

CUTTING EDGE

Marty's Diary

FRANCES CROSS

Marty's Diary

June 12th

My dad remarried yesterday. He married Linda Fleming. She says she's pleased to have gained not just a husband, but a daughter too. But I know she's lying. She never talks to me if she can help it.

And she's always hanging around and never giving me and Dad time on our own. Linda's never been married before and she doesn't seem to have many friends except for her younger sister, Paula, who lives in Waco. She's always writing letters. How Jane Austen is that? Nobody writes letters in this day and age. She's even had letterhead printed. *From The Desk of Linda Richmond.* I think she's

Marty's Diary

been presumptuous. I mean, she arranged that before they were even married.

They got married at the courthouse on Ridgeway Street and it was a pathetic ceremony. Not like the photos of Mom and Dad at their wedding. This time there was nobody extra except us and Auntie Wedgie, my dad's sister, and Uncle Bill, her husband. She's not really named Wedgie, but everybody calls her that. Auntie Wedgie is okay. I don't think she likes Linda either.

Just before we went off to the courthouse, Linda asked me if I wanted to borrow some of her eyeshadow. She's always trying to pretend we're best friends, but I said no. I don't want to borrow her germy eyeshadow, and besides it was a horrible color.

When Mom got married she had pink roses, and there were some pink roses in the courthouse yesterday. My throat felt prickly when I saw them because I thought of Mom. But anyway, Mom probably wouldn't care because she's happy living in Mexico with her new husband, Juan. They've got a baby

now and he's nearly six months old. It seems funny to have a little brother who's a baby. His name's Xavier. But I'm cool about Mom being there.

Then we went to have a reception at the Happy Duck. Linda raised her eyebrows when Dad gave me a taste of his champagne because she said 16 was too young to be drinking. Honestly, I think she lives in the dark ages sometimes. The reception was okay I suppose, but Linda shouldn't think me and her are going to be best friends or anything. Dad looked a bit stupid if you ask me, the way he was touching Linda all the time.

June 20th

I was doing my homework today for Miss Hammond when Linda came in and asked me what it was about. It's really boring and I don't think she would understand it, so I said I could manage. Then she said she would do my colors with Color Me Beautiful. I want to find out if I am a winter or spring or whatever, but I said no. I bet Linda's a spring. My mom's

Marty's Diary

a summer for sure. She always wears pale blue and pink and such, and she looks great. Linda's not bad-looking, but she wears really old-fashioned stuff sometimes. That fits in with her letter-writing thing, I suppose.

From The Desk of Linda Richmond

June 22nd

Dear Paula,

Well, we've taken the plunge and tied the knot. It was very low key which is what Kevin wanted, but Marty was a bit sullen. She's quite polite, but I get the sense she doesn't like me a lot. I've taken your advice and am trying to make friends with her, but she makes it hard. Sometimes I look at her watching me and she almost seems to hate me. I knew it would be difficult to be a stepmother, but I didn't realize it would be this hard.

And Kevin makes such a fuss over her, you'd think she was two years old. I suppose she is his little princess and has a special place in his heart, but it always seems as if he puts her needs first.

All the best,

Linda

Marty's Diary

From The Desk of Linda Richmond

June 24th

Dear Paula,

There's been an e-mail from Kevin's ex in Mexico. She wants Marty to go and visit her later in the year. I think it's a good idea, but I know if I make too much noise about it they'll think I want to get rid of her. That sounds a bit childish, doesn't it? But a bit of me would find it easier if she wasn't around. Kevin doesn't seem to understand I want some time with him alone as well. Anyway, we'll just keep on going and see what happens.

All the best,

Linda

From The Desk of Linda Richmond

June 28th

Dear Paula,

*I am really struggling with this girl. I suspect that beneath the sullen attitude there is probably quite a nice girl trying to get out, but at the moment she's so far under the surface it's impossible to reach her. I tried everything, even offering her a chance to do *Color Me Beautiful* with me to see what her colors were, but she turns me down flat each time. It's a bit discouraging.*

Actually, I think I'm also over-sensitive. Between you and me, I sometimes feel quite embarrassed about behaving like such a child. She's supposed to be the teenager not me, but she winds me up so much. And I do resent the way Kevin treats her as if she's a fragile piece of china. Everything that she wants and needs comes first. I think the problem is that I'm not really used to kids anyway, especially rebellious teenagers. I'll just have to keep on trying my best,

Marty's Diary

but I really wish I had a bit more quality time with my new husband without Marty sulking around the place all the time. Some honeymoon eh?

All the best,

Linda

June 30th

Mom sent an e-mail to ask again if I can go out there and visit them in Mexico. Wow! That's cool. I'd really like to go. Mom's broke so she can't pay. I'd have to get the fare from Dad. I want to see an Mayan pyramid. Plus my friend Becky says that Mexico City, which is where Mom lives, is great. Mom went there on vacation two years ago and said the sun shone all the time. So after she and Dad split up, she went to live out there. I don't think Dad and Linda will mind me going to see her. I think they'll be glad to get rid of me, especially Linda. To be honest, I don't think Dad will even notice if I am here or not. He spends all his time with my darling stepmother these days. When I asked him if he wanted to go skating like we usually do on Thursdays, he said that Linda wanted to do something else. So I went by myself. It was okay. Jazz was there. I'm not interested in him or anything, but he's pretty hot.