

We've tweaked our issue for the new year!

Doll MAG

January/February 2015

make cute
crafts on winter
afternoons

Fashion for
Jane Austen
fans

Wear TOP
KNOTS all
month long

PLUS!
Expert advice for
making your first
custom doll!





Bonjour to the 2015 Girl of the Year: Grace Thomas! Read more about her on page 8.

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January/February 2015 Contents

Meet a Reader: Lauren and Elizabeth

Each month, we ask our readers to answer a set of questions as their doll for the chance to be featured in the upcoming issue. This month's winner is Lauren and her doll, Elizabeth!

DM: What is your favorite fairy tale?

E: My favorite fairy tale would have to be Sleeping Beauty!

DM: Look into the crystal ball! In twenty years, you'll be...

E: A costume designer at a historical museum.

DM: What's your favorite movie?

E: Love Comes Softly {The Hallmark Version}

DM: What is your first reaction to a snow day announcement?

E: I make some hot chocolate, sit by the fire, and read!

Thanks a bunches, Lauren and Elizabeth! ♥

Hi there!

From the DM team to you

**Doll Mag January/
February 2015 Volume 4,
Issue 4**

Editors: Bella and Lulu
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Art Director: Bella
Communications Director: Bella
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Special thanks to...
Robin and Becca for their help with "Custom Cuties"

Want to contribute?
Please contact us
thedollmag@gmail.com

On the Cover

Hannah and Ruthie are ringing in the new year! Their festive ensembles are made up of Clarisse's Closet originals and shoes from American Girl.



Love the Earth!

Read this online instead of printing it out.

Say hello!

Want more Doll Mag?
Find us in these places...

Bella's blog: chicandpetite.wordpress.com

Lulu's blog: theawesomeadventuresoflulu.wordpress.com

Email: dollmagblog@gmail.com

Site: thedollmag.wordpress.com

Pinterest: pinterest.com/dollmag/

Dear Readers,

The saying "new year, new me" may be a bit extreme, but the two of us love the fresh start that comes each January. On and offline, we hope to plan big, stay healthy, and of course, have plenty of fun throughout 2015! We applied the same mentality to this issue of Doll Mag; you'll find a few tweaks here and there to make reading DM the best it can be. Here's to a happy, wonderful year up ahead.

XO,

Bella and Lulu ☺

I would love to finish editing the book I'm writing.

Lulu, Co-Editor-in-Chief

One goal I have for the new year is to try to cook new dishes! I'm a baker at heart, but it will be fun to experiment.

Bella, Co-Editor-in-Chief

What is a goal YOU
HAVE FOR
2015?

NEXT ISSUE'S QUESTION: Who, living or dead, real or fictional, would you want to have lunch with?

Here's what you had to say about the
november/december 2014 issue...

As always, it was very fun and interesting to "flip" through your magazine. It was interesting to read about the Girls of Many Lands and refresh my memory on what countries they are from. I'm looking forward to reading the next issue!

Christian Homeschooler



Bits & pieces

A round up of the things we ♥ right now



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

DM Model Annie • January 2
DM Model Rubye • January 18
DM Model Cupid • February 14
AG Doll Ivy • February 28

online this month...



FIVE MINUTE CRAFT: Conversation Hearts Box

1. Download and print out the *template* under the "Freebies" tab on our site
2. Cut out the box.
3. Use a *glue stick* to glue the tabs together.
4. Hand out to all of your doll's friends for Valentine's Day!

WE RECOMMEND PRINTING IT ON COLORED CARDSTOCK FOR ADDED FUN AND STURDINESS!



DEAR GABBY, I can't find any good outfits from my outdated wardrobe. Help! **FROM SAIGE**

A: Try layering old pieces or using them in unexpected ways (a solid tee turned backwards looks great as a sweater). Buying small things can update your look as well (accessories are key!). Be sure to buy timeless staples as well, to keep your wardrobe fresh. **FROM GABBY**

DEAR GABBY, What is bokeh? I have seen that term used a lot on Youtube and have been confused about what it means. **FROM ELLIE**

A: No worries Ellie! Bokeh is a term used in photography to describe the out-of-focused section behind the subject of the picture. It appears when light is out of focus, and can make a picture-perfect background! **FROM GABBY**

TRY HEART BOKEH FOR VALENTINE'S DAY PHOTOS!



thank you!

Sources: Celebrate Circle by Kim B Designs via Pixels and Company / Desktop image from Ampersand Design Studio Blog {July 2012} / Heart Bokeh by Andrea Smith via Photography Blogger



BY BELLA / CLIPART FROM MISS TIINA

It's no secret – top knots are in! They are easy to do and have towering effects. Master these two updates on the classic bun to ensure hair envy all winter long.

BRAIDED TOP KNOT

Pull your doll's hair back into a high ponytail, leaving out a small section near her hair. Braid the ponytail and wrap into a bun. Secure with elastics. Braid the small section of hair and secure with an elastic. Pin the braid across her head {it should look like a braided headband}, and secure in the back.



DOUBLE TOP KNOTS

Brush your doll's hair into two high pigtails and secure with elastics. Twist one pigtail until it wraps around itself. Secure the mini bun with elastics or pins. Repeat on the other pigtail.



WE CALLED UPON OUR HEART LOVING EAH FRIENDS TO MODEL!

Bri's beauty column

how to rock a bad hair day

Step 1 You wake up bright and early one morning only to discover that your usually amazing hair is frizzy and coarse! To hide it, you could use a hat.

Step 2 If the hat option isn't for you, there's always the option of a blanket. People may think you're dressed up as a ghost for Halloween, but if they say anything, I suggest saying "boo." and walking away.

Step 3 Finally, if you're as awesome as I think you are, you can probably just rock it with your sheer power of coolness. Own it! ♥



MARKET

By Bella

made

Have your doll buy yummy snacks on her next trip to the supermarket - you just need a printer and glue!



MUFFIN mix

Muffins are a perfect breakfast on-the-go! Whip up a bag of muffin mix by printing and cutting out the pieces of the [freebie](#) from our website. Use [hot glue](#) to form the bag.



GRAHAM crackers

Cinnamon graham crackers are a tasty afternoon snack. Store a box in your doll's pantry by printing and cutting out the [freebie](#). Fold and [glue](#) on the tabs.



do you recognize these brand names?

GRANOLA bar

Keep granola bars on hand for afterschool hunger. Cut a piece of [foam](#) to fit the wrapper of the granola. Fold and glue the [freebie](#) down.



POPCORN bag

Air-popped popcorn is a healthy snack for movie nights. To make a bag, print and cut out the [freebie](#). Glue on three sides, fill with [stuffing](#), and finish gluing.

in a CRAFTERNOON

Winter weather have you stuck indoors? Beat snow day boredom with these fun crafts; both can be completed in an afternoon!



DOUGHNUT PILLOW

This sweet pillow will brighten any morning!

Trace a 5-inch circle on two pieces of **tan felt**; cut them out with **fabric scissors**. Trace a 1¼ inch circle in the middle of the two larger circles, and cut it out. With a **needle** and **tan thread**, sew together the two larger circles along the edge, leaving room at the top. Pull the pillow inside out, so that the stitches are hidden and tightly stitch the smaller circle. Use an **unsharpened pencil** to push **fabric stuffing** in the pillow. Sew the opening at the top closed. Cut out a frosting shape from **pink felt**. With a **hot glue gun**, glue the frosting on the donut pillow. Cut and glue sprinkle shapes from **various colors of felt** to finish.

POLKA DOT TIGHTS

These tights are perfect for Valentine's Day, but they're cute year-round!

Cut out a long rectangle of **cardboard** with **scissors**. Stuff the cardboard into one leg of a pair of **doll tights** {we found ours in the doll section of our local craft store}. Dip a new **pencil eraser** into **fabric paint** in desired color. Stamp the pencil along the leg lined with cardboard. Let dry before taking out the cardboard. Repeat on other leg, then flip the tights over and repeat on back side.



BY BELLA AND LULU; DOUGHNUT PILLOW INSPIRED BY A BEAUTIFUL MESS {<http://www.abeautifulmess.com/2014/06/doughnut-pillow.html>}



meet her in PARIS



The 2015 Girl of the Year has finally arrived! Budding baker and world traveler, Grace Thomas is sure to win your heart this year. Learn more about her Paris adventures, future plans, and stylish advice in our interview.

by lulu · formatted by bella

Doll Mag: You're always whipping up delicious treats! What's your absolute favorite thing to bake?

Grace: I can't decide! I've lately been trying new flavors and combinations; that has been lots of fun, even if the sweets don't *always* turn out the way I planned! Chocolate chip cookies are a personal favorite though.

What's your favorite part about living in Paris?

Oh, there are so many things to choose from! The sights are gorgeous and the food is great, but if I had to choose one thing, it would be getting to bond with my extended family. My cousin Sylvie and I didn't get along at first, but now we're inseparable!

You're oh-so fashionable! Do you think your time in Paris influences your style?

Thank you! I definitely think it does, but I have always loved the color combo of pink, blue, coral, and black – even before my trip. My favorite outfits all reference my love of Paris in some way, like my cute graphic tee!

Do you miss your friends back in Massachusetts?

Oh-so much! Luckily, I get to talk to them on the phone all the time. We've already made plans to start a baking business the minute I get back. Maddy and Ella have also promised to help me train my dog Bonbon. He's a bit hard to control right now so that will be good!

Thank you so much Grace! Any last words for our readers?

I'm excited to make my time as American Girl's GOTY as special as possible! I think 2015 will be a year to remember ♥

heart to heart

Wear your heart on your sleeve this Valentine's Day - literally! With these cute {and subtle} pieces, it will be no wonder when everyone falls in love with your outfit this February. *By Lulu and Bella*



 American Girl Valentine's Day Skirt with Red Glitter Headband
\$6 from *Peppered Stars* on Etsy



We heart this because . . .

The cold weather is here, and there's no better way to bundle up than with cozy accessories! A contrasting combination of black and pink is perfect for Valentine's Day, and of course, you can't forget to add a heart or two.

American Girl Earwarmer Heart Headband
\$4.50 from *One Crafty Lass* on Etsy





We heart these
because . . .

Not only are these colorful leggings perfect for February, they're terrific for the rest of the year too! Basic pieces with a fun pattern {hearts, stripes, polka dots, you name it!} are an essential for any wardrobe.

 American Girl Doll Heart Stretch Leggings
\$8 from *The Willow Nest* on
Etsy

We heart this
because . . .

This cozy sweater
has an unexpected
Valentine's day color
combo! Red keeps
heart-themed
pieces classic, but a
cool color, like this
chambray blue,
adds lots of mix-
and-match
opportunities for
any month of the
year.



I Have a Big Heart Sweater
\$12 from *Caroline August
Designs on Etsy*



Which

BREAKFAST

Are You?

BY LULU & ILLUSTRATED BY BELLA

1. ON A RAINY AFTERNOON, YOU CAN BE FOUND READING...

- a) A magazine with your best friend. You love doing the quizzes together!
- b) Your favorite fantasy novel. You've almost reread it five times!
- c) A Look Book by your favorite fashionista.
- d) Your fave blogs. There have been lots of new posts lately, and you want to catch up!

2. THE VALENTINES YOU'RE MAKING FOR YOUR FRIENDS ARE COVERED IN...

- a) Personal doodles and drawings to match each of their personalities.
- b) Sweet candy messages in classic colors.
- c) Detailed lace edging and loads of shimmery glitter.
- d) Swirl-y fonts that are filled with plenty of fun patterns.

3. YOU ALWAYS HAVE YOUR HOT COCOA WITH...

- a) Small peppermint sticks. They're perfect for winter!
- b) Plenty of mini marshmallows!
- c) Whip cream swirled in a neatly designed spiral.
- d) Crunchy graham crackers! They're great for dipping and tasting.

4. YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO SPEND A SNOW DAY IS...

- a) Building a family of snow people with your friends.
- b) Staying in your PJs all day and playing board games with your siblings.
- c) Having a movie marathon followed with making lots of baked treats.
- d) Bundling up and going sledding with your neighbors!

Mostly A's

EGGS AND BACON

Mostly B's

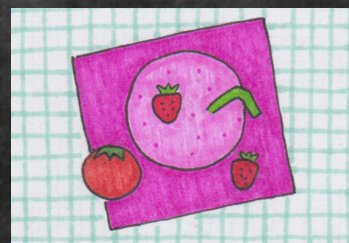
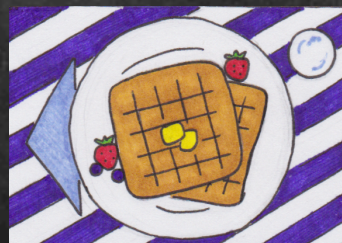
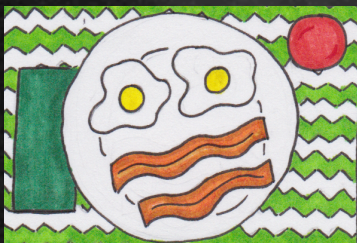
BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

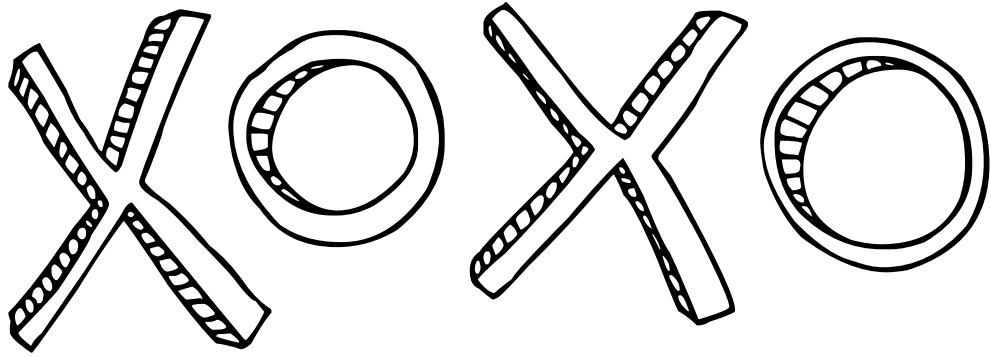
Mostly C's

WAFFLES AND FRUIT

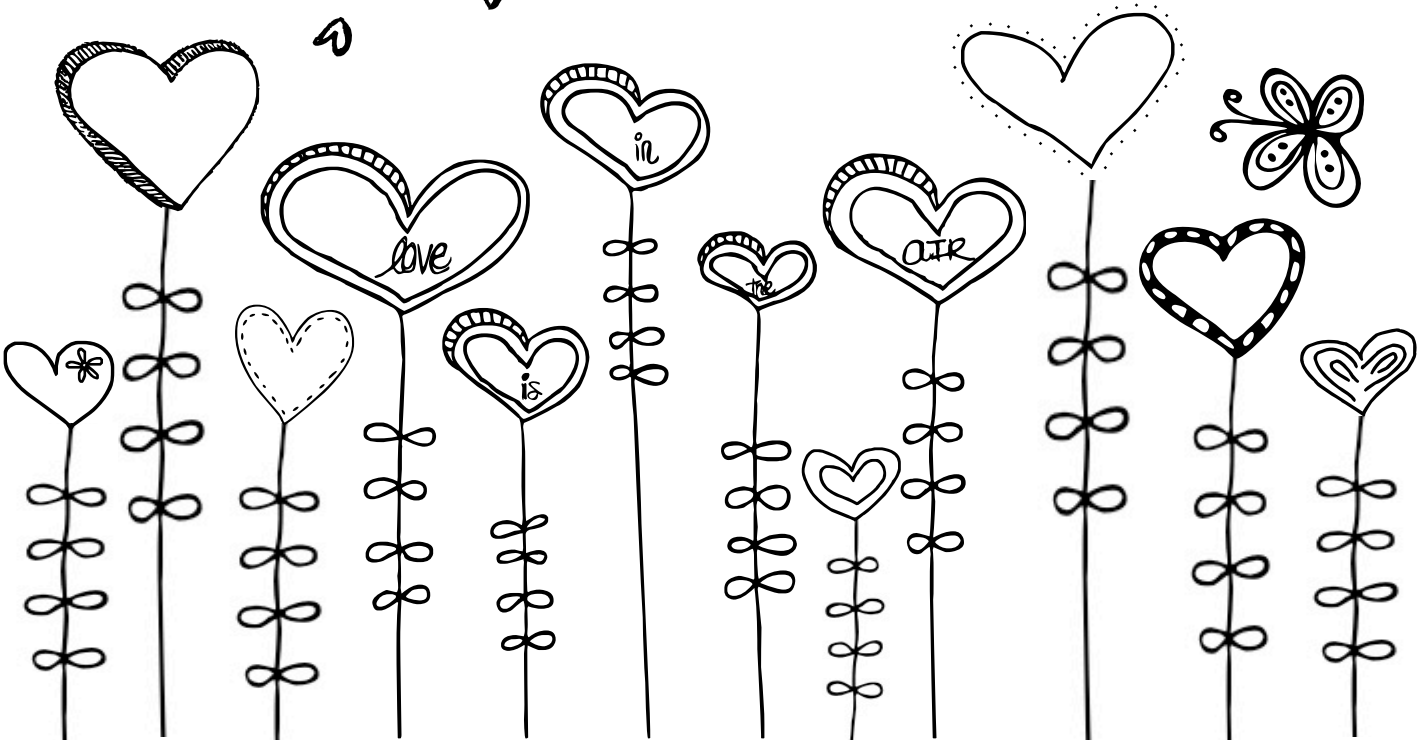
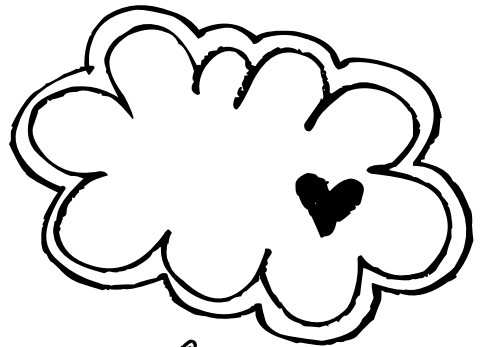
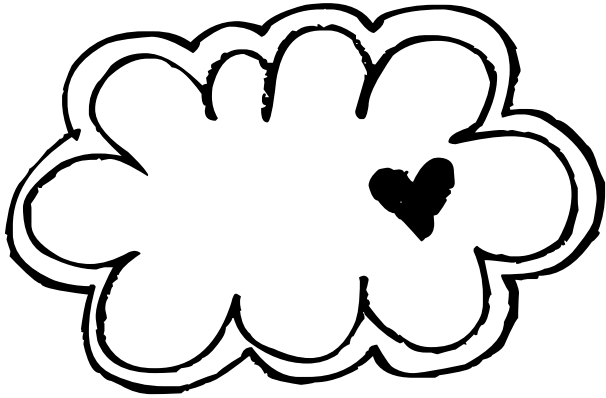
Mostly D's

BERRY SMOOTHIE





from the girls at doll mag



Lost in Austen

Who *doesn't* love imagining themselves in Jane Austen's world of romantic gestures and lavish balls?! Your doll will look straight out of an Austen book with these stylish regency era dresses.

By Lulu | Formatted by Bella | Photos from respective shop owners

Our Regency Dresses

Vintage Classic Jane Austen: Mansfield Park by Leanne Shapton



Classic Lines: Sense and Sensibility by Sara Singh



Penguin Threads: Emma by Jillian Tamaki for Penguin Books



Pride and Prejudice from Barnes and Noble Collectables Editions



The Austen Bookshelf

If there's anything better than dressing like you're from a Jane Austen book, it's reading one! Try one of her novels with a gorgeous cover...



Caroline's Cool Cotton Dress \$38 from Kindred Thread



Prospect Park Regency Era Dress \$79 from Cupcake Cutie Pie



Yellow Regency Style 1800's Dress \$30 from Wild Fishy



Regency Purple Dress \$50 from Jenny Wren's Dress Shop

By Bella with additional writing provided by Becca and Robin

custom cuties

Beginners to customizing dolls can be overwhelmed with tips and information. Thanks to some talented custom doll owners, we've narrowed it all down so you can add a new and unique friend to your doll family!

Customizing gives doll owners a chance to form the doll they want to own, whether it be a long-haired, freckle faced cutie or a new green-eyed, redhead friend. Not limited by American Girl's set of dolls, the possibilities are practically endless when it comes to custom dolls! However, the process isn't as easy as dreaming of your ideal doll; customizing requires planning, budgeting, and creativity.

Already have a doll in mind? You're off to a good start. Before buying supplies, you will want to have a clear idea of how you want to customize your doll. This step might take a week, a month, or a year; take the time to create the doll perfect for you. In addition, research online for tutorials and other resources. Many doll bloggers would be happy to answer your questions, and you can avoid

any first-time mistakes. Check with an adult at this step as well. With their permission – and maybe even their help – you can move ahead and gather your supplies.

Customizing can quickly become an expensive project, so it's important to decide your budget in the beginning. Custom dolls can cost more than buying a doll directly from American Girl, so keep your eye out for gently used secondhand dolls on Ebay that will work for your idea. You can also arrange a trade with another doll fan to get the pieces you need, such as new wig or set of eyes.

We'll leave it to Becca, blogger and custom doll owner, to describe why the process is so fun: "I think the appeal of having a custom doll is getting to have exactly what you want." There's no need to wait for AG: your new doll awaits! ♥

Becca's custom dolls, Fable and Valour



thank you!

We know little about customizing dolls ourselves, so we would like to thank the bloggers that made this article possible!

Becca blogs at 18 Stitches
{18inchstitch.blogspot.com}

Robin blogs at Audra's
Elements of Style
{audraselements.blogspot.com}

your toolbox

Keep this reference sheet handy; it has tips and tricks for every step of customizing!

wigs

Customizing a doll offers plenty of styling opportunities, including a chance for a new 'do!

Here are a few points to keep in mind.

- AG dolls fit wigs in size 11-12 {that just means the wigs will stretch to fit a head circumference of eleven to twelve inches}. Be sure to choose the right size when purchasing a wig!
- AG wigs are perfect – you can be certain that they will fit on your doll – but you can also find wigs at Ruby Red Galleria online. Both sources offer wigs that can tolerate a certain degree of heat.
- Want a more colorful style? Try Blythe wigs, available on Etsy, Ebay, and other websites. They range in price, so you can find one that best fits your budget.
- Most importantly, if you are hoping to play with your doll's hair, it's best to buy a wig in a long, straight style. As Robin notes, you can't assume that you'll be able to take a wig out of its original style.

skin

If you're buying a doll secondhand, flaws to her skin vinyl are to be expected. Here's what to do!

- Begin by washing the stain with soap and water. No luck? Try washing it with a mixture of baking soda and water.
- Painting errors can be removed with acetone-based nail polish remover on a q-tip.

eyes

Eye-swapping is hard – best to save this one for custom doll pros! However, if you feel ready to venture into this area, remember that...

- There are doll collectors who will do eye swaps for you. Read up on the process and still worried? It's safer {and probably easier} to have someone with experience do it for you. All you have to do is ask!
- AG dolls can only take AG eyes. Eyes from other eighteen inch dolls will not fit your AG doll, and neither will eyes from Bitty Babies or Bitty Twins!
- Adults should be nearby! Eye swapping involves boiling water, sharp objects, and lots of patience.

face

One of the easiest ways to make a doll your own is to add makeup or freckles! Here are some expert tips to remember.

- Use your own makeup with caution. Human makeup can be used to add color to a doll's face, but be sure to rub it in well. It's safer to use a color lighter than you think you need – you can always go a shade darker as you go!
- Custom paintwork requires practice. As Becca notes, a new doll head from the AG hospital isn't cheap; it costs \$40 plus shipping. She advises practicing your beauty marks, such as freckles, on scraps of paper before you begin.
- Buy and use the correct materials. Acrylic paint is a safe bet when working on your doll's face. Be sure to have a clean work station, and be careful with the paint around your clothes, as it won't come out. Robin suggests using extremely fine-tipped paintbrushes {like the ones used by manicurists} for these tiny details.

READ HERRING

Detective in training? Aspiring sleuths and book lovers take note: American Girl's *History Mysteries* are your ideal read this winter. BY LULU and BELLA

BACK IN 1999 - before historical favorites like Kaya or Kit were even released - AG had another series of books that focused on the past called *History Mysteries*. With stories set as far back as 1621, the collection of books brought readers back in time, and they even inspired today's set of mysteries with the historical dolls!

A total of 22 books were written throughout the line's history. Although the books were retired by AG in 2004, readers today can find the novels, now marketed as *Mysteries Through Time*, in libraries and bookstores. Each book included a glossary of foreign words relevant to the setting and a "Look Into the Past" section - just like the regular American Girl books!

The stories were geared towards older girls, and many were set in time periods or places that was not already covered by a historical character. Several of the line's authors would later become regular AG writers, even writing the series' successor, the historical mysteries.

Although this series has long been archived, the books haven't lost their appeal. There's nothing misleading about it; *History Mysteries* are worth reading. ♥



RHODA / VIRGINIA 1895

HETTY / ALASKA 1897

SUSAN / NEW YORK 1914

SUZETTE / LA POINTE ISLAND 1732

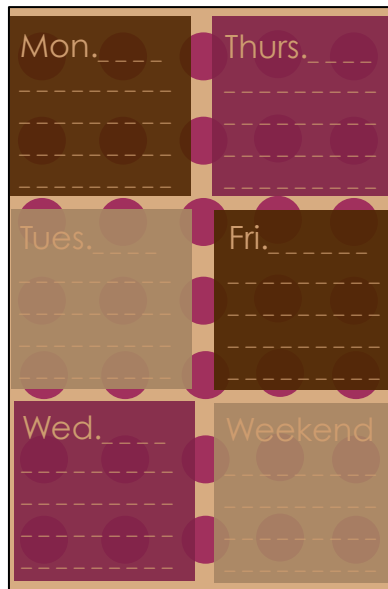
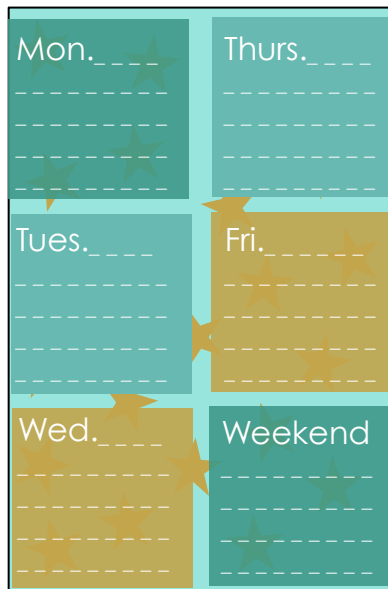
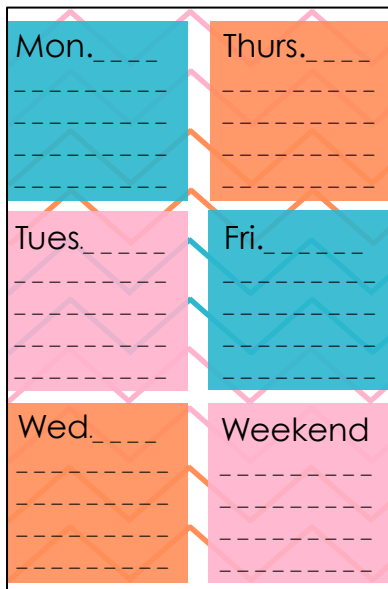
PAM / NORTH CAROLINA 1918

ELSPETH / NORTH CAROLINA 1775

DOLL FUN AND GAMES

The new year has arrived, and it has brought plenty of fun with it! Start 2015 off right with our doll-sized planners and a heart-themed mini game.

By Lulu (with help from Bella)



SEARCH

Our Valentine's Day Issue is riddled with hearts!
*How many can you find?

Answer: 95 hearts

*The bokeh and candy heart box on page 4, along with the hearts from the clothing in the fashion article, don't count!

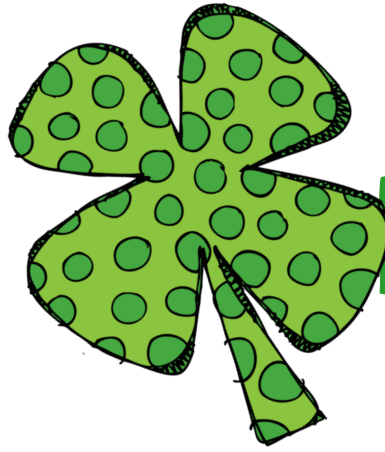
DIRECTIONS: We've made three planner templates for your dolls! Print, cut, and staple them; then check out the "Freebies" section on our blog for more printables.

March / April 2015

Next time...

Cute as a Button

Even the youngest of dolls deserve cute outfits! Doll clothing sellers have your Bitty Babies and Bitty Twins covered for the spring.



little bit of luck

Three of a Kind

2009 Girl of the Year, Chrissa, and her pals, Gwen and Sonali, all know the meaning of true friends, as you'll read in our exclusive interview with these three cuties.



We love to hear your feedback! ♥ Send us what you thought of this issue under the "Letters to the Editor" tab on our website.

Your doll will be a vision in green with our easy St. Patrick's Day crafts.



BARBIE

Whether you love her or can't stand her, Barbie is still one of the doll world's most popular figures. In honor of her birthday, we take a look at all things Barbie.