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ONE DAY  
SOON

*Cristy Burne*



FREMANTLE PRESS

## *PROLOGUE*

I never really realised

basketball

sunshine

and play-wrestling with your dog

could be so ordinary one minute

and extraordinary the next

I know averages

and algebra

and how our sun is just one star

in an almost infinite universe

I know I'm good at maths

and making gadgets

from whatever I find lying around

I know I'm short for my age

and that short

is just

for

now

One day

I'll be taller

But it wasn't until my uncle

that I realised

one day

won't always come

*PART ONE*  
***THE BEGINNING***

## **ALEX**

I'm Alex  
big brother to Archie  
three years older  
and infinitely more responsible

Archie's cute and cruisy  
never in trouble  
good at everything

never has to think too hard  
or too long

Me?  
I think a lot

## ***UNCLE ROHAN***

Uncle Rohan's a big brother too  
thirteen months older than Dad  
and infinitely wiser  
according to Uncle Rohan

Some years  
Uncle Rohan visits us  
at Christmas  
or for his birthday

Me and Archie  
have to sit around the table  
while Nonnie and Poppy  
and Mum and Dad  
drink cups of tea  
with a mysterious stranger  
and we don't know what to say

Luckily Uncle Rohan loves to talk

He talks about  
    electronic music  
        fixing computers  
            vintage drum machines  
                and making hip hop  
                    and breakbeats  
                        and house

Archie and me sit silently  
We learn that Uncle Rohan likes  
    random facts  
        sleeping in  
            eating Nonnie's pikelets  
                and talking about Melbourne

Poppy says Uncle Rohan's one of a kind  
Nonnie says he's a free spirit  
Dad says he lives as he likes

Archie and me listen  
We work out  
Uncle Rohan likes  
    living alone  
        above a pub  
            on the other side  
                of the country

'Some years at Christmas'  
or 'for his birthday'  
isn't very often

but it's still fun  
having an uncle  
especially one who is a rock star

## **CONVERSATIONS**

At first all I hear  
(or overhear)  
are conversations

Dad on the phone  
(when he thinks me and Archie aren't listening)  
*Rohan's had a fall*

Soft voices with Mum  
(when they think we're both asleep)  
*Rohan's lost his job*

Then one sunny Saturday Dad says  
*I rang Rohan after breakfast*  
*I could hardly understand him*  
*I thought he might've been tired*

But the truth is something different  
*Rohan's slurring his words*