

Betsy McCall gets decked out for the holidays



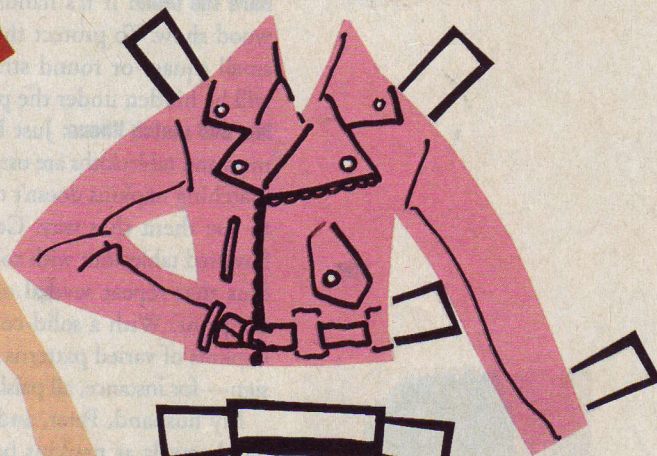
Dear Amanda,
How are you? Have you gone Christmas shopping yet? I just went with my mom. It was really fun! I had my picture taken

with Santa Claus, and Mom bought me a really cool outfit to wear on Christmas morning. (It's a pink vest and skirt with black polka dots and a velvet collar.) I asked her to help me buy gifts for everyone since I saved my allowance and had almost eight dollars! But everything we saw cost lots more. What a bummer! But Mom said, "Christmas isn't about buying people fancy presents. It's about giving to others in any way you can." I still felt bad that I couldn't get Daddy a really neat tie, but then I had an even better idea.

A few months ago Daddy and I were watching the news on TV. We saw all these people in Florida who were sad because their houses were blown away by Hurricane Andrew. It was so scary. I saw kids crying because they lost their toys. I felt bad, so I decided to collect games and dolls and things to send to those kids in Florida.

I talked to my teacher, Mrs. Fletcher, and she thought it was a great idea. I stayed after school and we put up signs. Then all the kids at my school brought in a toy to send. We collected more than two hundred presents! My parents were so proud of me. They said this was the best gift I could have given anybody. Hope your Christmas is lots of fun too!

Your friend,
Betsy



Top: This festive skirt and vest (from Esprit Kids) are perfect for parties.
Right: For a stroll through the mall, a funky pale-pink biker jacket and striped leggings (both from Space Kiddets).

Before cutting Betsy out, paste the page onto sturdy oaktag.



DONALD ROBERTSON; Shopping Information, p. 145