

Down with Alice

Mummy's out and daddy's friend Alice is here. I like Alice. She has lovely hair and always smells nice.

Alice often comes round when mummy's not home. Daddy said she is his friend. And she's mine too. She brings me the sweets that mummy doesn't like. Last time she came she brought me a new doll. Daddy says I can't keep it here, but Alice said she'll bring it with her every time she comes so I don't mind. I've called the doll Alice because she's pretty just like daddy's friend. She not only brought the doll but also lots of new clothes for it to try on.

"That will keep you busy," daddy said, "while Alice and I get on with some work." Then daddy and Alice went upstairs. They were gone for a long time. The work must have been hard because when they came back down, Alice looked very hot.

Alice always comes on Saturdays. That's the day when mummy visits grandma and does the shopping for her. I don't miss mummy when she's gone because Alice is such fun. She tells me stories and sometimes combs my hair into different styles. Mummy's not very good at doing hair but I don't mind because Alice is so much better. Daddy says mummy doesn't need to know about his work with Alice so we always have to comb my hair back before Alice goes home.

Today daddy and Alice were working upstairs for ages and I got bored. My Alice doll said she was bored too. Then I saw that the real Alice had left her handbag on the sofa. It was open so I thought I'd take a look. There wasn't anything interesting. Grown ups never have anything really interesting, do they? Then I saw the make-up bag. Mummy has one just like it but I'm never allowed to touch her make-up. She says she'll let me try some when I'm older. Why not now? I ask. I'm nearly nine! I bet Alice would let me is what I thought. There was a little pot of red stuff in the bag. I've seen mummy put it on her cheeks so I rubbed some on mine. Alice had some sparkly eye stuff so I used that too. I rubbed it in and it was all twinkly like fairy dust. The lipstick was difficult to put on without a mirror so I went into the downstairs loo. It was then I heard daddy and Alice coming downstairs.

When she saw me, Alice gave a scream and shouted, "You naughty girl, what do you think you're doing? How dare you touch my things!"

Then she shouted at daddy, "Your daughter's such a brat!"

Daddy didn't stick up for me at all. After Alice left he said he was ashamed of me and that I was a silly vain little girl. I cried myself to sleep last night.

This morning, I told mummy about daddy's friend.