

FINAL EDITION

# extra fingers

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## At least he got to stop for a bit

**AMELIE**, just after British runner Mo Farah had fallen during the final of the Men's 10,000 metres at the 2016 Olympics: "Well, at least he got to stop for a bit."

## So annoying

**AMELIE:** "I really hate it when people [pedestrians] go up to a traffic light and press the button and then walk away. It's so annoying!"

**DAD:** "Yes, I—"

**AMELIE,** interrupting: "I do it a lot, though."

## Being cold

After we'd arrived at school in the car, I noticed Amelie hadn't put her shoes on.

**DAD:** "What on earth have you been doing?"

**AMELIE:** "I was being cold."

## Pigs are the smartest, except . . .

*As overhead while driving Amelie and two of her friends to musical theatre class*

**AMELIE:** "Pigs are the smartest animals in the world."

**ONE OF AMELIE'S FRIENDS:** "You think so?"

**AMELIE:** "Yeah. Easily! . . . Except for some other ones."

## So lucky

**AMELIE:** "I wonder what it would feel like to get run over. I remember one person getting run over by a train."

**EMMA,** one of Amelie's friends: "Yeah? Where?"

**AMELIE:** "On my computer. I was watching it on YouTube I think. He was so lucky though."

**EMMA:** "Was he?"

**AMELIE:** "Ah . . . yeah! Just lost two legs, an arm, and got a broken back."

## How to be happy

**AMELIE** to her friend Olivia: "You can't actually be physically happy if you don't read Harry Potter."

## Smidgiest

**AMELIE,** expressing displeasure: ". . . all I did was brush the smidgiest (sic) part of her [Isabella's] spoon and she made me wash it in case of germs. I mean, how pathetic!"

## A marketer's dream

**AMELIE:** "Dad, do you think Usain Bolt will ever tell the world what shoes he wears? Because I really want to get them."

## Cuts

**AMELIE:** "I don't know why some people don't like licking blood off their cuts. I really like the taste of my blood. And you can even blow blood off your cuts and let it run down the sides of your hand or arm or leg and make art."

## Good drawers

**AMELIE:** "I don't like the stories in the Bible — they're really boring — but I do like the pictures and drawings. The Bible people were really good drawers."

## In the olden days

**AMELIE:** "I really like the scary movies today. Because in the olden days it was just clowns and boring old witches."

## On driving

**AMELIE,** in the car talking to her friend, Emily: "I'm really scared about driving. I think I'd be really bad at it."

**EMILY:** "Yeah. Me too."

**AMELIE:** "Because what if I was like I am when I drop something? I just think that if I was going really badly in a car I'd just close my eyes. How bad is that!"

# Snapchat

**AMELIE:** "Dad, can I please have Snapchat? We talked about it a year ago and you promised I could."

**DAD:** "I don't remember promising that."

**AMELIE:** "Well, you did. All my friends have got Snapchat and now I feel left out. They're always going on about it. And I don't know anything about what they're talking about."

**DAD:** "How old are you supposed to be?"

**AMELIE:** "Twelve. But that's just a recommendation. Like, you know, going on rides is a recommendation. It's up to parents. You can overrule it, Dad. All my friends just said they were born in 1982."

## After the Dinosaurs

**AMELIE**, referring to a test: "I would say that 90% of the class thought AD meant 'After Death'. But I thought, 'Nah, that doesn't make any sense'. So I put 'After the Dinosaurs'. Oh well. Would have got that wrong, I suppose."

## What if someone really stupid had a massive bucket of sand in their lounge room?

**AMELIE:** "Dad, how do they know how many grains of sand there are in the world? How would they count them all?"

**DAD:** "Well—"

**AMELIE:** "Because there'd be so many."

**DAD:** "Well, they wouldn't count every grain of sand. All they would do is count the number of grains of sand there are in one very small section of a beach. Like, say, a square centimetre of a particular bit of beach; something like that. And then they'd times that number by the typical number of square centimetres there are in the width of an average beach by all the coastline distances they know that would contain sand. Mind you, whatever they came up with as a final number would be out by a lot because how could you possibly get breadths and depths right? It'd be impossible."

**AMELIE:** "Yeah."



## What are the cars supposed to do?

**AMELIE**, referring to a half-finished overpass road: “Whooah, Dad! What have they done?”

**DAD**, not knowing what Amelie was talking about: “What do you mean?”

**AMELIE**: “The bridge, Dad. They’ve chopped it off. What are the cars supposed to do now? Just wait up there?”

**DAD**: “You just can’t count every grain. It’d be too hard.”

**AMELIE**: “And, Dad, what if someone really stupid took home a massive bucket of sand and put it in their lounge room? You know, a kid who carried home a big bucket of sand one day and then forgot all about it. That’d be so stupid but there’d be so many grains of sand just there.”

## My dad knows everything

**AMELIE**: “Dad, is Steve Jobs dead?”

**DAD**: “Yes.”

**AMELIE**: “That’s what I said! That’s what I told my group. In my group today everyone was saying he was alive but I said he was dead. Then, it didn’t matter what I was saying, they just

kept on saying he was alive. Until I finally said 'My dad said he was dead'. Then they all went *(in a quiet voice)* 'Whoohah! O-kay! 'My dad knows everything,' I said. And then no one said anything."

## Not in real life

**AMELIE**, reacting to being described as having a look of "perplexed discontent": *(Eyes rolling)* "You can't say that in real life, Dad. Who talks like that? You might say that in a story, but not when you're talking in real life."

## Jesus is like Justin Bieber

**DAD**: "Ams, I don't think your school would ever do Jesus Christ Superstar. Because—"

**AMELIE**: "No they could. Because they think he's so great. You know, superstar."

**DAD**: "No. If you look at the song 'I don't know how to love him' sung by Mary Magdalene, it is not expressing a platonic love. I believe it's expressing a romantic love. Where she's trying to say *(sings)* 'I don't know how to love him'. Which is more romantic. Now, in the Bible you never ever get that. In the Bible that Jesus would have had a girlfriend."

**AMELIE**: "Haven't read it, so I don't know."

**DAD**: "Okay. Alright. But do you see Jesus as being the kind of guy that would have a girlfriend?"

**AMELIE**: "Yeah."

**DAD**: "You do?"

**AMELIE**: "Everyone likes him. He's like Justin Bieber."

## Obsessed with helping

**AMELIE**: "Dad, why are you always helping people? It's like in London. You were always so obsessed with helping ladies with prams go upstairs. It's like you *wanted* to help them."



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## LAST WORD

# Advice to self

**AMELIE**, out loud, offering advice to herself during a game of chess where I was just about to declare checkmate: "Stay happy."