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Siobhan McNally

DIARY OF A SINGLE MUM

Morning sickness goes on for years

This morning I threatened murder, shrieked the house down and swore like a hen on a coach party until finally, worn down, I simply begged.

No, I haven't been taken hostage, it was just a normal school morning with my six-year-old daughter Jesse.

Our rows get so explosive it's a wonder I'm not being treated for shellshock on a twice-daily basis when, at bedtime, we do the whole thing again in reverse.

This is our typical apocalyptic morning:

7am: My air-raid siren alarm goes off.
7.05am: "Wakey wakey," I open Jesse's curtains. The lump under the duvet grunts a few times and I go to make a cup of tea.

7.10am: The grunting duvet is now on the bedroom floor. "You're going to be late," I nag for the first of 50 million times.

7.15am: Marmite on toast is ready and the grunting moves downstairs to the sofa and flicks on CBBC. "On the table," I yell over the blaring TV and go to get ready.

7.25am: I check if the grunting is munching, but it's staring at the telly with a half-chewed piece of toast in its jaws. I threaten instant death unless breakfast is finished.

7.26am: Grunting turns to gagging as she stuffs the toast into her mouth and promptly sickens it back out. I think I'm going to pass out from pure rage.

7.30am: The fight moves to the bathroom. I wield a flannel with deadly force and then make myself walk away while she gets dressed.

7.40am: I find Jesse prancing about in shirt and pants, dangling her tie at Boris the dog, who's almost chewed the strap off her school shoe.

7.45am: "I am surrounded by imbeciles," I cry and bundle Jesse into the rest of her uniform and try to tame her wild mane with hair clips - crocodile teeth would be more useful.

"You'll have to wear your school trainers. Go and get them, and your coat and bag," I give clear instructions.

7.54am: "Are you ready?" I yell, and walk in to find her watching TV. "But I can't wear my trainers - they really hurt," she suddenly springs on me. "Couldn't you tell me before they deformed your feet?" I rant.

7.56am: "Have you forgotten something?" I ask as we leave. "Oh... yes, my bag," and she rushes back.

7.59am: Finally we're in the car. "Have you forgotten something?" I ask. "Oh yes," she leans out and closes her door.

8.04am: "You never let me play in the mornings," sulks Jesse. "Hey, take it up with the Department for Education with a stiffly-crayoned letter of complaint," I shrug.

8.25am: Deliverance.

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Left to right: Pink metallic dress, £59, Joanna Hope @ JD Williams. Sphere clutch bag, £19.99, New Look. Gold and black necklace, £18, River Island. Gold sandals, £34.99, New Look

Black and gold sparkle belted dress, £28, F&F @ Tesco. Blue animal print sandals, £37.99, New Look

Black lace sequin detail dress, £59, Per Una @ M&S. Pink faux fur collar, £22, Very. Black diamanté sandals, £85, Lipsy



Looking for the perfect outfit for the party season? Then check out our fabulous frock and accessories round-up. With prices from just a tenner you don't have to splash the cash this Christmas. **By fashion editor Didi Danso**

Left to right: Black velvet and gold strapless dress, £49, Rare. Black feather trim sandals, £56, Very

Red strapless dress, £50, River Island. Red and pink suede shoes, £20, red glitter clutch, £18, both Very

Black beaded detail dress, £75, F&F @ Tesco. Black diamanté detail bag, £59, Dune. Silver shoes, £22, New Look

Lilac lace dress, £59.99, Chi Chi. Silver shoes, £79, Monsoon



Blue sequin skater dress, £30, Boohoo. Black and gold sandals, £29.99, New Look

I find Jesse in shirt and pants, dangling her tie at the dog

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