

Life in the Bunker by Sofie Verdonk

Excerpt from the diary of Elina Stevens (1994-2015).

Monday November 26 2012

Leo and I spent the day stocking the last couple of supplies. The thought of having to live on tinned beans and corn for the rest of my life frightens me more than it should, so I also have dozens of chocolate bars stocked up. Leo does not approve of sugary wares, she thinks our pantry should be filled with healthy stuff only. I strongly disagree and I know she will change her mind after a while too. Nobody can survive without sugar. According to the Prepping Advisory Association the cravings should start after about three weeks, so I have my triple chocolate caramel crunchies hidden under my mattress. We have to share and all, but it's important to keep your individualism. At least that's what the PAA told us repeatedly.

We have about a month left to live our lives as we know it. I've been taking the time to say goodbye to my family. They don't approve of my choices and have voted for the Positive Party. It will hurt to know that they are dying outside while I'm safely tucked away in my Bunker, but it was their choice. Leo has a different approach: she has no family left to say goodbye to and can't wait for the end of the world to start. I hope I made the right decision in choosing her as my Survival Partner.

Once it all begins I might regret it.

Friday December 21 2012, 10 a.m.

Today is the day the world will end. When I woke up this morning I felt a sort of relief coming over me. This is what we have prepared for. We're ready. I feel sorry for the people who didn't believe in the PAA, like my former neighbour, Anja. She always left a container with left-overs in front of my apartment door.

The government had us make the choice. The people who voted for the Positive Party were not given the opportunity to prepare for the day that will end the earth. They voted wrong.

Friday December 21 2012, 12 p.m.

I can't sit still so I turned to my diary to write. Leo is impatient too. She keeps pottering around the Bunker. We've already had an argument. I'm scared, but not for what's about to happen outside. The idea of spending the rest of the Apocalypse with the same person has me terrified. I thought about organising the pantry again, to ease my mind, but it can't get more organised than this. Leo just watched Gossip Girl on the TV all day, while she still can.

It's getting harder to breathe, but that might also be the air getting hotter while the sun is closing in on us. There is no way to know for sure what is going on outside, even when the news says nothing is going on. Journalists were never to be trusted anyways. They have spread lies about the Apocalypse since the beginning.

Writing this all down has made me calmer. I remember what it's all for now. The confident look on Leo's face reminds me why the Prepper's Partnering Programme has found us compatible to survive the Apocalypse together.

Friday December 21 2012, 9 p.m.

I know it's going on now outside. The thought alone puts a grin on my face. Leo can feel it too, she has finally decided to sit down. The TV has stopped working immediately. After dinner, Leo and I danced around on the Bunker floor while the earth finally perished, caving into centuries of being abused by humans. I can't help but feel a bit smug about all those mean girls I went to high school with, who chose to ignore the warnings about the Apocalypse. Like Melissa, Janice and Amy who walked around together like they were a unity. Not once did they go to the bathroom alone during those six, horrible years at school. They used to laugh at me when I said the earth was flat in geography class. Well, look who's laughing now. Ha!

Sunday January 27th 2013

Ugh. I got my first Bunker period today. Leo was supposed to take care of tampons, but instead she bought a menstruation cup that collects the blood and you have to empty it every couple of hours or so. It's taking some time getting used to and is not the most pleasant activity, although time is the one thing I have plenty of.

We've been able to make contact with another Partnership who we've met during the Prepping Partnering Programme. It's nice to have some social interaction with someone other than Leo for once, although Marla and Antonio are an older Partnership and have not quite yet mastered the art of how to deliver jokes via Morse Code.

It's been fine otherwise. I realized that I don't really miss my family all that much. We never believed in the same things.

Anyway, they're dead now.

Overall life in the Bunker has been fine.

Friday March 8th 2013

Marla and Antonio have messaged us that they are expecting a baby. It kind of made me wish I partnered up with a man so I could procreate. Having a little one to take care of might have been nice. Leo and I are not involved romantically, although we have fooled around a bit. The Preppers Partnering Programme had informed us before hand that that might happen. We also fight sometimes, because Leo can be so annoyingly stubborn. She leaves her dirty socks everywhere and refuses to follow my system.

If you want to live in chaos, you might as well get out into the eternally burning world.

May 2nd 2013

I don't really know what day of the week it is anymore. It doesn't really matter anyways. I'm so happy that I've been able to leave the dreadful life of having to go work a nine to five job and go to the office every single day. Most Preppers were worried that life in the Bunker was going to be boring, but my life before was so bland that it could only get better from there. My life is all right now. Leo has been talking to her self from time to time. It's quite interesting actually, almost like watching a Hamlet performance. I guess that's one thing I miss: going to the theatre. But still, no more small talk in the lift every workday. Yay!

November 18th 2013

Antonio has let us know that Marla has given birth to a baby boy. I was jealous at first. I'm so bored out of my mind that the idea of having a baby to look after sounded amazing. But then I started thinking about how unethical it is of them to force a child to grow up in a Bunker and no prospect of a life in the outside world and my jealousy quickly faded away. It's actually pretty stupid off Marla and Antonio to not think about Prepping for contraceptives. Me and Leo had a laugh about it earlier. I mean, it is Prepping 101...

We have banned Monopoly, it has led to too many arguments. I never really liked boardgames anyways. Instead I spend most of my time reading, although I can't recall which book and my mind keeps rereading the same sentence over and over again.

November 27^h 2013

It's my birthday today. Leo made a cake with the chocolate she stole from me a very long time ago. It was all right. Better than beans I guess. We drew stars on the ceiling. The PAA always warned us that we would miss the sun, but it is the stars I really miss. I've started to realize that the PAA knew nothing. How could they have prepared us for something that had never happened before?

Sometimes I turn on the TV, just to see if there's anything there. There isn't, of course.

Marla and Antonio told us to just contact random Partnerships, to have some social interaction. I've tried, but meeting new people via Morse Code is not exactly Tinder. It's a work in progress, I'll keep you updated.

December 21st 2013

It's been a year in the Bunker. Still the best decision of my life. Although maybe I should have gone with a Community Partnership instead of Pair Partnership... Anyways, it's too late now, I'm stuck with Leo.

January 9th 2014

I'm pretty sure Leo has read my diary. She has been so on edge with me lately. We had a massive fight about it last night, but she never admitted to doing it. From now on I carry it everywhere I go. I don't trust her enough to leave it under my pillow anymore.

February 2nd 2014

I hate Leo.

April 17th 2014

I think I might be in love with Leo.

~~July 2014~~ June 2014

I have totally lost track of time. I sleep a lot. I'm hungry always. Leo has stopped speaking to me. All she does now is typing Morse Code frantically. I have no idea who she's contacting.

September 2014 (?)

I almost opened the Bunker door today. Leo tackled me just in time. We laid on the floor for what felt like a long time. I cried while she embraced me.

We've run out of chocolate.

Elina was rescued from the PAA cult, amongst 714 other victims of the organisation, on October 15th 2014. Leo currently works with the National PAA Memorial Association with the intention of spreading awareness of what the life in the Bunker was like.