

1st April 2010

## AN APRIL'S FOOL OR MAYBE NOT!

DEAR DIARY, for one reason or another, I plan my life's goals around the month of April. When the clocks go forward, it encourages me to take stock of the goals that I set at the end of the previous year. When I review how far I've come along in April, I'm able to do a bit of tweaking or deleting.

During this time, I also set new challenges at the beginning of April if I can take any more on board. I like to have projects on the go right throughout the year otherwise I feel I'm not working towards anything.



## BUT NEW GOALS AREN'T ALWAYS SUCCESSFUL.



I decided to take up an evening class learning Spanish and I did it for about two months and then gave up. It just wasn't sinking in, I was frustrated and I was also beginning to feel like the class dunce. I had all these high hopes of travelling around Spain with the notion that I'd teach someone English in exchange for bed and board; but oh no, I couldn't even string a sentence together. So I flopped with that idea. But I decided to set myself a replacement goal which was to walk more. I use my car all the time and I'm happy to drive for 30 seconds, even if it takes me five minutes to get in the car, adjust my seat depending on the height of my shoes and select a CD. Now that I walk more often, I've become more aware of the area I live in, I'm able to stop in the shops on the high street and actually say hello to the shop keepers who I know while passing on foot and for some reason, this change makes me feel healthier, happier and more connected to my surroundings. I still haven't trained myself to walk when it's raining though. Me and rain do not get along.

# The AUGUST MAYFIELD Diaries

I also try to plan significant things in April. I'm getting my kitchen and bathroom ripped out and replaced with new fixtures and fittings in two weeks time. I purposely planned the refurbishment to start in April because I saw it as a new beginning. It'll be a new beginning for my children too because God help them if they think they're going to drop a bread crumb on my new kitchen counter and God help them if they think they're going to spit toothpaste on my new bathroom cabinet. They'll be beginning their Easter Holiday on crutches if they mess with my new kitchen and bathroom.



A few years ago, I had a happy coincidence. I ended a miserable relationship on April 1<sup>st</sup>. I didn't actually plan it that way, it just so happened that the man in question decided to act like a cocky prick when we were already on the slide so I had no other option but to give him his papers. Again... new beginnings. I actually saw this as the Universe talking to me and letting me know that whoever I was praying to, he or she was in tune with me and my needs.

So looking at the goals I've set for this year, I've already reached one of my major goals which was to be free of credit card debt. My aim was to bring the balance to zero. I was already working on it in 2009, but I wanted to step it up a gear. Well you couldn't wipe the smile off my face even if you wanted to with this one. I achieved my goal in March and I'm so happy that I'm back in control. There's nothing wrong with credit cards if you know how to work it. I'm the type of girl who looks at an idea and thinks how does this work for (1) me; and (2) everyone else? And paying mad interest oh-so-doesn't work for me in any way, shape or form.



Another goal I've attached to the list is to add on another career. My children laughed at me when I told them what I'm studying for so that was my cue to keep it a secret from the rest of the world until I'm qualified. It's nothing crazy, I'm not going to be a Magician; I hate magic or an Accountant because I can't count! But it's something I really need to do because it feels like my life wouldn't be complete without it.

So there we have it! I look forward to the new challenges and no doubt my success or failure will be diarised at some point.

*August Mayfield*