

*A Special 21<sup>st</sup>  
To Belinda*

*By Katharine McLennan*

*Written by Katharine McLennan*





# *A Special 21<sup>st</sup> To Belinda*

*Written by Katharine McLennan*

*The first daughter we had turns 21 this year  
This poem to celebrate a life so very dear  
To our family, to her friends, to her future kith and kin  
Let us toast our beautiful woman, and the great love she always been*

*She was born in the tenth month of 1982  
After a very long time in labour her mother finally knew  
That a girl had arrived, the first of our Breakfast Club bunch  
Holding her in St Vincent's, I think I had a hunch*

*That she would be vivacious and lively like my dear love Kel,  
Intelligent and creative like her godmother Michelle  
A girl who would easily win her father's adoration  
A girl who would thrive from her mother's vocation*

*An honour it was to have been so close to you  
In your first year of life, and how time flew  
I remember the glass that made us all gasp  
Your resilience, your grace, how little did we then grasp*

*An honour it was to have you as this generation's first girl  
So confident at age 3, in your gorgeous dress frill  
What an honour it was to see you hold Joy  
You were so delighted it was a girl, and not a boy*

*What an honour it was to be the mother to you  
To watch you as held Joy, and then there were two  
Two girls that lit up 18 Fern house and family  
Two girls who would expand the Fennen clan grandly*





*And Lloyd arrived and his cousin Jilly was there  
A boy! My goodness, an event reasonably rare  
Thank you, Gracie, for being the elder mediator  
When Lloyd is being teased by Joy, an argument generator*

*Over the 90s you grew into your first decade  
Through St Mary's, through netball, adventures forayed  
Lake Conjola and road trips, camping and swimming  
Mount Warning, Fordham and Minto families brimming*

*Over the naughties you became the first teenager we knew  
As we all learned about mood swings, from joyous to blue  
We watched as the Loyola uniform was dutifully donned  
And a serious student and lifelong friend was creatively spawned*

*How impressed I'll always be as I remember your study  
For the HSC Biology, your mind so far from muddy  
The elegance you wrote with, the passion you exhibited  
The diligence you applied, and the humour unlimited*

*And proud as we are all of your Sydney Science degree  
We know that your Grandfather Burt would be up there with a decree  
Ordering us to remember your kindness and your adventure  
Your spirit, your honesty, even more important than this credential*

*A spirit that gives you the courage to go where few people might travel  
To study a language that for the majority of us would unravel  
To Berlin you are going as you turn 21 years,  
An age of adulthood, far beyond the childhood fears*

*I remember well when I was your age  
And study was finished and dating became the next stage  
Little did I know that it was Kel that I'd marry  
And then to have a baby, first born I'd carry*





*Little did I know that I would become a Fennen  
As the Scottish would ask, how could I have "kennen?"  
How could I have known how wonderful a clan  
So loving and supporting with a great heart and span*

*What a gift you have been over these 21 years  
A proper Hogwarts Witch would be delivering thousands of cheers  
For the woman you have become and the woman you will be  
For the lovers, the friends who will bask in your sea*

*I wish I could be there but the dementors have muddled  
My travel towards Hogwarts has been completely befuddled  
So, I will send my virtual owl to wish you Birthday Cheer  
To tell you I love you, and to celebrate this 21st year*

*So, lift your glass, and toast the moment.  
That's all that there is, no need for torment.  
About pasts that can't change, about futures that don't exist  
About flaws, about jealousies, about pain that persists.*

*Thank God for our humanness, and thank God for this life.  
Thank God for this music which seems so rife.  
It teaches us of love, of tenderness, and care,  
Of friendship, of honour, of giving beyond compare.*

*God grant us the serenity, God grant us the love  
And steer us towards Heaven, which need not exist above.  
Show us the way to Heaven here on Earth,  
I trust Your guidance, and I honour Our worth.*

*Written by Katharine McLennan*

If you would like to have a poem written on your behalf, please contact me on [kath@timetorelect.today](mailto:kath@timetorelect.today) or +61419751812. My name and logo will not appear on your poem. You are encouraged to select photos and script style. You are also welcome to adapt my draft, which will be based on the information you have given me to express. Your information can be as detailed as you like. More information and samples of poetry I have written can be found on my website, <https://www.timetorelect.today/>

