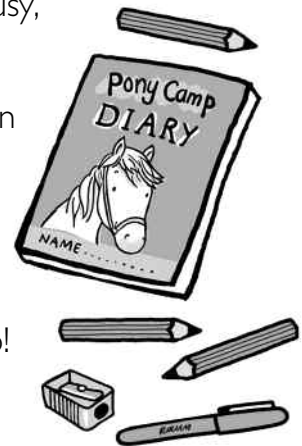




Monday - a bit past 9a.m.
I've just arrived here at Pony Camp!

Me and my little sister Tegan are first here because Mum had an early meeting and she needed to drop us off beforehand. Jody (the nice lady who runs Pony Camp) is still busy sorting out all the bedding upstairs, so we're sitting at the kitchen table at the moment. She gave us some juice and drawing stuff to keep us busy, and these cool Pony Camp Diaries, one each, which is what I'm writing in right now. Tegan's drawing a fairy, with pink wings but also skinny jeans like my ones and Ugg boots.

I'm so excited about Pony Camp! I can't wait to find out which pony I'm getting, and spending a whole week riding will be fantastic!





I usually go to the stables on Saturday mornings (Tegan comes too) and I'm not brilliant or anything, but I know the basics. I can walk, trot and canter, and do some of the trickier transitions like halt to trot (well, sometimes, if I'm on Molly!). I've even tried some jumping on Brandysnap, including a few combinations. My instructor, Jayne, tries to swap us round each week so we get lots of experience on different ponies. That's great, but it'll be so exciting to have the same pony all this week, as if he (or she!) is actually *mine!*

Oh, it's going to be so **COOL!** – I'll have my own pony, and be sharing a room with girls my own age! At home I have to share with Tegan, which means I'm always tripping over her Barbies, and she's always pinching my glitter eyeshadow and wasting LOADS! And it means NO noise after 7.30p.m. when she goes to bed – so no PlayStation or TV or music. I'm allowed



my bedside lamp on to read, but I even have to turn the pages of my book quietly!



I'm madly into boarding school books at the moment and I'm extra excited because this week will be just like boarding school, but even better 'cos we'll have ponies. I've bought loads of stuff for a midnight feast, and I've been saving up a few really juicy secrets to tell when we do our whispering in the middle of the night.

And I chose to come specially this week because there's going to be a trail ride and camp out! I've always been into cowboys and western stuff so going on a

real trail ride is a dream come true! Getting to trek through miles and miles of open country, and camping out under the stars, and having sausages and beans, and singing round the fire will be so exciting!

Yee-hah!





Sunnyside Stables



Tegan isn't bothered about the trail ride, or even about ponies *that* much, but of course as soon as I showed Mum the brochure for Pony Camp, my sis wanted to come too. Mum and Dad were keen on that, because if we both went it meant they could have a break away on their own, so they're off to Cornwall tomorrow. I said, "What about *me* having a holiday by myself without Tegan?" and Mum laughed and replied, "Well, Dad and I haven't had a holiday by ourselves since before you were born, so I reckon we get priority, don't you, Jess? Anyway, think about your sister. She'd much rather be with you and a lot of other girls rather than just us two."

Mum doesn't understand, and well, it *is* hard to explain. It's not like I *mind* T being here, but it's ... well, I kind of just want to be me, Jess, and do my own thing, without having to worry about looking after her for a change. I mean, of



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course I like doing things with her, she's my little sis, but she's 7 and I'm 10 and a half, so it's not exactly as though we enjoy the same things. She always wants me to play these made-up games with her, like schools or doctors, and sometimes they go on for *hours*. Mum and Dad run a mail order business together and they're usually in their office (i.e. the spare room) and they're always saying "in a minute" and "I just need to finish this", so I'm left doing stuff with Tegan a lot of the time.

Oh well, we're both here now and that's that, so there's no point complaining about it. Hopefully there'll be some younger girls she can make friends with, anyway.

I can't wait for everyone else to get here so Pony Camp can really get started! Then I'll have LOADS to write about!





I'm quickly writing this while everyone's getting their stuff unpacked



Can you believe it? Me and Tegan have been put in a room together, because we're sisters! All my sleepover plans are completely ruined and it's going to be just like it is at home (i.e. BORING!).

ARGH!

When everyone started arriving Jody showed us all upstairs and there were these three really lovely older girls and three younger, and I thought, oh good, two rooms of four, so I can go in with the older ones. But then it turned out there are actually three rooms and that I'm sharing with Tegan.

I really wanted to ask if I could go in with the older ones instead, but I didn't want to seem a fusspot, and anyway there are no spare beds in



there, so I tried to act like I didn't mind. As well as our bunk bed there's a single bed by the window. Jody said it was her daughter Millie's and I cheered up 'cos I thought, *Well at least we'll be sharing with someone else.* But then she said Millie's away this week staying with her auntie, so it really *is* only going to be me and Tegan. All my imaginings about midnight feasts and whispering girly secrets went *poof* out of my head and I just stood there feeling glum, until Tegan brought me back to reality by making a big thing about having the top bunk.





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Unpacking my stuff on the bottom bunk did cheer me up a bit, though. I kept thinking, *Wow, I'm actually here at Pony Camp – and staying for a whole week!* I don't suppose sharing with T will be all that bad. Maybe when she goes to sleep I'll be able to sneak into the older girls' room for midnight feasts so I don't completely miss out. I'm definitely not going to let it stop me enjoying this week, anyway. After all, I can't wait to meet my pony, and there's the trail ride to look forward to, and all the lessons and mucking in on the yard (and mucking *out* – urgh – hee hee!).

Oh, we're being called downstairs now – time to go and meet the other girls properly, and find out which pony I'm getting!