

Doll Parts

SYNOPSIS:

Spoilt Courtenay wants all the dolls in the toy store and has a tantrum when her mother will only buy her one. She picks a Cauliflower Child [Cabbage Patch Kid] but while her mum is paying also steals a Princess Barby [Barbie]. On the way home through the park she bumps into an old man fishing in the lake and drops both dolls, she is rude to him trying to get them back before her mum sees. As the man returns the Cauliflower Child to her she starts to see it as very ugly and similar to the maggots he is using for bait. That night she lines up all her dolls and thinks about how ugly the Cauliflower Child is and how pretty the Barby is and wishes she could be just like her. She has nightmares about being turned into a giant grub - but when she wakes the next morning she has got her wish and has the proportions of a Barby - unfortunately this means she can't breathe (waist too pinched), her lungs don't work and she cannot move or stand...

PAGE ONE

Panel 1 (half page).

[Including logo for the story – perhaps something with a doll's eye incorporated somewhere?]

Interior of toy shop, rows of toys stretching back into the distance. Courtenay, aged 9 or so, having a full-on tantrum on the floor. Mother standing back in corner of panel trying to pacify her.

Narrative: COURTENAY LIKED GOING SHOPPING WITH HER MUM, BUT ALWAYS WANTED MORE THAN THEY HAD AGREED.

C: BUT **MUUUUUUUUUM!**

C: I **WANT** IT! I **WAAAAAAAAAAAAANT** IT!!!

MUM: NOW COURTENAY, WE'VE SPOKEN ABOUT THIS. YOU CAN HAVE **ONE**.

C: NOOOOOOOO!!! I WANT **ALL** OF THEM!!!

Panel 2 (1 of 3 in bottom tier)

Mother takes a firmer tone and stance

Mum: COURTENAY! I SAID **NO**. NOW CHOOSE THE ONE YOU WANT BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND.

Panel 3:

Courtenay snatches up a Cauliflower Child and holds it out to her mum.

C: **FINE**. WHATEVER!

Panel 4:

Her mum is paying for it at till in foreground while in background Courtenay

This would work better in terms of the drama if the mundane thing (the transaction at the till) is in the background, putting the narrative action in the foreground - CM

steals a Princess Barbie by shoving it down back of her jeans.

C [Thinking]: SHE CAN'T TELL **ME** WHAT TO DO. I'LL HAVE THIS ONE TOO!

PAGE TWO

Panel 1 (two-third of top row, open sides)

Courtenay runs ahead through a park on way home holding her doll. There is a lake in the foreground with an old man fishing in it.

Narrative: SHE FELT MORE **THRILLED** THAN **GUILTY** AS THEY LEFT THE STORE. BUT ON THE WAY **HOME**...

Panel 2 (top right)

Courtenay looks back over shoulder

C [Thinking]: BETTER MAKE SURE MUM DOESN'T SEE IT THOUGH!

Panel 3 (one of central row of three):

Courtenay collides with the old man fishing.

Panel 4: (centre page, maybe circular border)

Both dolls fall to the ground.

Panel 5:

Courtenay tries to snatch the Barby back up but the old man picks it up for her. The CC has knocked over his box of bait and lies on the ground next to worms and maggots

C [thinking]: OH NO! I HAVE TO GET HER BACK BEFORE MY MUM GETS HERE!

Panel 6:

Courtenay snatches it out of his hands

THAT'S **MINE!**

Panel 7:

Old man looks shocked. Courtenay stuffs the doll back in her jeans.

C: I...I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST THAT IT'S MY **FAVOURITE**.

Panel 8:

C: GIVE ME MY OTHER ONE. PLEASE.

PAGE THREE

Panel 1 (inset into panel 2)

The man holds it out to her.

Man: AS YOU WISH.

I think you need the last panel of page two being the man handing back the doll, but the reader not seeing it properly, then the first panel of the next page hits the reader with the horrible image - CM

Panel 2

Close up on the doll in his hand, against background of maggots and worms on the ground. It looks like a maggot with its horrid bald head.

C [thinking]: UGH. IT LOOKS LIKE A **MAGGOT**. I DON'T WANT TO TOUCH IT.

Panel 3 (inset, circle?)

Her mum arrives and takes it from the man

Mum: OH THANK YOU. COME ON COURTENAY LET'S GET HOME.

Panel 4 (wide)

Narrator: LATER AT HOME THAT EVENING...

Courtenay is in her bedroom and has lined up all her dolls at home.

C: HERE WE ARE, ALL IN A LINE. YOU'RE THE **PRETTIEST** SO YOU CAN GO HERE AT THE **FRONT** MISS BARBY.

Panel 5 (right hand side)

Close up on the Cauliflower Child.

C: **UGH**. I CAN'T BEAR TO LOOK AT **YOU**.

Panel 6 (open sides):

She throws the CC to the back of her wardrobe.

C: YOU CAN **STAY** IN THERE YOU **UGLY GRUB**

Panel 7:

She returns to the Barby, holding it up and gazing at it

C: I WISH I WAS A **PRINCESS...**

Panel 8:

JUST LIKE **YOU**

PAGE FOUR

Panel 1 (top tier)

Repeated images of Courtenay asleep and nightmares of grubs and monstrous dolls)

Narrator: THAT NIGHT SHE HAD **NIGHTMARES**

Panel 2: (vertical on lh side of page)

Courtenay lying in bed

Narrator: BUT WHEN SHE WOKE UP IN THE **MORNING**

C: **WHAT...** <GASP> I **CAN'T...**

Panel 3 (below on lh side of page)

Courtenay pulls back sheets with a skeletal arm to reveal her body now has the proportions of a Barby doll - tiny waist, minute feet, smooth skin everywhere, no movement in any joints except her hips and armpits. She's gasping for air.

C: CAN'T BREATHE!

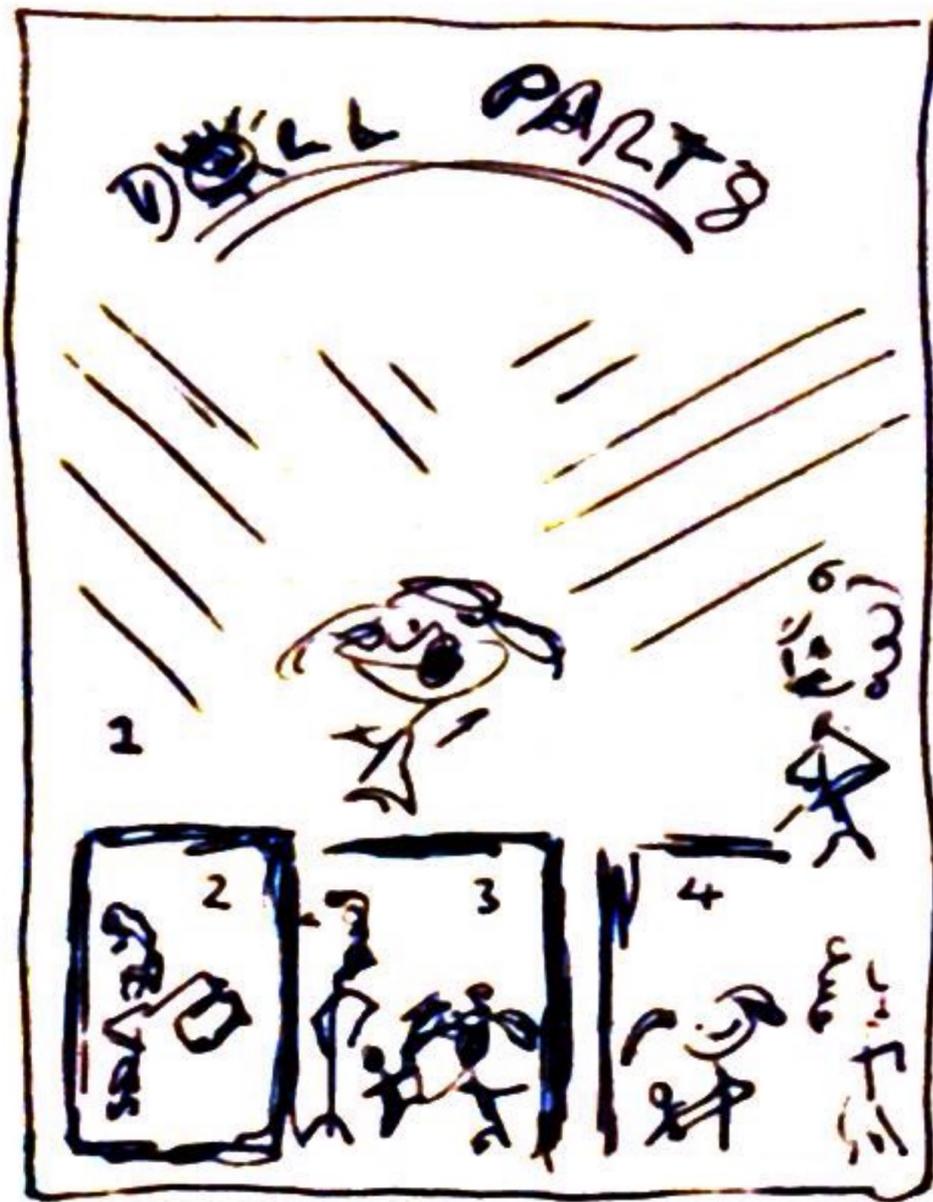
Panel 4 (rest of page)

C tries to get out of bed, she falls (can't stand, tiny feet)

C: MY **LUNGS... EVERYTHING... ALL CRUSHED...**

<GASP>

AAAAAARGH...



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