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## #2, #3 Photos

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**DEAR DADDY**

Saffyre Falkenberg

Remember when you bought me Fuzzy Wuzzy, the teddy bear with the matted brown fur and dull glass eyes? He lived on my pink polka dot bedspread for all those years, propped against the pillows.

Remember Rapunzel the plush white rabbit? She had a pink bow that I tied around her black button eyes, so she didn't have to see what happened. She sat beside the Care Bear that matched the ones on my panties.

Remember when you gave me Bananas, the monkey with Velcro hands? I stuck them to her ears, so she didn't have to hear. Or Patrick Puppy, the stuffed beagle whose noises sounded like yours once the voice box in his tummy began to wear out.

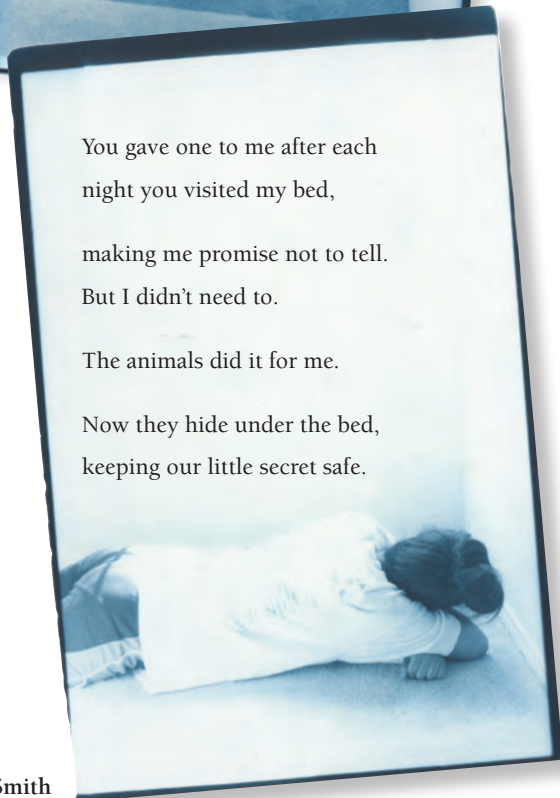
Remember all those Beanie Babies, more innumerable than the nights you spent with me? They all stayed on my bed through the years, a cotton and polyester monument to the silence you purchased.



You gave one to me after each night you visited my bed, making me promise not to tell. But I didn't need to.

The animals did it for me.

Now they hide under the bed, keeping our little secret safe.



**#2, #3 PHOTOS** Tommi Smith