

'I'm the father figure in our house'

Party girl ALICIA DOUVALL is a new mum again and determined to do things differently. But it's TEEN DAUGHTER Georgia who's carrying the burden BY ANTONIA HOYLE

Cradling her two-month-old baby sister, Georgia Howes knows Papaya's childhood will be dramatically different to her own.

For one, Georgia was raised on sweets and takeaways by her mum, whereas her sister will have a fully vegan diet. And while Georgia was often left in the care of her grandparents as her mother went out partying, Papaya will be home tutored until she's 10. Georgia, now 16, was rarely cuddled, but her new sister is barely out of her mother's arms.



Fooling around: Alicia and Georgia

"I think my mum thought I was her little doll or plaything when I was little," Georgia explains. "She was barely around, and if she was she couldn't cope with the reality of being a parent. All I wanted was a normal mum, but she didn't know what she was doing. I really hope things are different this time around, for Papaya's sake."

Harsh words, but understandable when you consider 16-year-old Georgia's mother is the notorious former glamour model Alicia Douvall.

Growing up FAST

Since being expelled from private school at 14 for smoking cannabis, Alicia has lurched from one scandal to another. After becoming a single mum aged 15 (Alicia has never named Georgia's father), she relied on her parents to look after Georgia for the first eight years of her life while she modelled, partied and sold lurid kiss and tells. As well as, shockingly, undergoing over 100 cosmetic surgery procedures while she battled body dysmorphic disorder.

She was hardly the best role model, and both mum and daughter have detailed their complicated relationship.

But, as Alicia faces single parenthood for a second time around aged 32, does

her first child believe her mother's claims that she's curbed her wild ways?

"I've seen a softer side to Mum since she had Papaya," Georgia admits. "Mind, she's still dependent on me, and in many ways I'm the father figure in our family."

"I do the cooking and the cleaning and help prepare my little sister's bottles. In fact, every day when I get home from school, I take over all childcare duties."

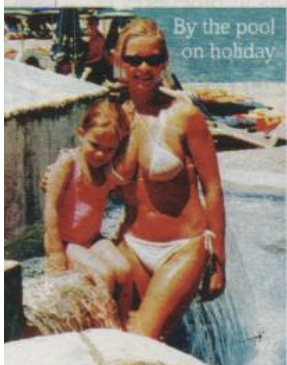
Listening to Georgia, who's now at college studying four A levels, it's impossible not to be struck by her intense maturity – and the struggles she still faces on a daily basis.

"Mum told me she was five weeks pregnant on my 16th birthday last April. At first I thought she was joking. I was worried. Would I be at home minding the baby while she partied? I know raising a child is hard work, yet sometimes Mum acts more like a 16 year old than I am. I feared Papaya would fall down Mum's list of priorities the way I did."

Georgia even helped her mum through the pregnancy, attending scans with her.

"We are incredibly close, so in that way it was great to be able to share the pregnancy with her. But, of course, I still had my worries – given her battle with body dysmorphia, how would she cope with the changes of pregnancy?"

"I thought she would hate getting



By the pool on holiday



Model poses





Georgia is helping mum Alicia look after baby Papaya

bigger, but actually she loved being pregnant. It made her feel prettier, as if her body had a purpose," says Georgia.

"She did complain towards the end that she was huge and that she was going to have a tummy tuck after the birth, but I knew deep down she doesn't want to have any more surgery."

Alicia opted to have Papaya delivered by Caesarean section on December 23 at Chelsea And Westminster Hospital in London. But that in itself threw up even more problems. "I didn't want to be at the birth because I was too nervous, but she had nobody else, so I agreed," says Georgia. While Alicia has used Twitter to

publicly claim that Simon Jordan, 44, former chairman of Crystal Palace FC, is Papaya's father, he has never commented on the matter.

"I cut the umbilical cord and we were both really emotional," adds Georgia. "I'm glad now that I was there to hold Mum's hand and reassure her."

A NEW family

However, when Alicia picked the name Papaya, Georgia was horrified. "She likes the fruit," sighs Georgia. "I tried to talk her out of it. It's a celebrity name. Her middle name is

Cocoa, which is hardly more sensible. But Mum was determined.

"She'd wanted to call me Destiny, and always regretted being talked out of that by her parents."

The burden of childcare has fallen heavily on Georgia, who splits looking after Papaya with her mum at their flat in Chelsea, south-west London.

"While I'm at school, Mum looks after her and we switch round when I get back. But it's hard work. The baby's up every three hours in the night, and sometimes Mum gets stressed when she won't stop crying.

"If she had a man in her life to help it would be a lot easier for me, but I've had to step into that role."

In a bid to make up for past mistakes, Alicia, who says her main source of income is from her organic skincare range, Douvall's, has renounced plastic surgery and partying, and has taken up veganism.

'Mum ACTS more LIKE A TEEN than me'

"I wasn't ready to be a mother before," says Alicia. "I regret missing out on so much of Georgia's life, and I've definitely bonded a lot quicker with Papaya. I'm a lot happier and older now. I'm in a better financial position and am determined to be the best mum in the world this time around."

For all her doubts, Georgia is equally smitten with Papaya. "I've bought her pink booties, and she can already smile. I'm looking forward to teaching her to talk and helping her with homework," she says. "I didn't have anyone to talk to when I was little. I'm glad Papaya will."

Her sister's arrival has also brought some unexpected benefits.

"Mum is so busy with Papaya that I've finally been allowed to live my life. She used to come into my room and want me to hang around with her all the time. I'm planning to go to university to study sciences, but I'll still live with Mum. She says I have to stay with her forever, but I don't mind. I'll never let her down."

Admirable sentiments, but you just can't help wishing her mother had felt the same 16 years ago. **1**