

ariella (4) the great scrutinizer

One day I came home and _____ it was summer Ariella was _____ school and maybe she went for a few days to a day camp. There was a small **envelope** in my mailbox _____ said "Cheer _____! Have a good day! From Ariella (the little girl next door)."

I opened up the envelope and there was a smiling wooden **clothespin** with googly eyes glued to it and I panicked. I called my Mom and asked her what I should do. She said, Thank her. I said I'm afraid she wants something. Don't scrutinize everything so much, Mom said.

I didn't know what I wanted to give her. I couldn't just knock on her door and thank her face to face. I ended _____ picking some **flowers** I _____ grown and leaving them with a note on her front step one morning before I left _____ work. I still don't know if she got them. _____ the middle of the summer I stopped seeing her on the side stoop so much. She got her bike and started riding.

Her mother casually says to me one morning, Sorry if I was beating on your door and ringing your doorbell and screaming for help last night. My **boyfriend** had too much _____ drink and _____ a little crazy. I thought he was going to kill me. That's why the police were here. I told him _____ to come around _____ more, but I don't know.

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» since » that » to » up » up**