

The Ugly Doll

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I REMEMBER THE DAY I RECEIVED MY UGLY DOLL FROM my grandma Mamie. She always loved spoiling me because I was the only grandchild she had, so when she told me that there was a present for me, I always cherished them.

I was sitting on the couch, watching cartoons when she came in and had said to me, “Dani Ann, I have something special for you. But first you have to choose.” I didn’t know what I could be picking from, but I was excited all the same. I turned off the TV as I jumped down from the couch and ran up to her, happy to see what I was getting. Grandma pulled an Esmeralda doll from behind her back and I reached out to grab it.

“No Dani, I said you would have to choose,” Grandma told me again as she pulled her right hand from her pocket. In it was a tiny piece of paper, green in color, and it had the number 20 on it. I’ve seen it before because Mommy would hand it to the lady at the store, but I didn’t know what it was. I just wanted the Esmeralda doll and looked back at her. She looked very soft and like she needed a hug, and I could see me playing with her hair and braiding it.

“I want Esmeralda, Grandma,” I said as I held out my hand for her.

“Why do you want this ugly doll when you could have \$20?” Grandma asked as she handed Esmeralda over to me.

I hugged the doll to myself as I gave Grandma a hug. “I don’t know what \$20 is, but I know I want Esmeralda. Look how pretty she is. Her dress is cute and I love the jewelry she’s wearing. And she’s my favorite princess right now!” I exclaimed while turning her over and over in my hands.

“Well, if she makes you happy, then I guess that’s all that matters. Don’t know why you’d want her when you could buy a much prettier one,” Grandma said as she put the green paper back into in her pocket and sat down in her rocking chair.

I didn’t know that I could get a new doll with that paper, but I did know that Mommy always gave

it to other people when we went to the store. Why would I want to give my present to someone when I had Esmerelda to play with? Grandma didn't see this, but she really was pretty, with her bracelets on her wrists and the one on her ankle. She even had her earring and the scarf in her hair! Her dress was a nice purple and I liked the skirt around her hip with the coins on it. I wish they were real so they would make noise like in the movie, but I was happy with how they looked. I knew I had plenty of other dolls to play with and now they all had a new friend.

I gave Grandma another hug and rushed back to my room to play with my new doll and to show her to Mommy. Mom really liked *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, so I was certain that she would love to see my new doll as well. I really did love Esmeralda and would take her wherever I went, even if Grandma called her ugly and didn't understand why I loved her so much.

