

Samantha Buys a Beard

Once upon a time, there was a little girl named Samantha. Samantha's dad had a long, handsome beard, and every morning, when they woke up, Samantha would ask her dad, "What's it like to have a beard?"

To which he would reply, "I don't think I can explain it, anyway, you'll never need to know, since girls can't grow beards."

One morning, Samantha had an idea. Instead of asking her father what it was like to have a beard, she asked, "Dad, would you sell me your beard?"

"Why not, if you'll give me a good price?", he responded.

"I'll give you whatever you ask, for that beard."

"I'll let you name the price, as I know you'll be fair.", laughed Samantha's father.

"Ok, I'll give you my dollhouse, on one condition. I want the beard to keep growing on your face, but I will take care of it. I want to be the one to comb it, to decide how to cut it - everything will be done the way I want it to be done. It will be all mine, and if anyone says 'what a beautiful beard', you'll have to tell them that it's not yours, that the beard belongs to Samantha."

Samantha's father thought about this, and thought it a rather grand idea. It would be easier for him, as he wouldn't have to spend the time taking care of his beard, so he said "Sure, you can look after my beard... I mean your beard."

So, they shook hands, and agreed that Samantha now owned her father's beard in exchange for her dollhouse.

From that day on, Samantha was very particular about taking care of her beard. She combed it and brushed it many times each day, it didn't matter if her father was sleeping or busy, she'd do it anyway. And she wasn't always gentle, sometimes she'd pull it, or tug at it, or tie it tightly with little pink bows, until one day, her father said, "Ow! Can't you be a little more careful with my beard?"

To which Samantha replied, "My beard, you mean! You sold it to me fair and square."

And there was no arguing that.

Then, one night, Samantha woke her father up, with a pair of scissors in one hand, and a bottle of blue paint in the other. "Hold still," she said, "I think a beard of blue squares would *sooo* cute!"

Her father, thought quickly, and asked, "Samantha, can I buy my beard back?"

"But, I like having a beard!", she answered.

"I'll give you your dollhouse back.", he offered.

"No, I want an even bigger one.", she said.

Samantha's father said, "Ok, it's a deal." And they shook hands once more.

The very next day, Samantha's father went out, bought her a new dollhouse, then went to the barber to have his beard shaved off.

And he never let it grow back again.

* * * * *