

## ariella (5) rotten railings

Ariella's **father** drove down from Atlanta in a Mercedes SUV with his family \_\_\_\_\_ out of a Tommy Hilfiger ad and picked Ariella up and she was \_\_\_\_\_ for two weeks. The mother stopped me on the sidewalk in front of our houses and said that **Ariella** was excited because she was going to \_\_\_\_\_ to ride an airplane back but that she had been \_\_\_\_\_ to leave because she thought something bad was going to happen to her mother. I told her **mother** to call on the phone if she needed anything because my doorbell doesn't \_\_\_\_\_. She said thanks but didn't ask for my number. She said she didn't think her boyfriend would be coming \_\_\_\_\_ anymore.

A couple of weeks ago Tucker hammered some rotten **railings** off the Ariella side of the house. Our slumlord was \_\_\_\_\_ to kick us out and sell the place and all four of us were thinking about getting a low-income \_\_\_\_\_ and kicking in \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ for the **mortgage** \_\_\_\_\_ we wouldn't have to move to a dangerous neighborhood. We were trying to fix up the place for the government inspectors.

One of the rotten railings had a **message** on \_\_\_\_\_ in a child's round handwriting. You are not good neighbors, the railing \_\_\_\_\_. You never say hello. Remember when you loaned that **little boy** down the street from us a bike pump and he never brought the bike pump back and then one of his cousins \_\_\_\_\_ shot so you didn't want to ask for it back \_\_\_\_\_ though you didn't have the money for a new one? Maybe that's \_\_\_\_\_ I feel.

**about » around » each » even » get » gone » got » how » it » loan » said » scared » so » straight » work**