

Aiping Li

Pink lady

Emily always loves Friday, because Friday is the day for shopping. But Emily expertly loves this Friday, because today is Emily's birthday. Which mean that she wills has lots of new dresses, new shoes, new cute little handbags, and other things than she usually does.

Emily likes to collect different type and different color of dresses, shoes and handbags. And Emily always likes to correct her parents, aunts, and uncles that a same style of dress with different colors is a brand-new dress, they are not the same.

Emily is the only girl and the youngest one in the Prett's family, and the Prett's family is one of the richest families in New York, so Emily always gets what she wants.



Emily's collection

“Mommy, I like that red one too,” Emily says with her sweet voice and smile, pointing at the bright red dress that hangs up at the wall. Emily is doing her daily and her birthday shopping with her mother.

“But, Emily, Papa already brought you the same one last week.” Emily’s mother takes a look at the dress that Emily is pointing at then turns back to Emily. She bends down her body, looks straight at Emily’s cute red face and says.

“No, no,” Emily argues. “They are not the same one. This one is red, but Papa’s one is blue.” Emily shakes her head, acting like she is a professor.



The Prett Family

“Well, yeah, alright, I buy it for you ok?” Emily’s mother gives up on arguing with Emily when she sees Emily is pretending and making her little face looks serious, like a teacher trying to correct her students.

That is some kind of game Emily plays when Emily is got on shopping; acting like a teacher but have no strong argument, just keeping saying “they are not the same, because one is red and one is blue.”

It's getting darker and Emily's birthday party is getting closer and closer. Emily is up in her room, getting herself dress. Tonight, Emily's entire sibling and some of the businessman who partner with his father will come. So Emily wants to be the prettier girl she ever be. But Emily has a problem, a big problem. She cannot find her favorite dress from the closet, the long white dress with pink pearl. But Emily very much wants to wear that dress.



Emily's bedroom

“Emily, are you ready yet, honey?” Emily’s mother walks in Emily’s room. Then she see clothes, shoes are everywhere in the room; floor, bed, chair.

“What’s going on, Emily?” Emily’s mother asks.

“Mommy, I can’t find the long white dress that Papa brought me.” Emily keeps looking around the room and says.

“Can you wear another one?” Emily’s mother asks again.

“No, no,” Emily cries. “I want to wear that one, I want that one.”

“It’s ok, honey. Don’t cry, we still have time, come on we can go to the store and get one.” Emily’s mother takes Emily to the car.



Emily’s house, the place for her party

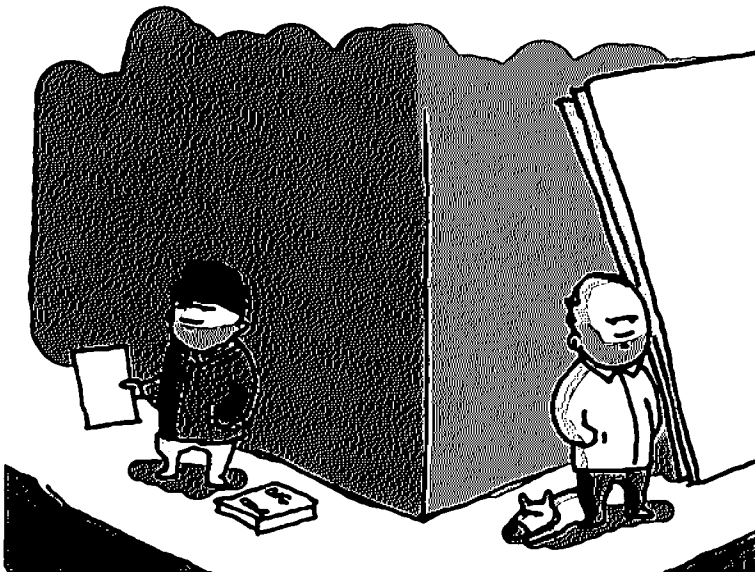
On the way to the store, Emily sees many children at her age sleep on the street with those ugly dirty gray cloths.

“Mommy, what are they doing on the street, are they having a party, too?” Emily asks.

“No, Emily. These people have no home, so they can’t go home, that is why they are on the street,” Emily’s mother answers.

“Where are their parents, Mommy?” Emily asks again, keeping her eyes on the street.

“They have no parents, honey. They are orphan.” Emily’s mother turns to Emily and says.



The homeless kids

“what is orphan?” Emily says.

“Orphan is someone who has no father or mother.” Emily’s mother replies.

“And they have no home?” Emily asks.

“Yes.” Emily’s mother says.

“Why are they hugging each other, they are dirty. I won’t hug someone who is dirty, and their clothes are so ugly,” Emily says.

“Honey, you can’t say that. They are cold, and they have no money to buy new clothes like you did.” Emily’s mother says. “You are turning 10 now, Emily. You should act like more like an adult now, remember?”

“But...” Emily is trying to argue.

“No but, honey. They don’t have those pretty dresses that you have, they can’t sleep in a bed like your and they are starving everyday. Some of them are dying because of that” Emily’s mother intercepts Emily.

Dying? They will die? Emily thought to herself. She remembers how sad was she when her dog, Mimi died last year, and how painful Mimi was that day in the pet hospital. Suddenly, Emily feels bad. She has a big birthday party at home, and lots of beautiful dresses. But these children on the street don't even have a home, and food, and they could die.

“Are they going to be like Mimi, Mommy?” Emily cries.

“Honey, I don't know. I... ” Emily's mother is trying to find a perfect word to answer.

“Mommy, I want to go home.” Emily continues. “Can I help them?” Emily turns to her mother and says.

“Yes, honey. You can share some of your clothes with them.”

“Umm.” Emily nods and smiles.

That night, when Emily gets home, she takes some of her clothes and gives them to the homeless kids. And Emily takes some foods from her birthday party and shares it with the kids. And for that day on, Emily stops using her “difference colors is a difference kind of dress” to buy more dress. And she gives away her old dresses whenever her siblings buy her new dresses.