



# Playing with Dolls (A Short Story) (Kindle Single)

*Monica Macansantos*

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*This story was originally published in Day One, a weekly literary journal dedicated to short fiction and poetry from emerging writers.*

Compared to their Filipino countrymen, Margot's family is vastly wealthy. But although money can protect them from the city of Baguio's poverty, it can't prevent their private lives from falling apart.

When her beloved father runs off with the family maid, ten-year-old Margot is heartbroken and confused. Her mother, meanwhile, seems only concerned with the fact that her husband left her for a lowly servant. To deal with her humiliation, she falls in with a group of New Age American expats, who lecture her and her daughter about "returning to their roots" while simultaneously sponging off their wealth. Soon, this passive-aggressive cultural shaming combined with her mother's self-centeredness begin to take their toll on Margot.

Honest and insightful, *Playing with Dolls* speaks to an all too common coming-of-age story, in which a lonely child must manage the fragile emotions of the adults around her.

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