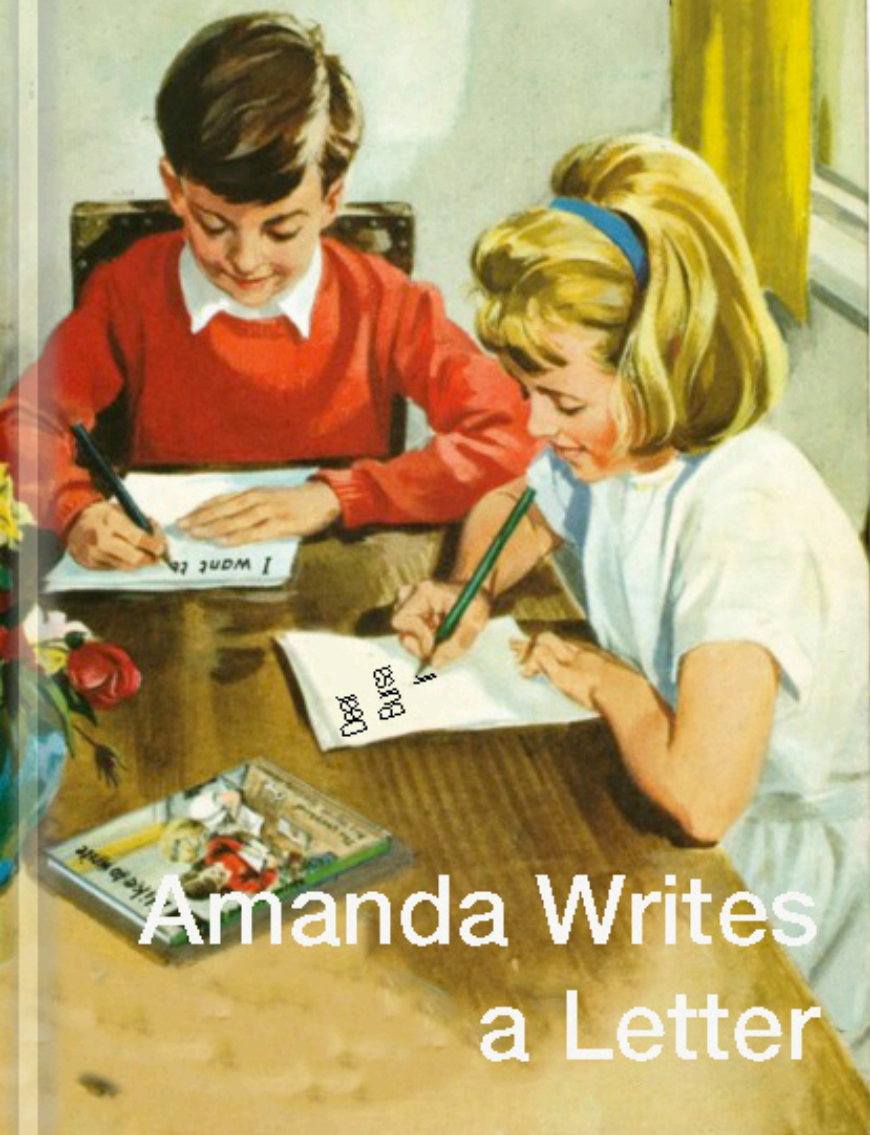




A Ladybone Bio-ethics Book



# Amanda Writes a Letter





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*Printed in The West Country*

# Amanda Writes A Letter



by

**Myrtle Gracewarden**

*after an idea by Edna Whisky-McNightly*

A Ladybone "Bio-ethics Book"

Amanda was known to all her friends as the clever one. Whilst most of the children in her class - especially Edna - enjoyed skipping, jumping and showing their knickers to the boys, Amanda liked to read.



Her friend Brian often asked her to play with him or else join in the fun of investigating ethically-challenging garden-based organic substances with the funny man from next door. But Amanda was adamant. *“If I am going to head up a large multi-national company in later life, I need a head start education-wise”*, she said. Her mummy blamed her daddy.





So, even on the sunniest day, Amanda stayed indoors. Sometimes she helped Brian with one of his bio-culinary experiments, rolling the pastry and preparing bacteria for the petrie dishes, but mainly she liked sitting, thinking, reading Dostoevsky and, when Mummy wasn't looking, hiding Daddy's whisky in the bread bin.



One spring day, whilst making lane markers for her school swimming pool and musing on the relative merits of charcoal versus coloured pencils when trying to capture the dynamics of a moving subject, Amanda, thought “*Since I love pens and paper and one day want to be CEO of an innovative hi-tech printing business, I better do some practice writing*”.



So she wrote a letter to the Bursar of Magdalene College, Cambridge, asking ever so politely if perhaps one day she and her friend Brian could visit the college and learn how to become clever.

Brian, meanwhile was also writing a letter: he was asking Father Christmas for a bio-ethical chemistry set so he could set fire to the vicar's trousers without suffering the desolation of post-event moral scruple syndrome.



I want to

Dear Pusa

Like to write

The Bursar of Magdalene College was very busy doing important sums and had no interest in intelligent young people who might one day prove to be distinguished alumni, so he asked his Secretary Miss Sums to reply instead.

*“And whilst you are at it, get me the JCR President”, he barked, “I feel like imposing a rent hike”*





Miss Sums was a kindly, if slightly old-fashioned lady with a penchant for Tolkien and a serious nose-bleed. She wrote to Amanda patiently explaining that all the College Open Days had already taken place and that, in any event, girls wouldn't be allowed to visit the College until at least the 1980s. She suggested that Amanda should train instead to be a housewife, gain practical skills and learn to suppress her inner ambitions because otherwise no-one would want to marry her.



Miss Sums letter arrived and Amanda was very disappointed. She consoled herself by washing the bedlinen as Miss Sums had suggested. *“In future it’s a good idea not to put the white sheets in with mummy’s special “birthday” lingerie”*, Brian advised her, *“bio-ethical detergents can play havoc with non-colour-fasts”* he added with boyish know-it-all complacency.

Amanda decided she couldn’t give a toss.



Still, writing to the Bursar of Magdalene College, Cambridge had taught Amanda an important lesson: if a girl wants to get on in life, its better to learn to play with boys and to remember always to show them your knickers!



The author would like to thank the illustrator Dierdre Eastman-Kodakawzcki for bringing her tale so beautifully to life. She would also like to thank Ms Avis Rentall, for use of her vehicle.

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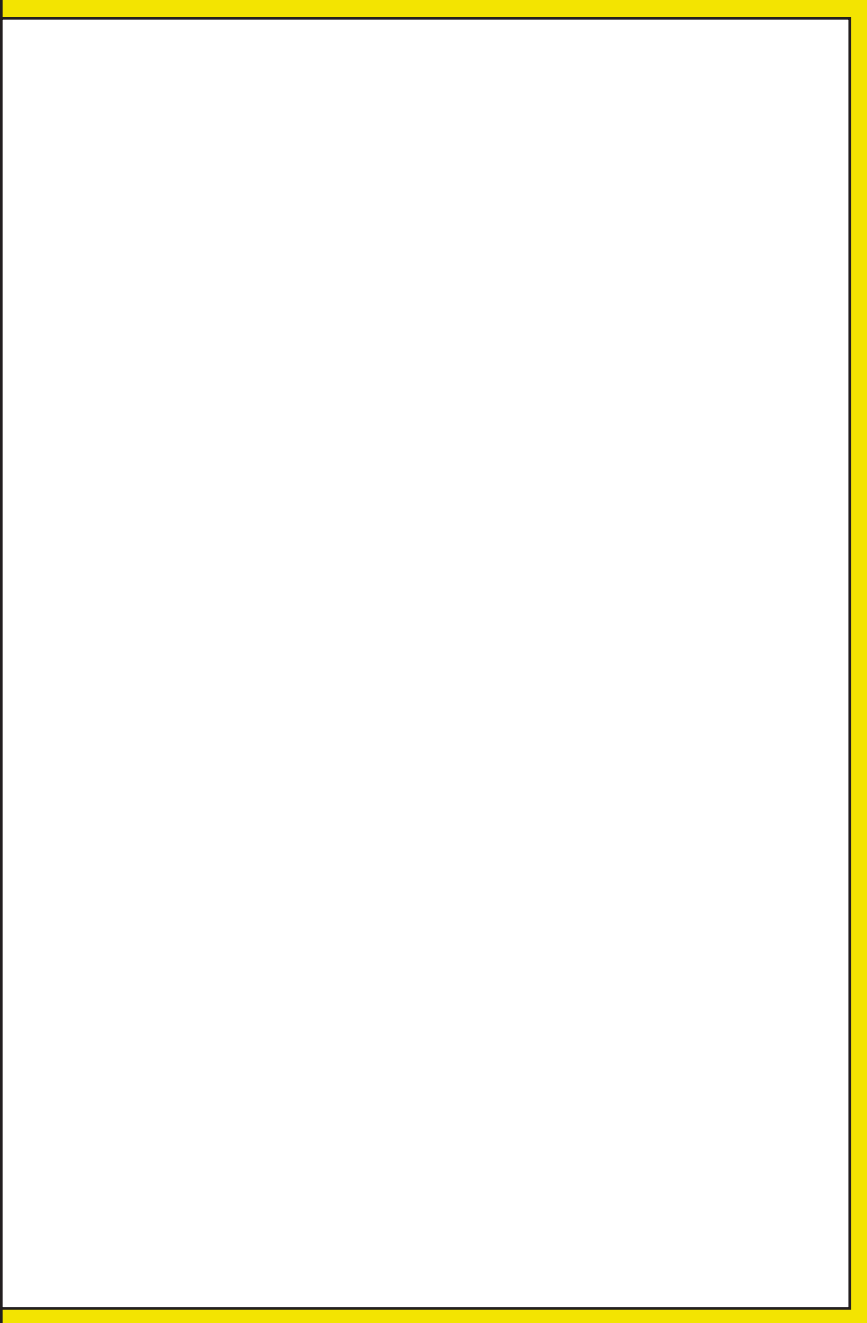


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