

Sardines

I didn't want to come to Mandy's birthday party. Mummy said I could wear my princess dress and sparkly shoes. I still didn't want to, so she said she would buy me a My Little Pony. Mummy says I look very pretty in my dress although it's a bit tight as I have grown since I last wore it. Mummy says I am very clever and grown up for my age. People often think I am eight but I'm actually seven.

Mandy's house is very small. My birthday party was at the zoo and we fed the elephants. Mandy's mummy says we are going to play party games and have sandwiches and cakes later. There are boys here. I don't like boys. And I don't like sandwiches.

We've been playing catch in the garden but I have come into the house. It is hard to run in my princess dress and I keep getting caught and I am 'It' all the time. I don't like being It. Mandy's mummy asks me if I want a drink of cola, but it's not Pepsi so I say no. She teases me and calls me a cross patch. We sit in a circle and a boy sits next to me so I move and squash in between Mandy and her best friend Jane. Jane wears glasses and I call her specky four eyes. The boy next to her laughs. Mandy is prettier than Jane, but not as pretty as me. She doesn't have blond curls like mine. Pass the parcel is boring. It sometimes stops at me but I want the big present in the middle. The parcel is very small now and it's not fair, all the other children are being slow on purpose. The parcel is finally getting nearer to me. The boy on the other side of Jane says he is 'slow motion boy' and they all laugh. It's not funny. Jane has the parcel and the music stops but it should be my turn and I snatch the parcel from Jane but she holds on to it. I bite her hand. When Mandy Jane stops crying Mandy's mummy lets her open the parcel and I am very cross, but it's only a box of Maltezers. Jane opens the box to share with everyone but I accidentally on purpose knock it and the Maltezers roll all over the floor. They all laugh and start crawling under the table and chairs hunting for the sweets. I scream and say that the boy next to me has pinched me. Mandy's mummy looks cross.

Mandy's mummy says she has a good idea for a game and would I like to be the first to start off a game of sardines. She takes me upstairs to a big wardrobe and tells me to stay there quiet as a mouse while all the other children try to find me. She says I will be the prize princess. It's been quite a while now.....