

39 DEAR COLEEN
45 TV GUIDE

Your guide to what's **hot** on the high street

Get in touch!
yourlife@mirror.co.uk



Siobhan McNally

DIARY OF A SINGLE MUM

Santa cause so hard to defend

"I have an important question, Mummy - is Father Christmas for real?" my daughter Jesse asked with deadly seriousness, watching my face for any clues.

I didn't hesitate. "Of course he is," I replied. "Who do you think puts all those presents in your stocking?"

"Well, you, actually," said the six-year-old who doesn't miss a trick.

"I put your presents from me under the tree," I said, trying to avoid her gaze.

"Well, if that's the case, why did I get a Frozen book last year in my stocking that says 'from Mummy' on the first page?" she hit me with faultless logic.

"Oh bugger," I thought.

I was hoping she hadn't noticed that little mistake I made after one too many sherries on Christmas Eve.

I'd ordered her a personalised book and put it in her stocking, completely forgetting it was pre-printed with my message. "Oh that's funny. Perhaps Father Christmas dropped his sack coming down the



Jesse and her long Christmas list

chimney and picked up one of the books from me by mistake," I said brightly, digging myself even deeper.

"Well, I suppose that could have happened," said Jesse slowly, nodding her head. Then she reached into her pocket and took out two scrappy sheets of

note paper. "Here's my Christmas list for Santa then."

"Oh OK, I'll make sure he gets it," I said, but I had trouble reading Jesse's writing.

So she read her list out loud, until she got to number 12 and looked slyly at me. "An American Girl doll bed and her kitten," said Jesse.

"But that's from the States - we can't get American Girl accessories over here," I told her, before suddenly realising I was being tested. "You said Father Christmas goes all over the world. If that's the case, then he'll be able to get me American Girl stuff," Jesse said sulkily.

"Ah yes, you're quite right," I replied quickly, "but that's only if you behave yourself. Remember the elves are watching and reporting back to Santa."

"You said it was robins who are Santa's spies," she said in a suspicious tone. "I did? Better watch out for the birds too then," I was in a hurry to change the subject.

My sister-in-law bought Jesse an American Girl doll years ago when she was working regularly in the States, but she's changed jobs now and getting a dolls bed shipped to the UK seems a little excessive.

Trouble is, if Father Christmas goes too far off-list and leaves an IOU note this year, one little girl will stop believing in him for ever.

Follow me at @mcnally_siobhan

Supermarket sparkle!

When you're shopping for your Christmas party food and drink, why not browse the aisles for these festive party pieces too? By Style Editor Dinah van Tulleken



Dress £28

Stand out from the crowd in this striking and figure hugging dress.

Textured foil dress, £28. Cuffed sandals, £20, both F&F at Tesco. Black clutch bag, £14, George at Asda



Jacket £25

Dress £28

Prom dresses help hide bigger hips while showing off a shapely waist. Oh, and they're perfect for a party.

Black beaded prom, £28, F&F at Tesco. Sequinned jacket, £25, George at Asda



Skirt £14

Dress down your sequinned skirt with a Lurex top. It's just the thing to take you from your desk to the dance floor.

Silver lurex top, £16, Tu at Sainsbury's. Silver sequinned skirt, £14, George at Asda. Plum coloured clutch bag, £16, F&F at Tesco



Jumpsuit £28

Don't be scared of this season's jumpsuit. It's actually a very wearable and flattering look.

Sparkle jumpsuit, £28, F&F at Tesco