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When I Grow Up I Can Wear

"REAL PERFUME"

by Diane Rasmussen

Technical Journalism Freshman

GOSH, I WONDER how old I'll have to be before I can use some of Mommy's perfume?

I can wear cologne every day now, and when I'm 12 I can use toilet water 'cause it is even stronger, but I can hardly wait to smell like perfume. (Actually perfume contains 20% perfume oil while toilet water has 6% and cologne has 4%.)

A whole dresser-full of pretty smells – mmmm, this smells wonderful. Maybe I'll try some on now. Even the best perfume won't last more than 6 hours, Mommy says, so by the time she gets home she'll never know!

First I'll have to test each kind, for one that smells so good on Mommy might not smell the same on my skin. When Mommy buys perfume, she sniffs it from her wrist or a cotton ball or blotter, so's not to get the smells all mixed up, I guess.

Mommy had four bottles of perfume because she likes to change with each season, though big sister uses different kinds "to suit my moods."

Oooh – here's a yummy one! I've seen Mommy put it behind her ears, inside her wrists and in the bends of her arms. She says it 'vaporates better in those places so everybody can smell it. Sister even dabs it on her temples and on the sides of her neck. Guess I'll put some behind my knees.

Oh, dear, I spilled some on my dress! Hope this isn't the kind of material perfume is bad for . . . I just don't see how anything that smells so sweet could hurt some things.

All Mommy's slips smell so pretty 'cause she puts perfume on cotton balls in her dresser. Big sister has a whole wardrobe of perfume. They all "go steady," for she has matching bath oil, bath powder, soap, deodorant, lotion, sachet and perfume. And with this tiny bottle and stick cologne in her purse, she puts more on all day.

Goodness, Mommy will be home soon. I'd better put these bottles back in their cool, dark drawer where Mommy keeps them so they won't change color or get a bad smell.