

Buttons

By

Michelle Golder

Michelle Golder 2012

07913 989254
michellegolder@gmail.com
17 Broad Lane,
Haslingfield
CAMBS
CB23 1JF

INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM, DAY

ELLIE, 8, cross-legged on her bed, munches chocolate buttons from a bag while making a Valentine's card with scissors and Prit stick. Her teddy, with his own pile of buttons, looks on. In the background, from another room, we can hear a television. Ellie turns the card so the teddy can see it.

ELLIE

What do you think?

She carefully adds another heart sticker. Ellie's sister, JEN, 10, bursts in with her schoolbag, crunching on an apple. She immediately pegs what Ellie is doing and comes over.

JEN

Who's THAT for?

Ellie frowns and continues her gluing. Jen doesn't like being ignored.

JEN

Ellie's got a boyfriend!

Ellie glues harder. Frustrated, Jen reaches over and tries to see inside the card. Ellie quickly hides it under her pillow.

JEN

Doesn't he like you back?

Ellie buries her face in the pillow. One hand reaches out and pulls the chocolates under it as well. Jen takes one of the teddy's buttons and adds it to her mouthful of apple.

JEN

Or is he just minging?

Ellie sits up.

ELLIE

It's for Dad. Okay?

JEN

What?

ELLIE

Dad! Now go away!

Jen stops chewing. She shakes her head.

JEN

You're not supposed to give your Dad a Valentine's card.

Hurt, Ellie buries her face again. Jen rolls her eyes, gets her own bag of chocolate buttons from an already ripped open padded envelope on her dresser and flounces out. Near the envelope stands a big, store-bought Valentine's card. Ellie goes back to work.

INT. HALLWAY, EVENING

Outside Ellie's room. We hear the front door open and a masculine "Hello!" Ellie bursts out, clutching her card, and dashes to the door. But Jen gets there first. Smiling angelically, she hands her DAD a bag of chocolate buttons.

JEN

Happy Valentine's, Daddy.

DAD

What? For me?

Jen nods.

DAD

Aw. *Thank* you sweetheart.

He kisses her. Ellie stands, stricken.

ELLIE

I made you a card, Daddy.

He takes it, reads the inscription, "Dear Daddy, I Love You Millions, Ellie" and smiles.

DAD

Well, thank you too, honey.

He goes to kiss her, but stops. He licks his thumb and wipes her lower lip.

DAD

You've got chocolate on your face, love.

Ellie covers her mouth and runs out back to her room. She shuts the door and stands with her back on it. On her bed is the empty chocolate bag and her teddy. His buttons are gone too. Suddenly, she dashes over and hurls him across the room.

ELLIE

Greedy Pig!

She collapses face down onto her bed. The commotion has knocked down the card and envelope on Jen's dresser. We can see the text inside the card. It says "For my two precious Valentines. Enjoy! And see you next week! Love, Mum. xxx"