

A House Of Dolls

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Cast of Characters

<u>Jane:</u>	Owner of a hair salon and mother of Delilah and Daisy
<u>Mary:</u>	Mother of Jane, obsessed with youth
<u>Delilah:</u>	Daughter of Jane, the odd one in the family
<u>Daisy:</u>	Daughter of Jane, is like her mother and grandmother
<u>Kurt:</u>	College friend of Delilah, assumed to be her boyfriend

Scene

A Livingroom

Time

Present time

ACT I/SCENE 1

At rise: JANE is finishing up MARY's make-up. DAISY is posing with her new dress in front of DELILAH. DELILAH is on the couch reading a book, paying DAISY little attention.

MARY

How do I look?

JANE

Simply ravishing!

DAISY

You look better than me!

MARY

What do you think, Delilah?

DELILAH

What can I say, grandma, you could pass for a twenty year old.

MARY

That's what I want to hear.

DAISY

(twirling)

What about me?

MARY

To be honest, I'd look better in that dress.

JANE

She would, honey, sorry. But look on the bright side, you are actually about twenty.

DAISY

Grandma, can we switch bodies?

MARY

Sorry, hon, I'm not looking to have a downgrade.

JANE

Don't worry, Daisy, we Austen women grow more beautiful as we age.

DAISY

Do I have some sort of growth stunt?

JANE

Granny just likes to break your confidence. You're beautiful, my child. Wear that dress with Austen pride.

MARY

I don't want her flaunting herself like she is the most beautiful thing in this family.

JANE

Maybe she is. You did your time already, mom. Let her have hers.

MARY

How old am I again?

JANE

Seventy-one.

MARY

I had a good run, didn't I?

JANE

Well, by stealing my spotlight to extend your run, I'd say so.

MARY

If you're going to upstage me, Daisy, better do it in style.

DAISY

Sure thing.

JANE

Delilah, why don't you come let me touch up your face?

DELILAH

No thanks, mom. I hate looking like a doll.

JANE

I don't understand why you don't like make up. Why do you want to be the odd one in the family?

DELILAH

I don't want to be a doll.

JANE

This is a house of broken hearts. Dolls is all that we can be. Tell me, where is your dad?

DELILAH

Gone off, somewhere.

JANE

Your grandfather?

DELILAH

Gone off, somewhere.

JANE

That's why we live like this. It makes us happy, and comforts our broken hearts.

MARY

Listen to your mom. She is speaking the truth. Men have done us nothing but wrong. I gave your grandfather all of me, and what did I get back? Him leaving without a word.

JANE

Your father did the same to me, but he left me a goodbye letter.

MARY

(To JANE)

And we burned it, right?

JANE

With all my feelings for him.

MARY

(To MARY and DAISY)

You girls be strong.

DAISY

But how will I know if I've found the right one?

MARY

Just nag him until he gets sick of you, and if he stays he's a keeper.

JANE

And cry a lot in front of him. Make it rain from those eyes, baby, and put on the saddest show he has ever witnessed. And make sure you wear make up to enhance the effect. If he stays, he's a keeper.

MARY

Are you taking notes, Delilah?

DELILAH

Not really. I don't want a boyfriend, anyway. I'm not marrying.

JANE

All Austen women get married. Why break tradition?

DELILAH

Getting married in order to receive a broken heart?
What kind of tradition is that?

MARY

The girl is making some sense. All Austen women end up getting their heart crushed. Grinded to powder, really.

JANE

You're not helping, mom. I really want Delilah to get married.

MARY

Well, you have to be balanced, and instruct her about the misery that awaits.

(DELILAH picks up another book to read.)

JANE

(To DELILAH)

I know you love school and all, and I applaud you for that. You're the first one in the family to go to college. We're all proud of you. But getting married is important.

DAISY

(To JANE)

I almost graduated from high school.

JANE

"Almost" is like a deep vast sea. But I'm still proud of you for sticking with us ladies, and taking an interest in the family business. One day Jane's Hair Salon will be yours. That is if Delilah here doesn't change her mind about joining us. Then you're in trouble.

DAISY

Delilah, I encourage you in your studies.

DELILAH

Thanks, sis. And don't worry. I detest the family business.

DAISY

You hear that, mom. I'll be the owner of Jane's Hair Salon, which I will turn to Daisy's Hair Salon.

JANE

Please allow me to die first before you change the name.

DAISY

That's no fun.

JANE

Daisy's Hair Salon is no fun for me.

DAISY

I have so many ideas for the salon. I do think we're outdated by at least ten years. We need new tech stuff, computers with faster brains. A paint job!

JANE

Being old fashioned makes us different.

DAISY

Different is not always better.

JANE

Just keep your ideas to yourself for now. I can still write you off, you know. It's not a done deal as yet.

DAISY

If I don't get the hair salon, I'll not have a life.

JANE

There's always time to go to college.

DAISY

I'm not that kind of person, that's why I need the salon. I love working at the salon, but I rather manage it like you.

JANE

You have a lot of learn before that.

(DELILAH fixes up the coffee table.)

JANE

(CONT'D, to DELILAH)

Is someone coming over?

DELILAH

A friend from school.

DAISY

A boy is coming over?

DELILAH

My study partner. And yes, he is a boy.

DAISY

Delilah is having a boy come over? When did this happen? Please tell me all the details of this star-crossed love.

DELILAH

Again. He's my study partner.

MARY

We must get you dolled up!

JANE

I need my special make up kit for this project. Baby, I'll make your face a work of art.

DELILAH

No thanks, mom. My face is okay.

JANE

But it could be better. If you just let me, just this once work on your face, this boy will be stunned. Literally. Please, baby, you've never let me paint your face or fix your hair. I could make you look so beautiful.

DELILAH

No, mom. This face will remain untouched.

JANE

But baby...

DELILAH

Mom, I suggest you see a therapist, because you have an unusual desire to paint people's faces.

MARY

(To JANE)

You do.

(DAISY stands in front of DELILAH.)

DAISY

You can have this dress.

DELILAH

It's a study session, not a debutante ball.

DAISY

But you look boring. T-shirt and jeans? Really? That boy will just fall asleep, but if you wear this dress, you'll keep him awake.

DELILAH

Maybe I shouldn't have invited him here. I knew you all would over react but I still invited him. Let it be known that I'm giving you all a chance to act like civilized people. No drama, all right?