

Rachel Renée Russell

DORK
diaries®

Tales from a
NOT-SO-
Fabulous Life

with Nikki Russell and Erin Russell

Aladdin

New York London Toronto Sydney New Delhi



THIS DIARY BELONGS TO:

Nikki J. Maxwell

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

If found, please return to ME for REWARD!

(NO SNOOPING ALLOWED!! ☺)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

Sometimes I wonder if my mom is BRAIN DEAD.

Then there are days when I know she is.

Like today.

The drama started this morning when I casually asked if she would buy me one of those cool new cell phones that do almost everything. I considered it a necessity of life, second only to maybe oxygen.

What better way to clinch a spot in the CCP (Cute, Cool & Popular) group at my new private school, Westchester Country Day, than by dazzling them with a wicked new cell.

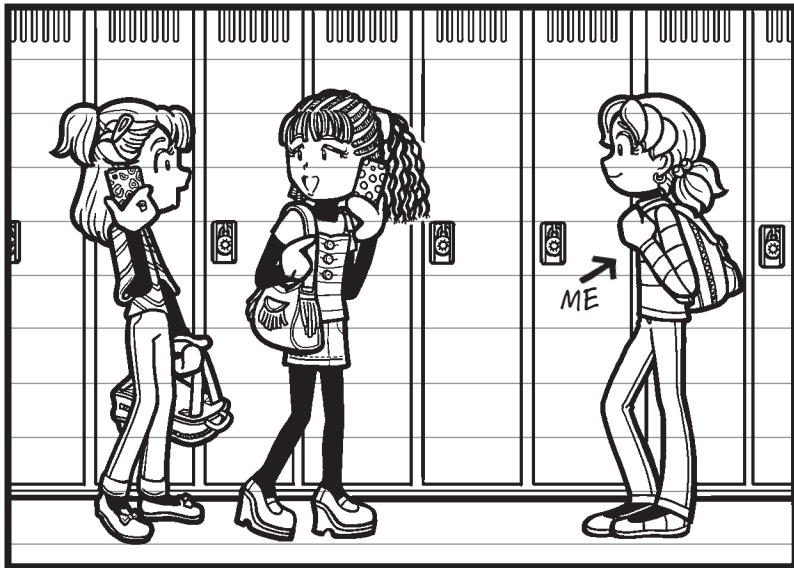
Last year, it seemed like I was the ONLY student in my ENTIRE middle school who didn't have one 😞. So I bought an older, used phone SUPERcheap on eBay.

It was bigger than what I wanted, but I figured I couldn't go wrong for the clearance price of only \$12.99.

I put my telephone in my locker and spread the word that I had HOT gossip about my NEW phone and that everyone could now call me.

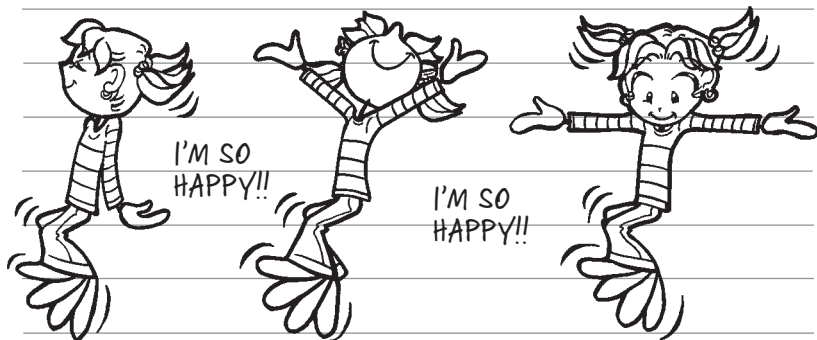
Then I counted down the minutes before my social life started heating up.

I got really nervous when two of the CCP girls came walking down the hall in my direction, chatting on their cell phones. . . .



They came right over to my locker and started acting SUPERfriendly.

Then they invited me to sit with them at lunch and I was like, "Umm . . . okay." But deep down inside I was jumping up and down and doing my Snoopy "happy dance." . . .



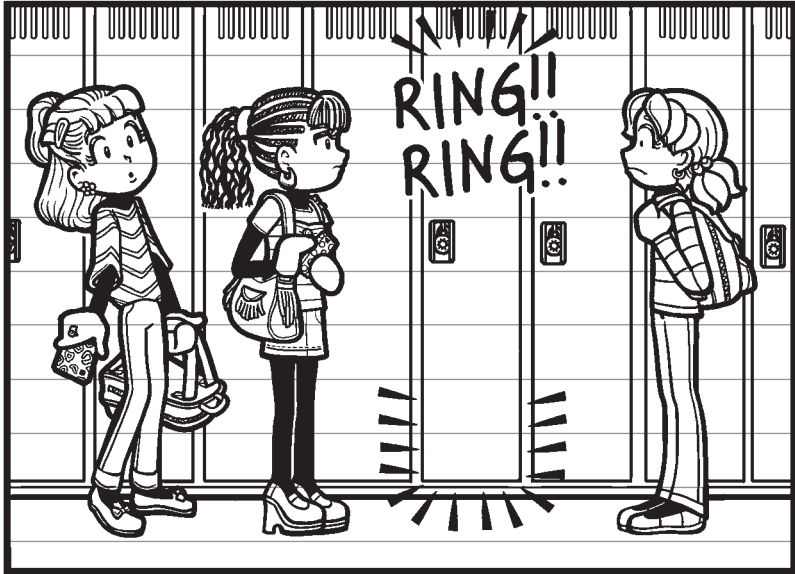
Then things got really strange.

They said they had heard the hot gossip about my brand-new iPhone and that everyone (meaning the rest of the CCP crew) was DYING to see it.

I was about to explain that I'd said "I had HOT gossip about my NEW phone" NOT "the HOT gossip is about my NEW iPhone," but I never got a chance because, unfortunately, my telephone started ringing.

Very loudly.

I was trying my best to ignore it, but both of the CCP girls were staring at me like, "Well, aren't you going to answer it?!" . . .

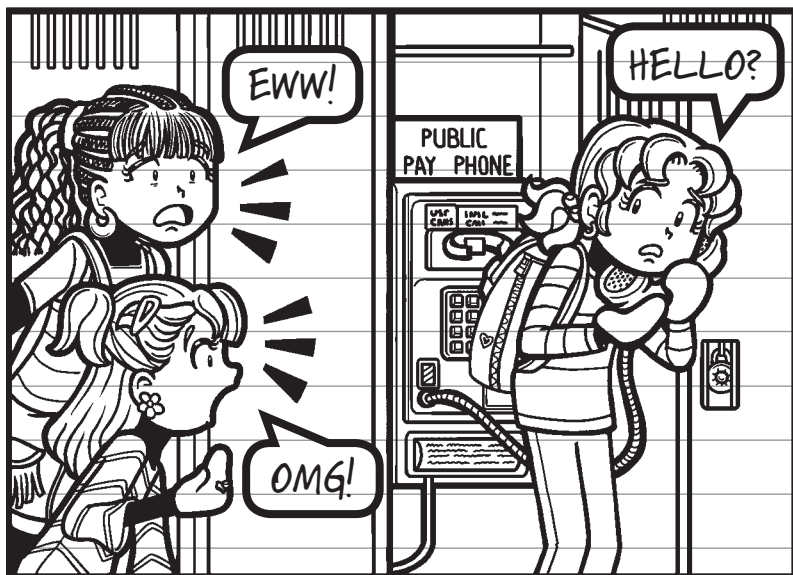


Obviously, I didn't want to answer it because I had a really bad feeling they were going to be a little disappointed when they actually saw my phone.

So I just stood there praying that it would stop ringing, but it didn't.

And pretty soon, everyone in the hallway was staring at me too.

Finally, I gave in, snatched open my locker, and answered the phone. Mainly to stop that AWFUL ringing. . . .



I was like, "Umm . . . sorry. Wrong number."

And when I turned around, both of the CCP girls were running down the hall screaming, "Make it go away! Make it go away!" I guessed it probably meant they DIDN'T want me to sit with them at lunch anymore, which was really HUMILIATING!

The most important lesson I learned last year was

that having a CRUDDY phone—or NONE at all—can totally RUIN your social life. While millions of kids regularly FORGET their homework, not a single one would be caught DEAD without their cell phone. Which was why I was nagging my mom about getting ME one.

I've tried saving up my own money to buy it, but that was impossible to do. Mainly because I'm an artist and TOTALLY ADDICTED to drawing! Like, if I don't do it every day, I'll go NUTZ!

I spend ALL of my cash on sketchbooks, pencils, pens, art camp, and other stuff.

Hey, I'm so BROKE, I have a milk shake on layaway at McDonald's!

Anyway, when Mom came home from the mall with a special back-to-school present for me, I was pretty sure I knew what it was.

She rambled on and on about how my attending a new private school was going to be a "stressful time

of tremendous personal growth” and how my best “coping mechanism” would be to “communicate” my “thoughts and feelings.”

I was absolutely

ECSTATIC

because you can communicate with a

**NEW CELL
PHONE!**

Right?! 😊

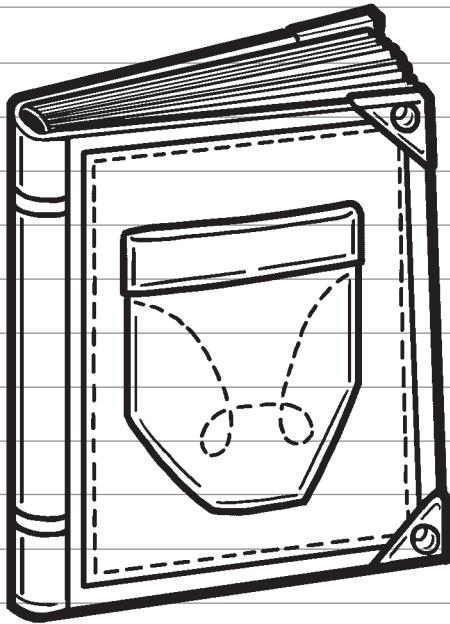
I kind of zoned out on most of what my mom was saying because I was DAYDREAMING about all of the cool apps, games, and music I was going to download.

It was going to be LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT! . . .



ME AND MY NEW CELL PHONE!!

But after my mom FINALLY finished her little speech, she smiled really big, hugged me, and handed me a BOOK. . . .



I opened it and FRANTICALLY flipped through the pages, figuring that maybe she had hidden my new cell phone inside.

It made perfect sense at the time because all the advertisements said it was THE thinnest model on the market.

But slowly it dawned on me that my mom had NOT gotten me a cell phone, and my so-called present was just a stupid little book! ☹️

Talk about major HEARTBREAK!

Then I noticed that ALL the pages of the book were BLANK.

I was like, OH. NO. SHE. DIDN'T!

My mom had given me two things: a DIARY and irrefutable evidence she IS, in fact,

**CLINICALLY
BRAIN DEAD!!**

Absolutely no one writes their most intimate feelings and deep, dark secrets in a diary anymore! WHY?!

Because just one or two people knowing all your BIZ could completely RUIN your reputation.

You're supposed to post this kind of juicy stuff online on your BLOG so MILLIONS can read it!!! . . .



Only a TOTAL DORK would be caught WRITING in a DIARY!! This is THE worst present I have ever received in my entire life!

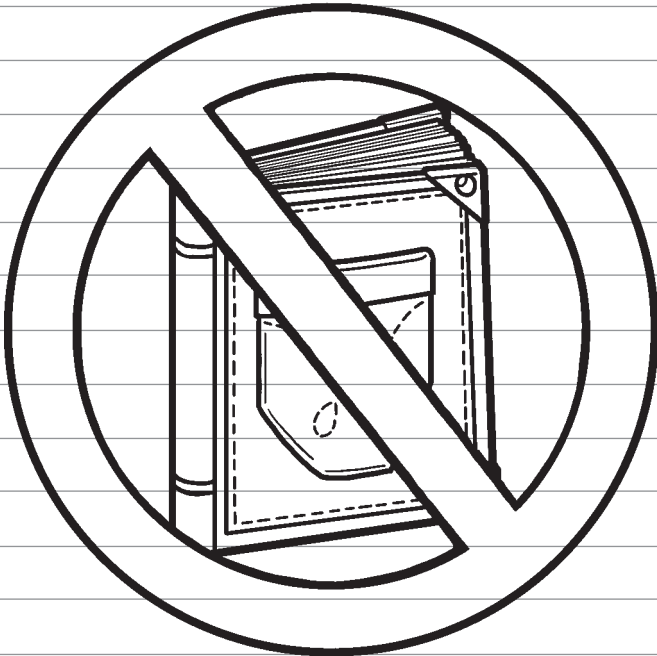
I wanted to yell at the top of my lungs:
"Mom, I don't need a STUPID book with 336 BLANK pages!!"

What I **NEED** is to be able to “communicate” my “thoughts and feelings” to my friends using my very own cell phone.

Wait! Silly me. I keep forgetting. I don't have any friends. **YET**. But that could change overnight, and I need to be prepared. With a shiny new cell!

In the meantime, I will **NOT** write in this diary again.

NEVER! EVER!!



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Okay. I know I said I'd never write in this diary again. I meant it at the time.

I'm definitely not the kind of girl who curls up with a diary and a box of Godiva chocolates to write a bunch of really sappy stuff about

MY DREAMY BOYFRIEND,

MY FIRST KISS,

or my overwhelming ANGST about the HORRIFIC discovery that I'm a

PRINCESS

of a small French-speaking principality and now worth

BILLIONS!!

THIS IS SO NOT ME!



MY LIFE TOTALLY SUCKS!! All day I wandered
around my new school like a ZOMBIE in lip gloss.
Not a single person bothered to say hi.

THIS IS ME!



MOST OF THE TIME
I FEEL INVISIBLE!

How am I supposed to fit in at a snobby prep school like Westchester Country Day?! This place has a Starbucks in the cafeteria!

I wish my dad had NEVER been awarded a bug extermination contract from this school.

They can take their little pity scholarship and give it to someone who wants and needs it, because I sure DON'T!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

It's way past midnight, and I'm about to freak out because I still don't have my homework done.

I was really surprised to hear a knock on my bedroom door this late at night, and I assumed it was my six-year-old sister, Brianna.

About a week ago, she lost one of her front teeth and buried it in the backyard to see if it would grow.

She is FOREVER doing crazy-weird stuff like that.

My mom says it's because she's still a little kid. But I personally think it's because she has the IQ of a box of crayons.

As a little joke, I told Brianna the tooth fairy collected teeth from children all over the world and then superglued them together to make dentures for old people.

I explained that she was in **BIG TROUBLE** with the tooth fairy, seeing as she had dug a hole and buried her tooth somewhere out in the backyard.

The funniest part was that Brianna **TOTALLY** believed me.

She actually dug up half of Mom's flower garden trying to find her tooth.

Since then Brianna has been paranoid that the tooth fairy is going to sneak into her room in the middle of the night and pull out **ALL** her teeth to make dentures.

But my prank kind of backfired, because now she absolutely **REFUSES** to use the bathroom at night unless I first check inside to make sure the tooth fairy is not hiding behind the shower curtain or under the bath towels.

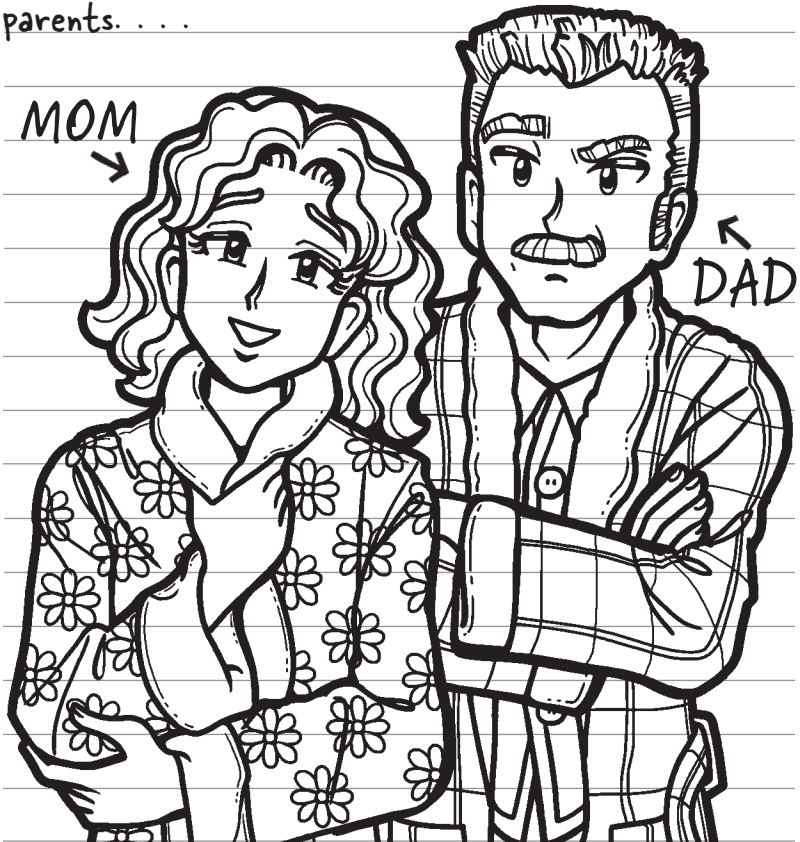
And if I'm not quick enough, Brianna will have a little "accident" right on my bedroom carpet.



MY LITTLE SISTER, BRIANNA

Unfortunately, I had to learn the hard way that (contrary to the TV commercial) Carpet Fresh DOES NOT remove all odors.

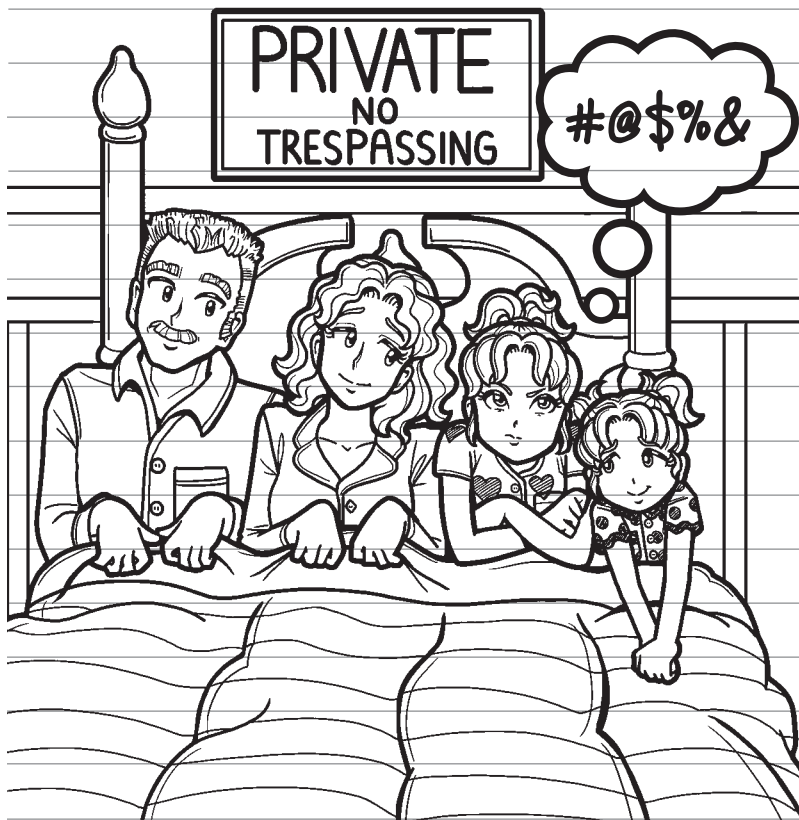
But it wasn't Brianna at my door—it was my parents. . . .



Before I could say "Come in," they just kind of barged in like they always do, which really irritated me because this is SUPPOSED to be MY room!

And I have a constitutional right to PRIVACY, which they keep invading.

The next time my parents and Brianna come rollin' up in here, I'm gonna scream . . .



“HEY! WHY DON'T YOU PEOPLE JUST MOVE IN?!”

Anyway, my parents said they were surprised to see that I was still up doing homework, and they

wanted to know how things were going at school.

It was really strange, because just as I was about to answer, I had a total meltdown right on the spot and burst into tears. . . .



My parents were shocked and stared at me and then at each other.

Finally, Mom hugged me and said, "My poor little Boo-Boo!" which only made me feel WORSE.

Not fitting in at school was bad enough. But now I had to suffer the additional humiliation of being the only fourteen-year-old STILL being called "little Boo-Boo"! Suddenly my dad's face lit up.

"Hey, I've got a great idea! We know you've been under a lot of stress lately with our move and your new school. I bet if we posted some positive affirmations all around the house, it would help you adjust. What do you think?"

I was like, "Okay, Dad, THIS is what I think: It's a STUPID idea! Like sticky notes with corny sayings on them will solve my problem of being a TOTAL LOSER at school. You wanna know what else I think? The article I read about bug extermination chemicals killing off brain cells is probably true!"

But I just said it inside my head, so no one else heard it but me.

My parents kept staring at me, and it was starting to creep me out.

Finally, after what seemed like forever, my mom smiled and said, "Honey, just remember, we love you! And if you need us, we're right down the hall."

They walked back to their bedroom, and for several minutes, I could hear their muffled voices. I guessed that they were probably discussing whether or not I should be committed to a mental hospital right then or first thing in the morning.

Since it was so late, I decided to finish my homework during study hall.

I wonder if you still have to hand in homework when you're locked up in a PSYCHO WARD?

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

My new issue of *That's So Hot!* magazine says the secret to happiness is the four Fs:

Friends, Fun, Fashion & Flirting

But, unfortunately, the closest I've ever gotten to "friends, fun, fashion, and flirting" is having a locker right next to MacKenzie Hollister.

She's THE most popular girl in the eighth grade.

Lucky me! 😞

I had just finished fighting my way through the crowded hallways to get to my locker and had almost been trampled alive.

Then, suddenly, as if by magic, the huge mob of students parted right down the center, just like the Red Sea. That's when I first saw MacKenzie strutting down the hallway like it was the runway of a Paris fashion show or something.

She had blond hair and blue eyes and was dressed like she had just finished a photo shoot for the cover of *Teen Vogue*.

And everyone (except me) immediately fell under her powerful hypnotic spell and totally lost their minds.

"What's up, MacKenzie!"

"You look fabulous, MacKenzie!"

"Are you coming to my party this weekend, MacKenzie?"

"Your shoes are to die for, MacKenzie!"

"Will you marry me, MacKenzie?"

"You'll NEVER guess who has a crush on you, MacKenzie!"

"Is that ANOTHER designer purse, MacKenzie?"

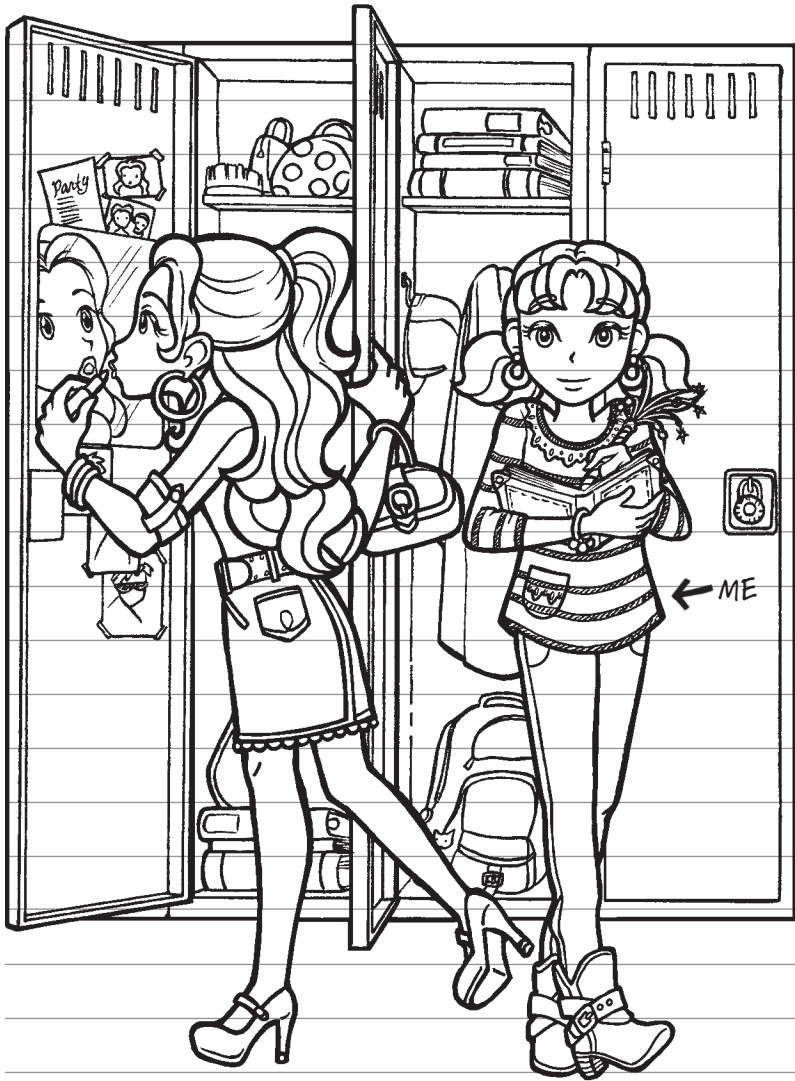
"Love your hair today, MacKenzie!"

"I'll pluck out my eye with a pencil and eat it with a Spam and mustard sandwich IF ONLY you'll sit with me at lunch today, MacKenzie!"



Which also proves my theory that there's ALWAYS at least ONE seriously mentally ill WEIRDO in EVERY middle school across America!

It was "MacKenzie! MacKenzie! MacKenzie!" When she walked up to the locker right next to mine, I knew then and there I was going to have a VERY bad school year.



Being so close to the radiance of her awesome yet sickening perfection just made me feel like a humongous LOSER. And it didn't help that she was HOGGING most of my personal space ☹!!

Hey, it wasn't like I was jealous of her or anything. I mean, how totally juvenile would THAT be?!

Between classes, MacKenzie and her friends are FOREVER standing right in front of MY locker,

"GGG-ing." That means:

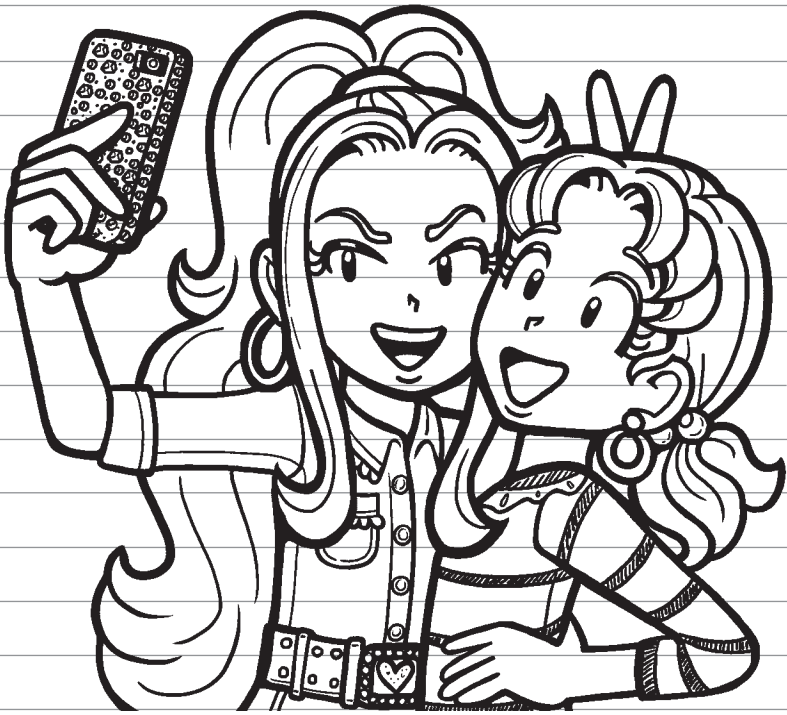
GIGGLING, GOSSIPING, AND GLOSSING!

And whenever I get up the nerve to say, "Excuse me, but I really need to get into my locker," she just ignores me or rolls her eyes and says stuff like "Annoying much?" or "What's HER problem?"

And I'm like, "Hey, girlfriend! I don't have no STINKIN' problem!"

But I just say it inside my head, so no one really hears it except me.

However, deep down I'm troubled and ashamed that a tiny part of me—a very dark and primitive side—would totally LOVE to be best friends with MacKenzie! . . .



MACKENZIE AND ME AS BFFS!

And I find that part of myself SO DISGUSTING . . .
I could . . . VOMIT!

But on a much happier note, I'm really into lip gloss too. My favorite one right now is Krazy Kissalicious Strawberry Crush Glitterati. It's yummy and tastes just like strawberry cheesecake.

Unfortunately, no supercute hunk (like Brandon Roberts, the guy who sits in front of me in my biology class) has developed a huge crush on me and fallen in love with my fabulous glossy lips, like in all of those KRAZY KISSALICIOUS television commercials.

But hey! It could happen!

Oh, I almost forgot! Dad is supposed to pick me up after school today to take me to my dentist appointment.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE don't let him pick me up in his work van with the five-foot-long plastic roach on top.

I would absolutely DIE if anyone saw his van and found out I only attend this school due to his bug extermination contract!





PHOTOGRAPH © BY SUINA LEE

Rachel Renée Russell is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the blockbuster book series *Dork Diaries* and the exciting new series *The Misadventures of Max Crumbly*.

There are more than forty-five million copies of her books in print worldwide, and they have been translated into thirty-six languages.

She enjoys working with her daughter Nikki who helps illustrate her books.

Rachel's message is "Always let your inner dork shine through!"

Have YOU read all of

DORK diaries

by Rachel Renée Russell



EBOOK EDITIONS ALSO AVAILABLE

Nikki Maxwell's diaries?

#1 New
York Times
Bestselling
Series

MOST IMPORTANT TIP EVER
FROM NIKKI MAXWELL:

Always let your inner
DORK shine through!



This book is a work of fiction. Any references to historical events, real people, or real places are used fictitiously. Other names, characters, places, and events are the product of the author's imagination, and any resemblance to actual events or places or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

 ALADDIN * An imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division * 1230

Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020 * First Aladdin edition June 2009 *

Copyright © 2009 by Rachel Renée Russell * All rights reserved, including the right of

reproduction in whole or in part in any form. * ALADDIN and related logo are registered

trademarks of Simon & Schuster, Inc. * Dork Diaries is a registered trademark of Rachel

Renée Russell * Series design by Lisa Vega * Book designed by Lisa Vega and Karin Paprocki

* The text of this book was set in Skipper. * Manufactured in the United States of

America 0616 FF6 * 40 39 38 * Library of Congress Control Number 2008048567 *

ISBN 978-1-4169-8006-3 * ISBN 978-1-4169-8655-3 (eBook)