

Good Impressions

NATALIE's parents are divorced and she is about to meet her dad's new girlfriend for the very first time. She is nervous about this meeting as she wants to make a good impression but she is also worried that she won't like her. In this scene, Natalie is talking to one of her friends about the impending meeting.

NATALIE: You're not being any help at all. You're supposed to be here to help me decide what to wear and all you've done so far is sit there and flick through that stupid magazine. Don't you know that there are more important things in life? ... because I want to look my best... because I want her to like me... because it means a lot to my dad, that's why. I want to make a good impression. He must really like her because he's never introduced me to any of his girlfriends before. So it must be serious... He's just going out with her, of course he's not going to marry her... is he? ... But then she'll be my stepmother... I don't know that I want another mum, I mean I've got one already and I don't think I want to decide between two of them, it could get really confusing... don't be silly, not all stepmothers are evil, that's just in fairytales, they're not really true you know... Sammie's stepmum wasn't very nice to her because she kept running away – she had a right to get cross but Alice's stepmum is always really nice and she makes cakes, and takes her shopping... Maybe they just seem nice to start with to get 'the dad' and then they change into these horrible, evil people who trap you and do magic spells on you to get rid of you... I hadn't thought of that. Maybe they weren't fairytales after all. Maybe it's all actually true, the evil stepmother is a real person! Well then I don't want to make a good impression at all, in fact I'm going to make a really bad impression. I'm going to look dreadful. I'm not going to wear any make-up, I'll wear my baggy old jeans with holes and make my hair look all messy. I'll grunt and mumble and I won't answer when she talks to me, and I'll look at the floor and shuffle my feet. Then she won't like me, and she'll never marry my dad because she'll never want to go near me again... job done!

by Emma-Louise Tinniswood