

Exposed: Erica Griffiths

'My my we have gone to a lot of trouble today' smiled Doctor Wainwright, with a mischievous sparkle in his eye 'there was really no need for that.'

What on earth was he talking about? Mia moved the corners of her mouth to pretend smile, fretfully wishing again that her regular Doctor wasn't enjoying herself somewhere on the beaches of New Caledonia!

Mia didn't like doctors at the best of times, prodding and poking, and making banal small talk; and going for a pap smear had to be the absolute worst of all doctor visits! Not just answering questions about sexual partners, but also having to strip off in the Doctor's office.

'Just your trousers and your underpants today' he'd said, pulling the flimsy curtain across in front of her.

It's not just my underpants, Mia silently screamed, it's also lying here semi-naked in front of a stranger, while you flick your rubber gloves and avoid making eye contact.

She lay there grinding her teeth, thoughts swirling. Why did he think she'd gone to a lot of trouble? Mia really didn't want to get into a conversation about her vagina with this man. She had put on nice underwear and yes she'd had a bikini wax last week, but none of that was special. She had been rushing this morning, getting herself and her daughter out of the house on time, making sure she wouldn't miss this appointment. She'd showered, shaved her legs and grabbed the washcloth from the edge of the bath for a final wipe, to make sure that everything down there was sparkly clean.

Her daughter had been giving her Barbies makeovers in the bath, hair, makeup, the full works. Then it struck her, oh God no! Her embarrassment started as a slow flare in her neck, then spread fire to her face, with the horror eventually travelling right down to stiffen her toes.

'Is everything ok Mia? he politely asked.

After plaiting their hair, each Barbie had received a special sprinkle of glitter, lots and lots of glitter. Mia closed her eyes in shame, cursing her foolishness. The glitter had been wiped from the dolls to the washcloth, with Mia then transferring the glitter, to beautifully adorn her lady bits. But worst of all Dr Wainwright thought she'd made her special sparkly effort just for him.

'Just dandy,' she said, as her last glimmer of dignity faded.