

Frozen in time

Chapter 1

I'm Aqua; I live in Cornwall by the sea. I'm standing on the seashore, with the waves lapping around my ankles. My favourite place in the world. I climb up onto our diving stone and take a plunge. I'm falling! I can't stop falling...

Chapter 2

SPLASH! I broke through the surface gasping for air, ran over to my bag with clothes and towel and checked the time on my watch. It was broken, typical, even though I only bought it last week. My bag was dusted with a coat of sand, a practical joke. I dragged my bright red uniform on, half running while I zipped up my fleece. I'd have to run all the way to school.

Chapter 3

As I arrived at the school gates my mouth dropped open- wide enough for a herd of elephants to stomp through. They couldn't have rebuilt the school over night, but they had. My school had not been a sparkling Emerald city the last time I checked- it had been a grey dirty building. I am exaggerating- a small fraction was a lie-it wasn't green; it was black- shining from the sun's energy. I was hoping the interior was as magnificent as the exterior. Now I know I was late, but I decided to study the architecture of my new school rather than facing Mrs Richards. They had solar panelled roofs and every single one of the seven blocks was mirroring another. Seven blocks?! Not four blocks? I'd better run to registration, I was late. That was the plan. And then I stepped inside.

Chapter 4

Imagine High School Musical before they burst into a song and you know my school- my new school. Then imagine every girl wearing jet-black skirts, shirts, coal black shoes and socks and you've almost got it apart from the milky white tie and rainbow jumpers. Some people had lilac; some had red, orange, everyone owning different coloured jumpers. I was in a bubble of my own and a lot of people had pins! The hallway was much wider than yesterdays to allow for subject change without the usual corridor fights. The floor was a sandy yellow plastic sheet whilst the ceiling and the walls were sky blue reminding us of a sunny day. The lockers were lime green and much bigger than the old ones. I realised that people were snickering at my red jumper so I decided to head back to my tutor room to avoid more glares and stare from unfamiliar faces. Now I know that was not a good idea.

Chapter 5.

Everyone was sitting on their own desks (but where was *my* everyone?) with trays underneath to put their books. Sorry, I missed the key aspect; everyone was sitting at their own desks that had trays underneath for their books *staring at me!* None of my friends were there and Mrs Richard had aged much more. Pop! And that is when my bubble burst.

Chapter 6

"O.K.! what is going on? Is this some kind of a practical joke?"

"Excuse me, who are you? I don't believe you are in my class and you are wearing an old uniform", Commented a weary Mrs Richards.

"Mrs Richards. It's me Aqua, Aqua Winters, I am in your class, I wore this uniform yesterday!" I replied.

Mrs Richards turned pale "Aqua? Aqua Winters? You have been missing for five years."

Chapter 7

I stood in the classroom staring at anything and everything but *them*. They had Greek columns reaching to the ceiling and the whole room was lilac. Incense candles were dotted around the room and I realized how strongly the scent of lavender burnt in the air. There were glass panels all along the wall on the side of the wall facing outside and I wondered whether there were any girls that were vertigo in this strange class. In the corner of the classroom I looked over to see a little guinea pig cage built into the wall. A girl looked up at me, then as if I was an insignificant little dot, told me that every class had a pet because children who owned pets were meant to be more caring and better at their studies. Everyone started taking things out of their trays and my averted eyes realized that they had laptops, not books. Mrs Richards pulled up a table to the girl typing away on her laptop. She then handed me a lilac jumper matching everyone in the class and ran out of the class. I sat down and pulled my laptop out. It was already on and was waiting for me to type in my user name. I typed it in and started playing games. The girl next to me tapped my shoulder and told me we were marking ourselves in. She took my lap top and after whizzing her hands over the keys she had put my timetable on my screen. At the bottom of the page in big bold letters were the words: "I AM IN SCHOOL" and next to it there was a little box. When I clicked on the little lilac box a tick appeared and then both the box and the writing disappeared. I stared at my timetable. "I'll get you a map of our school," she said snidely before I had time to read a single subject, snatching my laptop again.

"No thank you! I know my school!" I replied snatching it back.

"Yes, but you do not know *our* school!" And with that she typed away and got me a 3D map with a lilac arrow pointing to a room saying "YOU ARE HERE". The block I was in was the lower teaching block. There was also a clubs block where all the school clubs took place; the arts and D.T. block; the gymnasium and the refectory. There were also two buildings with bright red crosses over them. As if she could read my mind Miss. Annoying snickered and said that I was not allowed in the upper block or the sixth form block. I looked back at my timetable and realized that apart from the arts, D.T. and P.E. all my subjects were in my tutor room. Again, Miss. Perfect timing explained that the teachers came to us apart from for subjects that need specialized classrooms. She was starting to annoy me so I solved my problem. I dragged my table back attaching it to the table behind goody two shoes next to a ginger head girl reading her book.

Chapter 8

She was called Ruby. She helped me around school all day and took me to the office to get a P.E. kit for the day. She explained that every tutor group had their own colour. Our tutor group was lilac. She showed me around all the blocks at lunchtime (apart from the upper block and sixth form). The library was very sophisticated and had a much larger range for the pupils than my school. It had a range of books for you to read for leisure and many more non-fiction books to study from. There was a library for the lower block and apparently another for the older children. I explored the arts and D.T. department as my eyes grew wider and wider. The dance and drama rooms had changing rooms and different lighting. They were much wider and had different areas in the room for different groups to practice. The D.T. department had laser machines to cut through materials and had updated their saws and other equipment so they didn't look as if they were ready to snap in two. The music rooms were more open and round- quite literally. They were strange circular rooms with glass walls looking outside and I knew it would help me to study and play my instruments in such a calm laid back area. I picked up a flute and when I played it realized how good the acoustics were now. I also noticed that there were instruments hanging on the walls protected by a glass wall that was hardly visible. The clubs block was packed with kids running in different directions to different clubs. There was a massive bulletin board listing all the clubs that went on and Ruby told me that there were nine floors for each department. There were escalators going up to each floor and I realized how many clubs went on now.

Chapter 9

The playground was even more amazing than any of the buildings. There were grounds for people to sit on the grass, circular mounts of grass, some underneath trees. There were also the gardens for children to do gardening and a wildlife garden with a little hut to watch the birds and other animals. The refectory was grand. The hard metal seats had been turned into comfy sofas and the tables were circular rather than rectangular with seats the whole way round. There were eight cafeterias and apparently the sixth formers had their own so that there was much less queuing. There were swipe card top-up machines in the cafeterias so that you didn't have to go all the way to another block to top up your card. I thanked Ruby and told her I was going to the toilet and ran down to the beach. My head was spinning, this couldn't be happening...

Chapter 10

I love it here, but I know I can't stay. There is probably a reason I came here, a reason for me to see the changes that are going to be made to my Cornwall, but I think I might make some of them. I waved goodbye to Ruby, got her name and address and promised I'd visit her in the past. So here I am. I am Aqua. I'm going back to my Cornwall, to make changes. I'm standing on the seashore, with the waves lapping around my ankles. My favourite place in the world. I climb up onto our diving stone and take a plunge. I'm falling! I can't stop falling..
SPLASH!

By Anastasia Picton 8:4