. That's why I decided to dress as her for Halloween tonight. According to Google, her name is Lyra. That's a pretty name for a pretty girl.

November 1, 201X

We had a Halloween party last night. Kira was kind of dressed like Gwen from *Total Drama*... I think? Chenoah, meanwhile, was dressed like me. That's a weird costume, but I guess it's funny. We all got a bunch of candy, and we ate so much of it last night. My stomach still hurts, haha. It's such a shame I still have to go to school today.

November 13, 201X

Kira has discovered something called "anime." They're cartoons from Japan. We started watching this one called *Death Note* together, and I feel like we shouldn't because we're too little, but we can't stop. It's scary, but it's so interesting. Kira has even started to call herself Kira now because of this show. Before, I was the only one who called her that.

December 24, 201X

Even though it's Christmas Eve, I still met with Astrid today. I told her that everything's getting better, and I haven't had much time to write, but it's getting better. She said that was good. We talked about the self today. In the past, we've discussed how important it was to feel good about yourself, but today she told me that there's also such a thing as feeling too good about yourself. There are a lot of different words she told

me that mean feeling too good about yourself: arrogance, vanity, pride. I told her that I think I felt a normal amount of good, but I will try to not feel too arrogant or vain or prideful. I invited Astrid and Bail to join us for Christmas, but she told me that they already had plans this year. That's okay.

December 25, 201X

I didn't get as many gifts this year, but that's okay. The orphanage didn't get a whole lot of money this year, which also meant Kira and Chenoah couldn't save up enough to get anything. And I already got them Christmassy gifts for Valentine's Day. But, like I said, that's okay. As long as we're together, I don't need any gifts. But maybe, just maybe, just one more toy?

December 31, 201X

Well, it's almost time for the New Year's Eve party again. This time I promise I won't stay up as late, heh heh! As soon as the clock says 12, I'm going straight to bed.

December 31, 201X

GUYS GUYS GUYS GUYS GUYS GUYS!!! Astrid came by earlier. She said she wanted to make up for Christmas but she was really busy today, so instead she'd just drop off Bail. She even allowed

Bail spend the night, probably because she'd be going straight to bed after her work is done, haha.

January 1, 201X

It's the dawn of a new year! I didn't write at midnight because, like I said earlier, I was going straight to bed. I'll tell you about everything though. Bail brought her DS with her, and this time she had *Pokémon Platinum*, which is like my game but it has a weird demon bug thing on it. We battled each other with our teams, and it was really close, but Bail just barely won. We had a lot of fun. We also traded some Pokémon. I gave her an Eevee and she gave me an Absol. She got really excited because she could evolve the Eevee into a Glaceon, which was her favorite Pokémon. Later, everyone watched a movie. This time we watched *Despicable Me*, which just came out on DVD. It was really funny, it also kind of made me cry. I didn't have to worry about being embarrassed anymore because I learned so much from Astrid. Also because Kira was crying, too. When midnight came, I headed to bed, but before I went I invited Bail to sleep in my room. She thanked me, but said Miss Carolyn already set up a room for her. Then we both went to bed.

January 26, 201X

I went to a place called "church" today. It was really interesting. They sing songs about Hylia, pray to her, and read from an ancient book called the Prognosticus. They read a story about a maiden named Malon who taught a young boy named Link a beautiful melody. Seven years later, the boy, who had grown up, returned to the maiden's ranch, only to find it was taken by a greedy farmhand named Ingo. When Link found Malon, he played the song, which made her remember him. He promised he would get her ranch back. He beat Ingo in a horse race, which hurt his pride, and as promised, the ranch was returned to its rightful owner. As a reward, Malon let Link keep the horse he beat Ingo with, which was named Epona. I believe the moral of the story is that even the smallest of gifts can go a long way. Or something like that. Maybe it's just a piece of a larger story, and I made the meaning up.

February 14, 201X

Guess I misunderstood Valentine's Day again this year. Last year, I thought I had learned that gifts aren't meant to be all that expensive on this holiday. So this year, I just got boxes of chocolates for Kira and Chenoah. They put their money together and got me a game called *Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney*. I tried to play it, but I just didn't get it. I hope they won't

be mad at me, because I ended up giving it to a girl named Aris, who didn't get anything.

February 15, 201X

Aris won't leave me alone.

February 16, 201X

I keep hearing her scream "Objection!" and "Hold it!" across the hall.

February 17, 201X

What have I done?

February 18, 201X

Oh thank God she's been adopted. Now Mr. Undyrope will have to deal with her nonsense and I won't.

February 22, 201X

Astrid invited me to Bail's 8th birthday. I told her I would love to, but then I asked if I could bring my friends. She said I could. I've never been to Idaho before. The woods look so pretty.

February 22, 201X

The party didn't go too well for me. And it was all some dumb girl who I never met's fault. The other guests at the party were Bail's classmates. I didn't know how many of them were actually her friends, but I know for a fact that girl couldn't have been one of them. It all started after we got our slices of cake. This girl in a striped sweater came over and pushed me down, getting cake all over my face, then laughed as she walked away. I wanted to cry, but I felt something else inside of me. I shouted at her. "What's wrong with you, jerk?" She turned around and approached me. "You will never understand what's wrong with me," she said. "Let me guess: your mommy gave you a tuna sandwich instead of PB&J for lunch? Is that it? Imagine being so spoiled!" "Imagine shutting the (OMG she literally said the F word! She's only 7, why would she say that?) up! Don't you EVER talk about my mom! Ever!" Then she pushed me down even harder. I think she was also crying. Astrid took us both inside and asked what happened. I explained everything. Astrid told me that the girl, named Chara, was having a tough time because her mom died last summer. I felt so bad for her. I never had a mom to begin with. I couldn't imagine losing one. I was still hurt, though, so I don't know if I'll ever forgive her. I wonder if she feels the same.

April 1, 201X

~~Bear diary, I am burning this~~ Wait I did that last year. Dang it, what joke am I supposed to make now? Oh, I know!

April 1, 201X

5318008. Flip it upside down.

June 19, 201X

It's my birthday again. I'm feeling a little sad, like last year, but not in the same way. I'm not sad because of my past, but because of my future. I was thinking about that Aris girl. She got adopted. Will I be adopted, or will I live here forever? No, I can't live here forever. Forever's a really long time. I mean until I grow up. And if I do get adopted, what will happen to my friends? Will I ever see them again? It feels like a "darned if I do, darned if I don't" thing, as Miss Maggie sometimes says. Well, anyway, I'm 8 now. In 10 years, I'll be an adult. That's plenty of time to get adopted.

June 21, 201X

I always forget that the first day of summer is two days after my birthday. Yesterday marked two years since I came to this place. I often wonder what would have happened if I stayed on the streets. Just me and Axel. I remember it got really lonely,

even when the police gave us food and stuff. I promised myself I wouldn't focus too much on the past anymore, but just one answered question couldn't hurt, right?

June 22, 201X

I decided to come with Kira to the library today, just so she knows I'm there. Last year's investigation was a disaster, so I'm gonna try and do things the right way this year. I don't exactly know what I'm looking for though.

June 22, 201X

I found an old newspaper dated about a week after I was born. "Mysterious infant found by church" was what the headline said. I read a little more. "Police are frantically searching for the parents of a baby girl who was found outside St. Linebeck's Cathedral." "The infant's DNA was tested, but there were no matches in any hospital records, nor any similarities with any citizens in the larger Spokaneistan area. The only identifying feature about the baby is a distinct M-shaped birthmark on her upper back, hence why the police have given her the nickname 'Emma.'" Is... Is this talking about me?

June 22, 201X

Okay I'm freaking out now. I kind of forgot about my discovery until after I got out of the shower. It was really hard, but I checked my back to see if I had the same birthmark that the baby did in the newspaper. I did. I don't know how to feel, I'm going to sleep on this.

June 26, 201X

I wanted to go to church again today. I thought I might get some answers. Today, the story was about the beginning of the world. One day, a cosmic child named Hylia came from nowhere. She was all alone in a dark, empty void. She had no friends, and nothing to do. So she made her own friends, three to be exact: Din, Nayru, and Farore. Although she wasn't alone anymore, the emptiness was still rather boring, so her new friends created for her a vast, beautiful universe. Hylia loved her friends' creation, and she wanted it to last forever, so to make sure nothing bad ever happened to it, she created a court of 17 Angels to protect it all. Some of the Angels were jerks who didn't like being bossed around by Hylia though, so they rebelled against her. Because of that, she cast all 17 Angels out of her Heaven. There was a huge divide between the Angels. Some wanted to come back to Hylia, and so they wait patiently for her to invite them back into her life. Others thought Hylia

betrayed them, and their hearts filled with Malice and Gloom, as they hoped to one day get their revenge. The rest wanted to live normal lives.

June 26, 201X

After the service, I decided to talk to the priest, since he seemed really smart. I asked him if he remembered when a baby was found by his church. He told me he did remember. I asked if he ever saw who left her there. He said he didn't. He was outside just ten seconds before the baby showed up, though. It was almost like the baby just showed up out of nowhere. He didn't even hear a knock at the door. I guess I wasn't lost, but unwanted. That answers one of my questions, I suppose...

July 4, 201X

I still feel a little bummed after that service, but I promised myself I'd be happy from here on out. Who cares if my parents didn't want me? My friends want me. I'd hate to leave them behind, alone. Anyway, another mistake I learned from last year is not to sit on the clock tower when fireworks go off. I don't know how many second chances I'll get, so it's best not to risk it, haha. So instead, we sat by the edge of the river, close to the carousel. Kira asked me what I was doing at the library the other day, so I told her I was doing the same thing I tried to

do last year when I ran away. I was looking for answers. She asked me if my heart was hurting again. I said no, not really, but I still wanted answers. She asked what I found. I said that I found something I wish I hadn't. Thinking about it made me feel uncomfortable and sad, so I quickly changed the subject. I told my friends that I finally beat *Dawn of Sorrow* last night, after all these years. They congratulated me, which made me feel better. Together, the three of us watched the fireworks, each one prettier than the last. It didn't make the little pain go away, but it definitely helped for a little bit.

August 22, 201X

Today we found out about something new Miss Maggie and Miss Carolyn thought of. Before Christmas Break, we're going to have the first annual Hagatha Talent Show! That sounds like so much fun, but what would I even do? I'm not sure if I even have a talent. That's when Chenoah came to me with an awesome idea: we should DANCE together!! We have plenty of time to work out the ~~Gory Corey coreeo~~ the dance moves, so we should try and pick the perfect song. I asked her if Kira was going to be dancing, too, and she told me yes, but on her own. She's doing a weird anime dance or something, apparently.

August 27, 201X

I thought of the perfect song! Earlier Kira was showing me a funny video of a rainbow Pop Tart cat with the most beautiful song I have ever heard in my life, so we HAVE to dance to that song! Hold on, I'm gonna ask Chenoah.

August 27, 201X

SHE SAID YES!!!

October 31, 201X

Instead of the Halloween party, Astrid invited me and my friends to go trick or treating with her and Bail. I wanted to go, but Kira and Chenoah wanted to stay at the party. They said it was fine if I went without them, though, so I did. This year I wanted to go as Xion from *Kingdom Hearts*, so yesterday I asked Miss Maggie to give me a haircut and to dye it black. As for the rest of the costume, I found a big old leather jacket at a thrift store, along with some boots and gloves. Sadly, I don't think there are any toy Keyblades. So I guess I'm Xion from the part where she couldn't summon her Keyblade, haha! Bail was dressed like the Pokémon trainer she was playing as in *Pokémon Platinum*. She told me her name was Dawn. Why do all the girls in these games have such pretty names? Lyra, Dawn, Jasmine. I wish I had their names, haha. Anyway, we were trick or treating in

downtown Ame d'Alene, when I saw a teenager wearing the coolest costume, only I didn't know what it was. I thought it was some kind of demon girl. She had gray body paint, a black wig, glasses, and orange horns. She also had a black t-shirt with a cool "m" on it, jeans, red Converse, and an unbuttoned gray button-up shirt. I just had to know who this person was supposed to be, so I snuck away from Astrid and Bail for a moment. "Excuse me, but who are you supposed to be?" I asked. "Kid, I think you're too young for me to be telling you about it. Sorry," she said. "No, it's okay. I'm pretty mature." "You sure? Wait, are you supposed to be Xion? Okay, I guess that settles it." I didn't quite understand what she was telling me, but it sounded something like... Friska? And she was from something called a "Home Stuck?" I guess I'll have to look that up later. Wow I've been writing a lot. Sorry, I need to go to bed now. Goodnight.

November 11, 201X

So I looked up "Home Stuck," and it's actually called *Homestuck*. It's a comic about some kids who play a video game, I think? Don't know when that Friska girl comes in but I'll probably start reading it tonight, just to see what all the hype is about. Looks like there was a big update today, too, because my

Google search showed me a lot of people on a website called Tumblr freaking out about a new universe or something.

November 13, 201X

Chenoah and I practiced our dance routine, and I think we've got it almost completely memorized now. It was really hard, trying to figure out how to make a dance for this specific song, but I'm glad we figured it out.

November 24, 201X

So I decided to check out *Homestuck*, when I realized that there are some other stories, too. Older ones. I don't know if *Homestuck* is a sequel to them or not, but I'll read them all just in case.

November 25, 201X

The first ones, *Jailbreak* and *Bard Quest*, were pretty short. They were a little hard to follow sometimes, though. And also I think *Bard Quest* specifically wasn't finished. I don't see what any of them have to do with *Homestuck* though. Maybe the next one, *Problem Sleuth*, will have more to do with it.

December 16, 201X

It was finally time for the talent show. Kira's doing her bit right now, which means me and Chenoah are next. I don't really know how much longer I have to write, so I'll just say for now that Kira's talent is making me laugh so hard right now. I almost feel bad, because I don't know if it was supposed to be funny.

December 16, 201X

I'm going to be honest, I sort of forgot the dance moves we made up. But that's okay because I had Chenoah on stage to help me remember. Unlike Kira's act, I know for a fact ours was supposed to be funny. For half of it we pretended we were cats, so we had Kira use a laser pointer from backstage, and the joke was that we stopped our dance in the middle of it to chase the laser.

December 16, 201X

They announced the winners. Well, winner. It wasn't me and Chenoah, and it wasn't Kira, either. It was actually someone I've never met before. He was a little older than me, and I didn't quite catch his name, but his talent was a techno song he made all by himself on his computer, which I guess is pretty cool. I wasn't too bothered with my loss, and neither was Kira, but Chenoah was devastated. I tried to reassure her that we were

just doing this for fun, and whether we win or lose has nothing to do with anything, and get this. She said to me, "Of course you'd say that. You've been losing your whole life, so you're used to it. I've only started losing a few years ago." I wasn't really hurt by her words. After all I've been through, it takes a lot more to hurt me. Kira, on the other hand, was really angry at Chenoah for saying that about me. They got into a fight. I think my biggest fear is starting to come true.

December 17, 201X

During their fight, I ran off to my room and cried myself to sleep. When I woke up this morning, Kira was in my room. She told me that she was sorry about the fight. I accepted her apology, but then she told me something weird. She said that she didn't want me hanging out with Chenoah anymore. She wanted me to pick between my two best friends, which is totally unfair. I'm going to try and find a way to cheat at her game, because Chenoah needs help, like how I needed help. Actually, I... I kind of still need help, I think...

December 17, 201X

Later, Chenoah came into my room. She said she was sorry about what she said last night. She was just really upset, so she didn't mean it. I told her I knew she didn't mean it, and that I

forgive her, but then I told her about what Kira said. She didn't seem very happy about that, but she "accepted the terms," whatever that means. Remember, I'm only 8. I don't know what everything means yet, silly. But I guess that means we're not really gonna be friends anymore. That's sad. Before she left, I told her that she should meet with Astrid. I could tell she had a lot of sadness like I did, so maybe Astrid can help.

December 18, 201X

Remember what I said yesterday? "But I guess that means we're not really gonna be friends anymore." Well guess what? I lied, heh heh! It's time for Operation: Sea Salt. That's what I called my epic new plan to get Kira and Chenoah to be friends again. How will it work? Well, I'll give them both notes to meet me at the clock tower, just like we did before. I'll hide out inside for a little bit, and then I'll come out and pretend to fall. But I won't actually fall, because I'll have a bungee cord that will stop me before I hit the ground. But that's not what I'm trying to do. I'm trying to get them to catch me before that happens. If they work together to save the person they love, then they'll love each other again. It's genius!

December 19, 201X

Okay, I gave them both the notes, went to the shed to get the bungee cord, and now I'm on my way to the clock tower. This is the best plan I've ever had.

December 19, 201X

It's so dark in here. That's why I brought a candle. That and I couldn't find a flashlight, haha.

December 19, 201X

I can hear them yelling at each other. This isn't going as I hoped so far, but it will soon enough. It's almost time for me to come out. Wait. Something's wrong. The cord's stuck on the bell! I can't get it unstuck! Okay, I'm going to try and pull it as hard as I can. WHAT HAVE I DONE???? I fell, and it really hurt, but I also knocked my candle down, and now the cord is on fire! I tried to open the door I came from, but I'm locked in. Someone must have locked it because it's starting to get a little late. What about the balcony door? That's also locked. Am I going to die? I've tried everything. I'm screaming for help. Everything's on fire now. There's only one thing I haven't tried, but it's really risky. Here I go.

February 29, 201X

I'm sorry about the long wait, but I'm back now. Apparently I was asleep for a long time. But I just woke up yesterday. Everyone was scared that I wasn't going to survive. But I did. Because I'm awesome. Kira and Chenoah came by today. They told me everything. They were still fighting when I broke the window with my diary. That was the risky thing I was talking about. I didn't know if it would ruin my diary or not. Kira told me that sometimes she feels like I care more about this silly old book than I do myself. I should probably fix that, haha. When they noticed that, they realized I was stuck in the clock tower, which was completely on fire. By the time help showed up, I was already asleep. They took me to the hospital, where they'd take care of me until I woke up. Apparently it took a lot longer for that to happen than they thought. I asked Kira and Chenoah if they were friends again. They said yes, because they have one thing in common: they really care about me. So, in a way, Operation: Sea Salt was a success. Also, because I missed both Christmas and Valentine's Day, they gave me some presents, too. A box of chocolates and a 3DS with a new game, *Cave Story*. I hadn't actually heard of a 3DS before. It's like a better DSi. That's so cool.

March 1, 201X

I'm not allowed to leave the hospital yet, even though I'm awake. They need to make sure I'm feeling good enough to leave. I'll be honest, I still feel tired. I guess you don't really rest when you sleep for two months. The good news is that I don't have any burns or anything. I guess while I wait to be okay enough to leave, I could just read *Problem Sleuth*.

March 2, 201X

Good news! I'm allowed to leave now! I guess they just wanted me to get some rest, which is really weird because I thought I was resting for like two months? Whatever. Also, I finished *Problem Sleuth* last night! Apparently when you have nothing to do in a hospital room all day, 1700 pages go by really fast. I really liked it, it was pretty funny. I also checked out some of the bonus pages, and I really like those Midnight Crew guys. I kind of wish they were in the actual comic. I also still don't really know how it's going to tie into *Homestuck*, but I guess I'll find out. Okay enough about *Problem Sleuth*, I need to talk to my friends.

March 2, 201X

Kira and Chenoah gave me a big hug after I left my room, and together we went back to the orphanage. Chenoah told me that she

was talking to Astrid now, just like I told her she should. She said that she liked talking to her, and that she was starting to feel a little better about herself, like I did. That's good. I'm probably not gonna write in this diary for a while, because we have a lot to catch up with. Plus, I'm going to finally start *Homestuck*, because I really need to catch up with that, so that's how I'm going to spend most of my free time anyway, haha!

August 13, 201X

I told you I wasn't gonna write in here for a while. By the way, I'm all caught up with *Homestuck* now. And I love it so much. My favorite character is Vriska, but I already knew that she would be going into it, haha. She's so cool and tough and I really want to be like her. I also like this Dave guy. I would love to be his best friend if he was real. Same with this Roxy girl. My favorite part so far was Cascade, which is this super long animation where a lot of really cool action stuff happens. Okay I think I have to stop here. If I don't, I'd just have the rest of this diary be about *Homestuck*. Not that I would mind, but it's supposed to be about me.

August 14, 201X

It just occurred to me that I should probably talk about some of the stuff that happened before yesterday. Well, I'm 9 now, which

means next year I'll be 10. That's crazy, isn't it? Last week, I met a weird guy at the grocery store when I went with Miss Maggie. He gave me a quarter for me to put in the weird thing that looks like a trash can, but it's filled with these really weird metal things and a lot of money. Apparently the money goes to a children's hospital. He said his name was... Debido...? What a weird name. The weirdest part was when he left. He told me, "Bye, little angel." We've never met before. Why did he call me that? Is he stupid?

August 31, 201X

WHAA
AA
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AAAAAAT??
??

August 31, 201X

Okay okay okay so Homestuck just updated for the first time since July and there's a game????? And you get to play as the cool fish lady Meenah????? This is awesome!!!

August 31, 201X

THERE'S A SKATER GIRL????????

October 25, 201X

I don't know why I'm always so busy this time of year, especially with school. None of my projects are particularly "interesting" at the moment, except for one. We're doing book reports again. I'm not gonna do *Homestuck*, as that would be ridiculous. Not only is it inappropriate, but it's also not even finished yet. You can't do a book report on an unfinished book. In fact, I don't even think it counts as a book, either. Instead, I picked something called *Twilight*. It's apparently really popular, especially because of the movies. Also, Kira said I should read it. My report is almost done, but I think... reading this book, I don't know what to call it... "awakened" something inside of me...? Basically, I like werewolves now. So I guess that makes me Team Jacob or something?

November 22, 201X

Astrid and Bail joined us for Thanksgiving this year! What a surprise. After dinner, Bail and I snuck off to play video games, while everyone else was still talking. It started out as writing our Christmas lists, but then she saw I wanted *Pokémon Black 2*, and I saw she wanted *Pokémon White 2*, and that made us

think about Pokémon, so we decided to play Pokémon instead. She has a 3DS, too, so we added each other as friends. I hope no one catches us.

November 22, 201X

Phew! Thought someone caught us for a second, but it was just Chenoah. She got bored, too, and wanted to play with us. So I guess it'll just be the three of us here. Kinda weird without Kira though. Wonder what she's up to? Sorry guys, Bail keeps trying to take my dia Hi my name is Bail Harley and I have a big fat crush on Link from Twilight Princess! That's how this works, right? No, you have to write your secrets in your own diar- You know what? Sure, Bail. Yes. That's how this works. Now give it back alre

November 22, 201X

She looked through all the pages. I guess, since she shared a secret with me, she feels like I need to share one with her. But she read the whole thing. From the first page to this very page you're reading right now. And now she won't stop hugging me, telling me how she's sorry.

I'm sorry, too, Bail.

December 18, 201X

Christmas. Just. A week. Away. That's right. Christmas is in a week. Knowing this just makes me feel so happy. It got here so fast, though maybe that's because I missed so much of this year. But I also missed last Christmas. So maybe this has been the longest wait for Christmas ever?

December 25, 201X

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE! I don't even care about any of my other presents I got the best one! A Vriska hoodie! Okay I guess it's actually a "Hero of Light" hoodie. But Vriska's a Hero of Light! Actually, I do care about the second best present. *Pokémon Black 2*! I instantly sent Bail a message on *Swapnote* to ask if she got *White 2*. Hopefully she responds soon.

December 25, 201X

She didn't. I guess her mom doesn't believe in sequels or something like that, because Astrid's logic is that she already has *Platinum*. That's so stupid, though, because weren't there like... a bajillion Pokémon games before *Platinum*? Miss Carolyn said her kid used to play Pokémon when they were my age. They're in college now. Whatever, I guess. If Bail and I ever meet again, we can take turns.

January 17, 201X

Just a heads up, guys. I'm gonna be pretty busy from here on out, because I just got put into advanced classes. So I probably won't have enough time to write, because I'll be doing homework and studying instead.

June 12, 201X

There's a new *Homestuck* update, the first since that weird Caliborn fake disc three thing. I wonder what's gonna happen in this one.

June 12, 201X

What the heck is a Homosuck?

June 12, 201X

This is the worst early birthday present I've ever gotten.

June 19, 201X

I didn't know I would make it this far. But I have now reached my first decade in life! As a newly minted 10-year-old, I am, by default, way cooler than I ever was in any of the previous entries. Because two digits are better than one. So I guess, what I'm trying to say is, suck it, past me. I'm not entirely sure what that means, but I read that phrase somewhere online

and I think it means to suck up the dust left behind by the better person who just ran way faster than you. Except when you say it, you are the better person. I've learned a lot of weird words like that, like "screw," which I guess means to like forget something but in a cool way, like when you give up on something and say, "Forget this." I learned a bunch of other words, but Miss Maggie says they're curse words and I probably shouldn't be saying them because I'm 9. But now I'm 10. So I can probably say them now. Alright, ready? 3, 2, 1... dick! I guess some Richard must have been really mean to get turned into a curse word like that. Anyway, since I'm 10, I'm too cool for presents now. So I don't even care if I get any!

June 19, 201X

NOOOOOOOO MISS CAROLYN I WAS JUST JOKING I'M NOT ACTUALLY TOO COOL FOR PRESENTS YOU CAN GIVE THEM TO ME NOW AND oh wait she's not my diary. Why am I writing this?

June 25, 201X

It's already been three years since I first met Astrid, so we had a little meeting to discuss our progress. Bail told her about my diary, so she wanted to read it. I was scared, because I thought she was gonna think I didn't make any progress at all, but then I remembered that she really cares about me, so she

won't be disappointed in me. Astrid is probably the closest person to a mom to me, I think. Anyway, I let her read it, and she was really impressed. She told me that I was really good at processing my emotions, especially for how young I was when I first started writing. She told me that writing in diaries can be a great way to process emotions or vent out frustrations. She also said that she could see a lot of improvements, and that I always took her advice and tried to use it to better myself. More than anything, though, she was really impressed with how good my writing was. Like, in general. She said I'm really "verbose" for someone my age, and she thinks it's because of all the text-heavy video games and webcomics for older audiences I've been consuming. She thinks I'm learning more English from those than I am in my actual English classes, haha. She also told me Bail's pretty much the exact same way. Overall, she was really proud of me, and that made me proud of myself. She also said I'm very mature, which, duh, but also, thank you. But now that I think about it, mature people... don't write diaries, write? I mean right? That's like a kid thing, I think. I never see anyone my age or older have diaries. They have journals instead. So I think this is the end of my diary. Goodbye, and thank you all for reading. This has been an incredible journey, and I'm so glad to have been a part of it.

May 18, 201X

Forget everything I just said. We're doing this again. Remember when Astrid told me that diaries can be a good way to process emotions? Well I need that more than ever now. Kira and Chenoah are fighting again. And I don't like it one bit.

May 18, 201X

Maybe you guys need a little exposition? Okay, so here's the context. Chenoah got adopted. That's good news, right? This happened like last week. Even though I would miss her, I was so happy for her. Same goes for Kira. So who adopted her? That weird Debido guy from the grocery store all those years ago. Small world, huh? He remembered me, he even called me "little angel" again. What the hell is his problem? He really is... stupid... after all... Oh my God, he's the guy who chased me when I was 7! Ugh, it was so obvious! If I had known that, I would have told Chenoah to stay away from him! Well, I guess it doesn't matter anymore, because she's back. Yeah, just a few hours ago, she just showed up, like nothing ever happened. And we just sort of accepted it, because no one had any way to contact Debido. It was like he just disappeared one day. Chenoah's also not really all there herself. I welcomed her back and asked her why she came back. Her answer? "Riverfront. Dusk. The apostles will be dispersed. The angel will be crushed." What's gotten into her?

Kira didn't like this, either. She asked if she was okay, and to tell her everything Debido did to her. She said, "Don't worry about it." This made Kira really mad. "You're my friend! Why shouldn't I worry about it?!" "Because this doesn't concern you. You are nothing more than an obstacle in the way of the angel." But then, Chenoah stopped. She said, "What... What am I doing here?" We told her that that's what we're asking. "I guess... it was all a dream, then. That makes sense. It was really scary." We asked her about the dream. She said, "Not now. I'm not in the mood. Sorry. It was too scary." I think she started crying. Kira was still upset, so she went to talk to her. And the whole thing was just the same thing, over and over and over. Kira would accuse Chenoah of saying or doing one thing. Chenoah would deny it. Kira would say, "Don't play dumb with me!" Chenoah would cry louder. This went on for hours. In fact, it's still going on. No matter how hard I try to drown them out, they just keep getting louder.

May 18, 201X

What? The heck? Just happened? Instead of sobbing, Chenoah just... broke the cycle. By not saying anything. I could hear Kira say, "Oh, so now you're just ignoring me?" No answer. "I see how it is." No answer. Then, "You see nothing. I see everything. To preserve the Crust, the angel must be vanquished." "Are you...

confusing me, on purpose, so YOU could win this argument?!" "You are only confused because you cannot perceive. Our arguing is purely pointless. Simply let me accomplish my mission, and you will never see me again." "Like Hell I'm gonna let that happen! We're friends! I'd never let you disappear!" "Then you clearly misunderstand my purpose." I'm getting too confused. I'm going to bed. Maybe I'm the one who's having a bad dream.

May 19, 201X

At breakfast, Kira told me some shocking news. Chenoah apparently snuck into my room with a knife, climbed on top of me, and held the knife above her head. Then, she seemed to realize what she was about to do, and ran away, crying. Kira saw the whole thing. I don't believe her. Clearly she's still mad about last night. Though, for some reason, I can't help but feel... something about the idea of Chenoah, or really anyone, doing that to me. But without the knife. Like what if someone just climbed on top of me in my sleep? Or snuggled up beside me? Just thinking of it is getting my chest all sorts of knotted up. Especially when I think of Chenoah.

May 19, 201X

Kira says she wants me to make a choice. She doesn't want to make me choose between her and Chenoah again, because that was

awful when we did that. She said even if I stay friends with Chenoah, she won't stop being my friend. Instead, she wants me to think carefully. If Chenoah really is that unstable, that she would try to kill me in my sleep, then should I really be friends with her still? Honestly, even though I don't think she actually did that, it is a really hard question. And yet, even if she did do that, I just can't find it in me to push her away.

May 24, 201X

I think things have calmed down a bit. Chenoah is still acting a little weird, but at least Kira isn't yelling at her anymore. In any case, it's been a long time since I last played *358/2 Days*. I know I said I was never touching it again, but with all that's happening lately, I want to see how it ends. I want to see how Roxas will handle it. Because right about now, it feels like we're both in the same boat.

May 24, 201X

That was... difficult, in many ways. Xion was a very hard boss, but also, I really didn't want to fight her. I tried telling myself it was just a game, that this was the only way, that Roxas—I—had no choice. Eventually, I defeated her, and her death was really sad. She just turned to ice, as she and Roxas began to forget each other. But that's only Day 357. Only one day

remained. In the final day, Day 358, Roxas fights through hordes of Heartless in *The World That Never Was*, and it's honestly really satisfying. But then, he faces off against Riku, that boy who kept taunting Xion. Roxas almost wins, but Riku unleashes his full power and captures Roxas, who is then brought to DiZ, who then puts him in a simulation of Twilight Town. Honestly, I don't really know how to process any of this. But also, none of it really seemed applicable to my current situation. So at least I don't have to worry about that. Unless... Chenoah and I start fighting next. No, we won't. I promise.

June 1, 201X

Today, I wanted to go see *The Lego Movie*, since it's still in theaters, surprisingly. I wanted to bring both of my friends, but I only had money for two tickets, so I decided to invite Chenoah, and she accepted. Kira told me it was a bad idea, but I think she's just jealous. Plus, I think all she needs is to get out of the house. So we get to the theater, and we buy popcorn and soda (but not candy because I'm a good smuggler), and we find our seats, and we wait for the movie to begin. I'm not gonna talk about what the movie was like, just know that it was probably one of the best movies I've ever seen. About halfway through the movie, though, I could hear Chenoah mumbling to herself about something, though I tried to ignore it because I

wanted to focus on the movie. Then, without warning, she just left for like 20 minutes, then came back. Maybe she just had to go to the restroom? Then for some reason she kept trying to touch my neck??? Or grab it, or something????? Like girl, we're watching a movie. Now's not the time for these shenanigans. So the next time she reached for me, I reached back, and we ended up holding hands. I could feel my face getting hot, and hers looked red, too. We were probably making the same exact expression, and I could feel my chest tighten. We let go and just kept watching the movie.

June 2, 201X

I think... I think I have a crush on Chenoah. I also think I might have a crush on Lyra, and Dawn, and Rosa, and Vriska, and Tetra, and Lucy. I think I like girls. And I think I should have known that from the moment I got my first Pokémon game.

June 2, 201X

For the record, I do NOT have a crush on Xion. That's like having a crush on myself. I mean, she does kinda remind me a little more of Chenoah, but I always saw her as just being Roxas's other half, even though Sora's his other half. She's girl Sora, which makes her girl Roxas, which makes her me, because I'm girl Roxas.

June 19, 201X

Another birthday, but I don't think it's a very happy one. Kira and Chenoah have resumed their fighting. Kira tried her best, but just couldn't control her anger. That's alright, though. Astrid told me anger is probably the hardest emotion to control. So I don't blame her. I have plans today, anyway. Every night, on my birthday, St. Linebeck's has a special service dedicated to the mysterious baby they found. They pray for her, for me. They pray for guidance, protection, all the typical stuff people pray for when they pray for other people. I wanted to attend. I wanted to let them know I was alright, that their prayers were answered. But also, I wanted answers. I wanted to know my destiny.

June 19, 201X

I decided to hold my tongue and avoid the attention. It felt so peaceful and comfortable in the chapel, that if I told them I was the baby, it would ruin everything, and they would have come to this service for nothing. I joined them in prayer, but not for me. That seemed kind of selfish. I prayed for Kira, and for Chenoah. I prayed that we would all stay friends, and that we would stop fighting. After service, I met with the priest once again. I asked if he could keep a secret, to which he said it depends. I told him I was the baby from 11 years ago, and that I

needed help. He said that he could keep this a secret, and that he would help. And so I told him. Everything. My happy moments. My sad moments. My friends. How we were happy one moment, then fighting the next. I told him things were worse than ever, and that I just needed to know what fate had in store for us... No. For me. He told me one final story from the Prognosticus. The tale of the first Angel, Adam. Since he was the first among the 17 Angels, he had no idea what his purpose was, and so he came to his mother, Hylia. She told him to be patient, as his purpose would be revealed to him in due time. The next day, Lilith, the second Angel, was born. She and Adam became good friends, and with every day, new Angels were born, until the seventeenth and final Angel, Tabris, was born. Tabris was jealous of Adam, since the latter was the first and the former was the last. He would try, and fail, to get Lilith to hate Adam, so that he could take his place. Then, it finally happened. Hylia and the Golden Goddesses assigned each Angel their purpose. Adam and Lilith were to be creators, the father and mother of the new world, should Null's calamity come to pass. As for Tabris, his purpose would be destruction. Obviously, destruction is an important step in reconstruction. But Tabris didn't see it that way. He thought the goddesses were mocking him, that they thought he was good for nothing but destruction, that he was better off working for Null. So, in his rage, he cursed Adam. Should he and Lilith

ever be together, calamity would befall the universe. Tabris's rebellion cast every Angel out of Hylia's Heaven, and so the Angels were doomed to roam the Earth. Except for Lilith. Hylia had a special job for mankind's destined mother. While she would still be cast out of Heaven, she wouldn't have to roam the Earth with the other Angels. Somewhere in the mortal plane, she slumbers, waiting for the day she will be needed for the genesis of the new world. When I asked why he told me this story, he simply said that he cannot tell me my destiny, for it is unwritten. All I need to do is wait for the day Hylia and her court reveal my purpose to me, but until that day comes, I need to be like Adam, not Tabris. I think I understand, and that did help me just a little.

July 3, 201X

I don't know how to feel anymore. I don't know what to feel. Last night, I heard movement in the dark. Violent movement. So I went to go check it out. And I couldn't fully make out the figure, but it looked like some kind of monster, just as man as it did frog. It was searching desperately through every room in the hall. When I approached, it stopped. "Good evening, Adam. So nice of you to join me," it said. Could it be Tabris? Or was it listening to me and the priest talking? "Leave my friends alone," I said. "How could a monster such as you possibly have

friends?" "I would ask you the same thing." We began to fight each other. I don't know why I thought this was a good idea. Every hit would connect, yet it seemed like we were hurting ourselves more than we were each other. Eventually I heard someone yell, "Stop!" and the lights came on. It was Kira, and the figure I was fighting was... Chenoah. I felt so bad, and so did Chenoah. We explained the situation. I thought she was a frogman, and she thought I was some dark angel werewolf thing. Either way, we both ran back to our rooms, sobbing. I could hear Kira whisper, "I knew it was a bad idea, giving her a second chance."

July 15, 201X

It's been almost two weeks since the incident. Chenoah and I haven't talked since. Kira hasn't talked to either of us much, either. I want to make things right, though. I wrote a letter to Chenoah, telling her to meet me at the park, in front of the clock tower, by sunset. We're going to fix this mess.

July 15, 201X

I only made things worse. Not long after I arrived at the park, Chenoah came, too. This is what I said to her: "I'm sorry about what happened the other night. And I know you're sorry, too. It was an honest mistake. I'm worried about us, about you and me,

and about Kira, too. We've been fighting for so long. I want to go back to how things were when we first met. Because the truth is, I love you. But not just like a friend. More than that. Chenoah, I want to be with you for the rest of my life. Will you forgive me?" Silence. Then, she said, "Mysteo. I'm sorry. I want to be friends, too. I... I also want to be with you for the rest of my life. But I can't. Because... Because you are the Angel, Adam. You are an enemy to the Crust. But I don't want to fight you. But I have to. You have no choice. You need to end me." I began to cry. I didn't want to end her. She was crying, because she didn't want me to end her, either. As she sobbed, she told me one last thing: "Goodbye, Mysteo. I'm glad we got to be friends." Then, she completely changed into that frog thing I saw the other night, as she began to levitate into the air, limp like a puppet. She said, "I am Evangelion Unit 713. I was modified, reborn, through the genes of the Genesis Frog herself. I was created specifically to destroy you, Adam. Our Crusty One will rise like a glacier, and He shall deliver us all. You are simply in his way." Now I want to take a brief moment to talk about something she just said. The "Genesis Frog..." Does that mean *Homestuck* is real? Or did Hussie just take that from our world? I don't really know. I'm not in the mood to think about that at the moment. I'm hardly in the mood to write what I'm writing. I just need to, in order to keep you all updated. That

thing was no longer Chenoah. It was a monster. And I needed to fight it, to protect my friends. That's what I told myself, at least. But it didn't work very well. I still didn't want to fight it. I tried reasoning with it, I tried to bring Chenoah back. But nothing I did worked. All it would do was conjure a blade of ice and try to slash at me. That's when Kira showed up. Apparently she had followed us to the park, to make sure we were safe, and not killing each other. Well, turns out we weren't safe, and we were killing each other. And now, she wasn't safe, either. 713, which is what I'll call the monster formerly known as Chenoah, slashed at the air with its sword, creating a bunch of ice shards. I dodged all of them, but one was about to hit Kira. I jumped in her way to save her, and that's when something weird happened. A scepter appeared in my hand, and in front of me were two one-winged guardians, stopping the ice shard. It tried to hurt Kira. So now I wanted nothing more than to hurt it back. I now had wings, or at least one, and I was able to float up to reach 713. Its ice blade clashed with my scepter, but the more they clashed, the more it looked like the universe was ripping itself apart. 12 angelic guardians appeared behind me, as 713 conjured 12 tadpoles to fight back. It was as if we were in a stalemate, until I heard someone shout from the clock tower, "Now!" 713 was shot by some beam of light, as the frogginess faded away. Chenoah was back, but the light in her

eyes was fading, too. She fell, and so I descended to catch her. Once we reached the ground, everything disappeared. The angels, the tadpoles, the ice, the scepter, the rips in reality. Even my wing(s). It was as if nothing had happened. Chenoah looked at me, and asked what had happened. I told her I didn't know, but we were fighting, and someone had shot her. She seemed to know exactly what was going on. She told me to come closer, and so I did, holding her in my arms. She said a strange organization experimented on her, giving her some modified frog DNA, modified in a way that would let her do their bidding. They wanted me gone, because I was an Angel, and they chose her because she was my closest friend. She tried to fight back, as best as she could, but ultimately succumbed. The reason they shot her was because they knew something bad might happen if we fought each other. Apparently the frog which the DNA came from was also the Angel Lilith. Adam's curse almost brought about the end of the world. And now I feel like it's all my fault. I know it isn't, but I just can't help but feel like it is. I guess it's easier that way. I apologized to her, and she apologized, and then... Then we kissed. "I love you," she told me. And the moment I slowly pulled away, she had completely frozen over, then shattered into a million pieces. She was gone. Kira approached me, and we were both already forgetting what had just happened, but we both could only cry. We headed back home. And that's

where I am now. I'm in my room. I'm bawling my eyes out. The tears are messing up the pages. And I'm forgetting everything that just happened. All I can feel is anger and heartbreak. But I don't know why anymore. It has to do with a girl named Chenoah, since that's what my diary says. But who is she? Who is Chenoah?

July 16, 201X

It's midnight. I can't sleep. I can't live with myself, because of what I've done. I don't know what I've done. But according to my diary, it looks like I killed someone. Someone who might have been my best friend. That's messed up. I bet everyone is going to hate me now, so I need to escape.

July 16, 201X

2 AM. I have a plan now. Everyone here is going to hate me for what I've done. I just know it. So I need to run away, to find someone who loves me. And I think I know just the person.

July 16, 201X

I took Axel and climbed down the fire escape, the very one I climbed all those years ago. It was my freedom then, and it's still my freedom now. When I finished climbing down, Kira was waiting for me in the alley. "So, you're running away now?" she

asked. "I did something very bad. I can't stay here any longer," I answered. "I'm coming, too." "What? You can't come." "Watch me. I can't stay here if you're not around." "Yeah, I guess you're right. We're the best of friends... just the two of us." We ran off into the night, but the destination I had in mind was too far to reach on foot. We had to take the bus or something. Problem is, it's way past curfew, and we don't have any parents. We had to sneak onto one, and so we did. Surprisingly, we were able to avoid getting caught, until we reached Ame d'Alene. Some cops boarded the bus, as their car broke down. Bad news.

Thankfully, Kira was able to distract the cops so that I could leave undetected. Thank you for your sacrifice, Kira. I hope we can meet again, and you won't be behind bars. I ran down the streets, carefully trying to avoid getting caught. But I've never been here before. Even though this downtown was way smaller than Spokaneistan, I was hopelessly lost. That is, until a car pulled up, and a familiar voice called out. "Mysteo? What are you doing all the way over here, and at this hour, too?" It was Astrid! I told her my situation, about how I ran away, and I did something bad, but I don't remember what I did, but I know everyone's going to hate me, and I needed to go somewhere else, somewhere more welcoming. She was saddened by my story, and so she invited me to stay with her, since Bail was away. I gladly accepted. Everything goes according to plan.

July 16, 201X

Well, it's much later in the day now. I wish I could have seen Bail, but she was apparently selected for the FBI's new Espionage Children program. That sounds really cool, I wish I could be a spy for the FBI. But Astrid seems lonely. I'm lonely, too. It's good that we're together, in that case. She's enrolling me in a pretty prestigious school called Kan High. Apparently that's where Bail's gonna go when she gets back. Even though it says "High" in the name, they have middle school classes, too. I hope Kira's doing fine, wherever she is. Maybe she escaped those cops. Maybe she's in juvie. Speaking of, I hope our disappearance doesn't worry Miss Maggie and Miss Carolyn too badly. They were nice to me. Things were bad, but they might be getting brighter. In any case, I have no reason to write in here anymore. This will be my final entry in this diary. And I mean it this time. Goodbye, everyone. Thank you for reading. It's been an honor writing for you all. Plus I'm almost out of pages anyway, haha.

- Mysteo, Age 11

November 22, 201X

Hey everybody, it's me Mysteo! Did you know? My favorite things are stale bread, Aris, water without any ice in it, the latest season of *SpongeBob*, and dirt Kira that is not what I sound like. This isn't sound, idiot. It's text. I KNOW THAT CHENOAH! Oh hey can I write in here too? I mean you kinda already are Bail. Oh thank you! I know, let's draw a picture, a symbol of our friendship!

