

21st February, 1996

WHO WOULD I BE IF I WASN'T ME?

DEAR DIARY, Chris at work asked me today if I could be anyone in the world, who I would be. I told him that I wouldn't want to be anyone else but me and he didn't believe me. But it's true; I don't want to be anybody else. All the trials and tribulations that I've been through have been balanced with good experiences too. These same good experiences, I would never have if I were someone else.

Most of the changes I would choose to make are actually at my disposal already. I would like to be more thoughtful and that's mind over matter. That's something I can wake up one day and choose to be. I can be thoughtful right now; I don't even have to wait until tomorrow. I can decide to be more outspoken. Often I like to keep the peace so I keep my mouth shut and my opinion to myself and then kick myself because I could have said this and I should have said that. I would love to have a flatter stomach. Again, that's something I can work on. I can stop eating bacon, doughnuts, crisps, white bread, butter, cheese, cut out fizzy drinks and exercise like a demon. Instead, I have a pot belly and exercise in moderation. When I want to be taller, I wear heels. When I want a cleavage, I wear a Wonder Bra. When I want long hair, I buy it and when I want long nails, I glue some on.

I'd love to be able to speak another language and play the piano. Again, these things I can learn to do. I can change aspects of me if I want to and when I choose to but I don't want to wake up one day and be Whitney Houston.

If I woke up to be a Grammy award winning singer or an Oscar winning actor or an MP, a Queen, a scientist, a Nobel Prize winner or a supermodel, then there would be no more August Mayfield and that would be a shame.

I wouldn't have my brothers and sisters, my mum or dad, my friends and extended family and most importantly my sons wouldn't exist. They'd all be different people and that wouldn't do; I'd much rather stick with what I have and work with what I've got.

August Mayfield