Chapter 4

FRIENDS



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SOUND IN THE WORLD IS THE LAUGHTER RISING UP FROM FRIENDS IN A SKATE PARK. FOR THIS TIME THERE ARE NO WORRIES, NO STRESS, NO FEARS - JUST YOU & YOUR MATES & A MILLION THREADS OF A STORY TO BE TOLD.



Soul Tribe

Your friends – the real ones – the ones who are your soul tribe will always be there for you. And in life we all need that. Watch out for your friends. Some of them won't be able to talk to their families when they need to. Some won't even have families – you will be that for them.

Cherish these real friends like the air you breathe, because one day they will all be gone.

Real Friends

When you're around a real friend, you don't feel empty, you don't feel alone and you don't feel like there's something wrong with you. Real friends make you feel you are capable of more than you feel capable of when you're alone. They make you feel bigger inside. Yes they will joke with you and make fun of you, but you know that they would let no one else make fun of you in a mean way. And they'd defend you with their life if anyone tried to hurt you.

Real friends will always be honest with you when you're being an idiot because they know you are better than you can imagine and they want you to be the awesome piece of meteorite dust you came here to be.

Real friends make you feel proud, rather than embarrassed, of your feelings because they have felt the same.

When you are with real friends, you don't have to try to be anyone else, just you, and that's the best thing in the world. Awkward silences, well, they don't exist when you're with real friends. Your most-often used phrase when you're with real mates is, "I was just thinking the same thing . . ."

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With real friends, you'll spend hours in the park/at the pitch/on the corner/cruising around and then go home and call them straight away. Your parents won't understand it and will ask, "Were you not with them all day? What could you possibly still have to talk about?" They forget they did the same!
Real friends make you feel brave. With them by your side you feel like you could take on the world because you know they're in your corner.

During your life to come, with real friends you will:

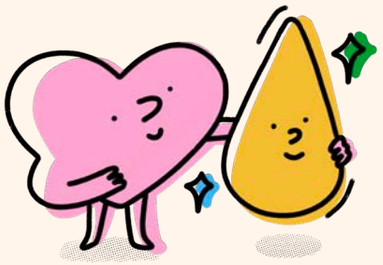
- ***Hold each other when your worlds fall apart (hopefully not at the same time).***
- ***Hold their hair when they are puking up.***
- ***Dance at their wedding.***
- ***Be the person they call when their first child is born.***
- ***Be there for them when their marriage is falling apart and they are fighting to hold on.***
- ***Celebrate when they get fired from their job because their boss was an idiot and now they can chase their real dream.***
- ***Cry with them when they say goodbye to their parents and be there for them as they try and put the shards of their heart back together.***
- ***Be at each other's kids' biggest days and show the young ones what partying really looks like.***
- ***Tell the people that have come to say goodbye what your friend was really like and why you loved them, on the day they are sent home to the place we all come from.***

What does a real friend look like?

How do you know a good friend?

Well, if the answer is a 'Hell Yes' to each of these then you know they are a keeper and have passed the test.

- ***They encourage you to be your unique flavour of weirdness and don't run you down for being yourself.***
- ***They pull you back to who you really you really are when you are doing stupid shit or doing stuff just to fit in and be liked.***
- ***When they sense you're not OK they ask what's going on and when you fob them off with a 'I'm fine', they push you to tell them how you really are because they care.***



And remember.....
This is also how YOU can be a good friend. Then you will always have people who love calling you their friend.

YOUR FRIENDS ARE YOUR TRIBE UNTIL YOUR PARENTS HAVE GROWN UP ENOUGH TO SEE YOU AGAIN. SO, MIND EACH OTHER, LOVE ONE ANOTHER'S EXPERIMENTS IN FINDING OUT WHO YOU ARE. THIS IS THE START OF YOUR LIFE AND EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OK IN THE END. AND IF IT IS NOT OK, THEN IT IS NOT THE END.