

Bit of a Bombshell

by Sandra Banks

Bit of a bombshell today. We had a visit from the police yesterday. A nice young man, you know. Apparently our Alfie was involved with other boys in breaking the window of a local shop. All about beer he said. I said Alfie wasn't back from school and he said bring him in to the station when he returns.

I should have known better but I panicked. At his age you can't keep track of them every moment of the day, can you?

I sat him down and told him off something rotten. He tried to say something but I was too angry. Mum, he said, when I gave him a chance, "Mum" he said, "I wasn't there. I heard about it but it really wasn't me".

"Don't give me that, the policeman said he had evidence. I know you've been hanging around with some boys I don't like!"

So off to the police station we went and they sat us down. This was a much older copper and he looked very serious. He started talking about criminal damage and how the shopkeeper knew who they were and things like that. He said his friends had said it was he who had thrown the stone. He said we had been making trouble before and they were going to put a stop to it. He wrote down Alfie's full name and address, asked his age and which school he went to. That really frightened me. I had enough trouble with school as it was. We didn't say anything.

He said a lot more serious things to Alfie and I was just going to ask for a solicitor when he stopped talking. He thought seriously for a while and then said to Alfie, "if

you tell me you know what you did was wrong and promise not to do it again, I will not charge you this time”.

Alfie said, “I wasn’t me. I wasn’t there”.

The policeman said, “it’s your word against theirs, it won’t look good in Court.”

Alfie said nothing but looked at me scared. Then the policeman seemed to lose interest. “Don’t let me see you here again. Just go now.”

We left. As we walked down the road, Alfie said to me, “He was lying about my friends, Mum and the shopkeeper recognizing me”.

“I know”, I answered, “I knew he was lying. I know quite a lot of them but not that one, he doesn’t usually do children. You were far too young to be charged for something like that when you have never been in trouble before. I know the guidelines. He just wanted to get a result for his report.”

You know, we just turned and hugged each other. Not a bad lesson to learn. Keep well away from the police.