

ME AND THE BABBIE

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Plot Summary

A young single mother narrates her experience raising her newborn. The father leaves early in the story, and the mother faces judgement from her family and society. She adores her baby ("the babbie") and is determined to parent her own way—responding to his needs rather than enforcing routines. Poverty, exhaustion, and social stigma shape her daily life. Eventually, in desperation for nice things for the baby, she turns to **shoplifting**, which briefly thrills her before spiralling out of control.

[\[quizlet.com\]](https://quizlet.com)

Themes

Motherhood

- Honest portrayal of joy, exhaustion, and unconditional love.
- Strong maternal bond is the emotional core.

Judgement & Social Expectations

- Family criticises how she feeds, dresses, and raises the baby.
- Highlights societal policing of women's choices.

[\[quizlet.com\]](https://quizlet.com)

Poverty

- She cannot afford beautiful baby items; deprivation fuels risky choices.

Resilience

- Despite hardship, she's determined to protect her child.

Isolation

- Absent partner; limited support system.

Narrative Style

- First-person Scots narration gives authenticity and vulnerability.
[\[quizlet.com\]](https://quizlet.com)

Symbols

- **Shoplifted items (baby clothes/toys):** desire for beauty and hope.
- **The babbie:** innocence, purpose, emotional anchor.

Key Quotations

(Based on the Quizlet analysis summaries)

- "Life wi the babbie wis..." (opening warmth)
 - Criticism scenes showing familial judgement.
[\[quizlet.com\]](https://quizlet.com)
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