



THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE

I'm Twelve, I'm Tough, I Tweet!

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ADELINE FOO

Illustrated by
STEPHANIE WONG



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2. **THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE**
Girls, Guts and Glory!
3. **THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE**
I'm Twelve, I'm Tough, I Tweet!



THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE

I'm Twelve, I'm Tough, I Tweet!

Written by
ADELINE FOO

Illustrated by
STEPHANIE WONG

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This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents
either are the product of the author's imagination or are
used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons,
living or dead, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

First Edition

10 9 8 7





I'm sooooo looking forward to completing my last year in primary school!

Last year, my swim team came in first in the inter-school relay competition and I won an award for a science magazine that I wrote.

This year, the school is introducing a Tween Idol popularity contest. Aaawwww, they must have had me in mind when they thought of this.

I did something to check how popular I am. I started a Twitter page, and at the last check, I've already chalked up a decent list of followers!

Man... the power of the Internet. Although I was away on a family holiday, I was able to keep in touch with my best friends, Alvin and Anthony, and check on the number of followers I have on Twitter. My friends prefer using Facebook. But that's something Mum says I've to wait till next year to sign up for, when I'm 13.

Mum has been philosophical lately. Last night, she said, "With fame comes responsibility." Actually, it should be, "With great power comes great responsibility." I didn't think Peter Parker's uncle was a wise man, but that's not important. Mum's right. I should put my great fame to good use. My new year resolution is to brainwash my Twitter followers. I must get them to vote for me to be Tween Idol. I MUST win! I will not leave school without being remembered.

Famous Amos. The 1st Tween Idol. This is it. The trophy is mine. I'll just have to be less blatant about wanting it, or it may inspire copycats to compete with me. Like Michael, my arch enemy. Bet he doesn't realise how popular I am. 27 followers! Eat that, twit!

I'm sooooo looking forward to starting the new school year!

Amos Lee



JAN

A New Beginning



Monday, 4 January

BACK TO SCHOOL

It was great seeing everyone in school. Alvin and Anthony were surprised when I told them I had been "working" for Coach during the school holidays. He was asked by the principal to start an online magazine. Guess who he called for help? Poor me!

Fat good it did for my ego. No one read it! I knew because when I asked around, NOT A SINGLE PERSON remembered receiving a copy of it via email. Sheesh... My two best friends weren't even interested to hear what I had written for the magazine.

But when I showed them my new iPhone, they couldn't stop asking questions. Alvin was really intrigued with one of the apps. It allows me to rate my poop, from colour to consistency. Mum doesn't know about this of course. Alvin laughed really hard when I showed him my achievement last night.

SUN 3/1	POOP RATINGS
	Colour: Dark Brown
	Consistency: Gel-Like

He asked me what I ate. I told him I had french fries dipped in chilli and ice cream.

Thursday, 7 January

TWITTER CHECK

What's happening? 140

Latest: Greetings from the Loo. **Tweet**

Famous Amos
2 tweets

5 Following 27 Followers 0 Listed

Number of followers: 27

I looked at Justin Bieber's Twitter page. He has 22.2 million followers! Oh man... I need to do something about this. Even if I'm only aiming for 0.00000000001 per cent of his fame, I should have something more to show.

Friday, 8 January



MICHAEL

I saw him during swimming practice. He looks bigger and tougher. Just what does he eat? Some idiot told me that Michael is on Facebook. Why did he have to tell me how many friends he has? 453! How did he get so many friends? Sheeesh... what did he do? Get his entire flat of neighbours to add him as a friend?

6

Monday, 11 January

TWITTER CHECK

What's happening? 140

Latest: Follow me Famous Amos for more tales from the Loo. **Tweet**

Famous Amos
4 tweets

8 Following 31 Followers 0 Listed

Number of followers: 31

Ah ha! I have four new followers. Hooray!

Tuesday, 12 January

POOP TWEET

What's happening? 48

Mums are just clueless. Asking your friends to follow your son on Twitter makes him a loser.

Latest: Follow me Famous Amos for more tales from the Loo. **Tweet**

Famous Amos
5 tweets

10 Following 31 Followers 0 Listed

Wednesday, 13 January

A PROMISE

Mum assured me that she won't be reading my diary anymore. Right, Mum! I'm almost 12 and I deserve respect and privacy! But she said she will be following my tweets. I can live with that.

7

Friday, 15 January

WRITING FOR THE SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Coach asked if I wanted to continue writing for the online magazine. I took the opportunity to ask why he picked me. He said I was the only writer he could find, and added that since I had won an award last year for my Science magazine, I shouldn't let my talent go to waste.

Really, he has no clue that inspiration doesn't strike easily for a writer. I have to thank my cat, Tom, for that award! I had written about him swallowing a lizard whole - head, body, four legs and one wiggly tail. I likened his killer instinct to finding the drive to excel in swimming, to "kill and win"!

I suggested to Coach that we give the online magazine a sassy title, something like "Poop Fiction" to get kids excited about reading. That was when he laughed and said he loved toilet humour. But actually, I was only trying to be a smart-mouth. And when I said, "The daily scoop on poop rhymes," he really cracked up. Boy, this is one funny Coach.

Poop Fiction by Amos Lee.

I'm such a genius!

Saturday, 16 January

POOP FICTION

Coach gave me a list of guidelines to follow. He suggested writing about:

1. History

(Boring! Hmmm... maybe I could write about the history of the toilet. That would be really funny!)

2. Useful information

(Right. Like poop trivia people didn't know about.)

3. Funny stuff

(Hal I'm sure he means funny and disgusting.)

4. Must be inspired by things that we take for granted

(Right. Like toilet paper? Got it!)

Starting on my research right away. Guess Coach wouldn't mind if I skip swimming practice for the next two weeks! I'm serious about this job. I'm such a good and responsible boy, hal

Friday, 29 January

FINAL DRAFT

I took two whole weeks to do my research! I couldn't do anything else until I had finished. I used the Internet and visited the public library. I even checked out many encyclopaedias. Man, it was really hard work. But it was fun. I must be the only boy who dutifully reported for "work" at the library. There I was, still dressed in uniform after school, poring over any book that had the word "toilet" in its title. I read everything! Finally, I finished my article. I read it over and over again. I even did several spell checks on the computer. Now I can email it out. Blast it off into cyberspace!

POOP FICTION

A SCOOP ON POOP!

Let's celebrate the first issue of Poop Fiction by giving thanks for the greatest invention of humankind! The toilet. Did you know that we owe the invention of the modern day toilet to Sir John Harrington, an Englishman who invented the world's first flushing toilet in 1596? But what was life like before the toilet was invented?

A long time ago, about 10,000 years back, people did their big business anywhere it pleased them. Archaeologists have found the earliest evidence of pipes built to carry human waste in Scotland. In the areas we know as Pakistan and Syria today, there is also evidence of ancient people who had used pipes and water to get rid of human waste. But more concrete evidence of bathroom invention was found on the island of Crete, which historians have labelled as the birthplace of European civilisation, around 2,000 B.C.. Palaces that were built had more than 1,500 rooms, and they included bathrooms with toilets, built with comfy wooden seats flushed by rainwater.

Around 500 B.C., the Romans had public toilets where men could sit and chat while engaging in big business. Bottoms were cleaned with a sponge on a stick, kept in a pail of water mixed with salt. Yucks! Remember, toilet paper was

not invented yet. The Romans used a sponge on a stick to wipe their bottoms clean. Now the question that begs to be answered is, did everyone share just one stick?



In other parts of Europe, in medieval times, people threw waste out their windows! The streets were convenient dumping grounds, and walking the streets meant you had to watch out or you could get hit by human waste! Imagine the awful smell! The chamber pot was used for conducting big business, and when it was emptied out the window, you were supposed to shout, "Gardez l'eau!" That's French for, "Watch out for the water!"

Kings and Dukes who lived in castles would relieve themselves in a little room built in the castle wall. Called the garderobe, it meant a "wardrobe" where one would sit on a cold stone seat, and whatever was released from the bottom would drop into the moat surrounding the castle! This explained why the moat was an effective deterrent for invading enemies. Imagine having to swim across the moat in excrement to scale the castle wall. Gross!

Now let's get back to Sir John Harrington. He invented the first flushing toilet for Queen Elizabeth I. He called his toilet "Ajax", and built it with a valve that would release water from a water closet when pulled. This would flush the toilet. But Ajax never became popular with the masses. It was probably too expensive to be installed. It was only around the 1880s that the toilet became popular. At that time, Thomas Crapper, an English plumber, made it "popular" by selling it affordably to ordinary people. (Sir) John, Crap(per)... hmmm, now we know the origins of these names which have been associated with the toilet.

We refer to sitting on the toilet bowl as "sitting on the throne". Why? Well, we owe the "throne" to King Louis XIV of France, who had a special throne he sat on at night. It was called a closestool where he would relieve himself! The King was also a multi-tasker. While holding court on his "throne", he would write letters and issue orders! (So I can't claim to be the first to write my diary in the toilet. King Louis wrote while sitting on the potty way before me!) It was recorded that at the King's most vulnerable moments, the lords would ask for grants of money or special favours. Doesn't a king deserve his privacy? Sheesh...



The toilets of today are so vastly different, depending on which part of the world you're living in. Some have you sit, some prefer that you squat. There are flushing toilets with built-in water-saving features that control the amount of water used. There are bidets invented by the French to wash your bums. But surely, the ultra-modern toilet award must go to the Japanese! For they've invented toilets that can do almost anything. Spray-clean your bum, air-dry it, deodorise smells, and even warm the toilet seat! Need we ask for better comfort?

If I were to ask, "What do you have in common with famous people?", what would you say? Think of pop idols like Justin Bieber and Miley Cyrus (Hannah Montana), or even President Obama, the American President. Well, when the urge strikes and your bowels crank up, you need the toilet. So whether we're 12, 42, or 101, when we need to do big business, regardless of whether we're famous, rich or poor, we're all equal, perching on the toilet bowl!

Look out for my next feature, when I will discuss the invention of toilet paper. In the meantime, enjoy the scoop, aaaannnd... bombs away!

Amos Lee

Amos Lee for Poop Fiction



FEB

Fame At Last!

Monday, 1 February

TWITTER CHECK



What's happening? 140

Latest: Check out the first issue of Poop Fiction by yours truly. [Tweet](#)

Famous Amos
7 tweets

11 Following 425 Followers 2 Listed

OH MY GOODNESS! How did this happen? It's a miracle! I have 425 followers now! I asked Mum if her friends had anything to do with it. She said no. But she was very happy for me.

Tuesday, 2 February

THE MYSTERY SOLVED

Many of my classmates came up to me to congratulate me today. They had read Poop Fiction and enjoyed it. Well, that explains the phenomenal jump in my number of followers. They are all my readers!

Thursday, 4 February

POOP TWEET



What's happening? 60

Found Poop Fiction recycled as toilet paper. Should I take that as a compliment?

Latest: Happy that Poop Fiction is off to a good start :) [Tweet](#)

Famous Amos
10 tweets

11 Following 427 Followers 8 Listed

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Adeline Foo, a graduate student of New York University Tisch School of the Arts Asia, lives in Singapore with her husband and three children.

She is not as IT-savvy as her children. She is on Facebook and she blogs, but beyond that, she can only manage playing 'Talking Tom' and 'MissSpell' on her iPhone.

She has promised not to reveal the names of the children who provided inspiration for her stories in Poop Fiction #9, but she can be persuaded if the right price is offered.

If you've enjoyed reading this book, email her at www.amoslee.com.sg

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



Stephanie is a senior designer at Epigram, a local publishing house dedicated to producing well designed and thought-provoking books (www.epigrambooks.sg).

Her first Tweet post was in 2007. She logs into Facebook daily and is currently obsessed with playing 'Pocket Frogs', 'Angry Birds' and 'Words with Friends' on her iPhone 4.

For other adorkable stuff that Stephanie has done, visit www.steffatplay.blogspot.com



THE DIARIES OF AMOS LEE

Is your Amos Lee series complete?
Check to make sure you have all
these titles!



1
**I Sit, I Write,
I Flush!**
This diary begins
as Mum's New Year
resolution to get
Amos to write
when he is in
the bathroom...



2
Girls, Guts & Glory!
Amos joins the
school's swim team
and discovers the
hunger to excel...



3
**I'm Twelve, I'm
Tough, I Tweet!**
Amos resolves
to be voted as the
most popular boy.
To his dismay, his
arch enemy, Michael,
resorts to cheating...



3.5
**Your DIY Toilet
Diary To Fame!**
Get started on
the road to
fame with fun
stuff, doodles and
personality tests...

AMOS LEE BOOK 4!

He's cute. He's polite. He's teacher's pet and Mummy's darling.
He's everything that Amos Lee isn't. Meet the Loo Boy, the child star
Singapore is grooming as The Next Big Thing on TV!
But will Amos, the original toilet diarist, let him
get ahead? Check www.amoslee.com.sg for updates!



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I'M TWELVE, I'M TOUGH, I TWEET!

It's my last year in primary school and I'm taking part in my school's first Tween Idol contest!

I got myself a Twitter account to gain supporters. I'm furious that my arch enemy, Michael, is doing the same. Oh man, he's everywhere – Facebook, IM, YouTube, you name it.

But what he doesn't realise is how popular I am. My secret weapon? My sister WPI (Whiny, Pesky and Irritating) and her two-girl band.

She's so popular these days it's good to be her big brother. I'm kind of sad that my best friend, Alvin, is also running against me in the contest, but hey, may the best man win.

Psst... I've got a few tricks up my sleeve.



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