

= Dotty Cotton =

Kirsty " Dotty " Cotton is a fictional character from the BBC soap opera EastEnders , played by Molly Conlin . She was introduced on 26 December 2008 as the daughter of established character Nick Cotton (John Altman) . Dotty was used as Nick 's partner in crime , as the duo planned to kill her grandmother Dot (June Brown) and inherit the money from her will . She and Dot subsequently became friends after Nick 's failed murder attempt , due to Dotty sabotaging their murder plan at the last minute . In her final storyline , airing on 23 February 2010 , she left with her mother Sandy (Caroline Pegg) , whom she believed dead .

Critics disliked Dotty , with her accent being criticised by Jane Simon from The Daily Mirror . Critics from The Daily Mirror and The Guardian were glad to see her leave . However , executive producer Diederick Santer praised Conlin for her portrayal of Dotty , whilst both Brown and Altman opined that the storyline was one of their highlights . The Sun described her as " one of the youngest , most wicked female soap villains " .

= = Storylines = =

= = = Backstory = = =

Dotty , whose real name is Kirsty , was conceived in a one @-@ night stand between Nick Cotton (John Altman) and an alcoholic woman named Sandy (Caroline Pegg) . While serving time in prison , Nick received a letter from Sandy telling him that she had given birth to their daughter . Upon his early release in April 2008 , Nick took custody of Dotty , telling her that Sandy had died in a car crash .

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Dotty arrives in Walford on Christmas Day with Nick , to see her estranged grandmother Dot (June Brown) . Nick introduces Dot to Dotty and they quickly bond . Nick lies to Dot that he had promised to send money to Sandy on the condition that she named their daughter Dorothy after her grandmother , so that Dot will trust him and bond with his daughter ; Dot does not know Dotty 's real name . After spending the night , Dotty begs Dot to let them stay longer . Dot soon discovers that Nick is unemployed and he and Dotty have been living rough . Nick says he will either put Dotty into care or sell her to Dot . After serious consideration , she buys Dotty to get her away from Nick . Dotty learns that Dot has left all her money to Dotty in her will , and tells Nick . They plan to kill Dot to inherit the money , and trick her into thinking she is suffering from dementia . Eventually , Dotty is told by Nick to give Dot an overdose of her medication , but , Dotty has had a change of heart and gives the pills to Nick in his beer . When Nick learns of Dotty 's double @-@ crossing , he drags her to the café and holds everyone inside hostage . Dotty escapes along with most of the others , but the café explodes , and in the commotion , Nick escapes . Dot suspects Dotty may be just as evil as Nick , so plants some tablets on the kitchen table whilst Dotty has her back turned . Dot leaves the room and spies on Dotty , who ignores the tablets .

Dot holds a birthday party for Dotty , inviting Tiffany (Maisie Smith) and Liam Butcher (James Forde) , but they do not want to attend . The next day , Tiffany tells Dotty she is not invited to her birthday party . Dotty tells Dot that Tiffany is not having a party and asks if they can invite her round . When they ask Tiffany 's mother Bianca (Patsy Palmer) , Bianca invites them to Tiffany 's party . The next day , Tiffany and Dotty lie so they do not have to go to school . Dotty takes Tiffany 's bridesmaid 's dress and MP3 player , after Tiffany does not allow her to try the dress on , and runs away with them , throwing the MP3 player into a bin . Dotty pushes Tiffany into the bin as she tries to retrieve it . Dotty then runs away to avoid getting in trouble , and when Tiffany is found , Bianca visits Dot , who is unsure about Bianca 's claims . Dotty tells Dot she knows nothing about the dress but Dot then finds it in Dotty 's school bag . Dot returns the dress to Bianca without Dotty 's

knowledge . The next day , Dotty is left alone with Dot 's husband Jim (John Bardon) who is recovering from a stroke . She pours water on him to make it seem he has wet himself , but Dot catches her . Dotty says she hates them both and wishes that Nick had killed Dot . Dot smacks Dotty across the legs and Dotty manipulates her into letting her stay off school . After Dotty calls the police , Dot is arrested for assault but is released without charge and Dotty apologises .

Dot receives a visit from Dotty 's mother Sandy . Dot assumes she is from Social Services , but Sandy says she is looking for her daughter Kirsty . Dot says she knows nobody of that name , but when she sees a photo she realises that it is Dotty . Dot hides Sandy 's visit from Dotty , but later talks to Sandy about her daughter and her past . She also asks Dotty about the friends and family she used to have , but Dotty says Dot is the only family she needs . However , she soon admits that she misses her mother , and Dot reveals that she is alive and Nick had lied to her . Dotty says she wants to see her mother , so Dot calls her . When Sandy arrives , Dotty is delighted and Dot tells Dotty she should go with Sandy . They say an emotional goodbye , and Dot says she can visit at any time . In May 2012 , Dot and her sister Rose (Polly Perkins) go to live with Dotty and Sandy . In January 2013 , it is revealed that Dotty and Sandy are in Florida . In March 2014 , Dot reveals Dotty and Sandy cannot attend Nick 's funeral , because Dotty has a cold .

= = Creation and development = =

= = = Casting , introduction and development = = =

On 2 October 2008 it was reported that Nick Cotton , played by John Altman would return to EastEnders in Christmas 2008 . After spending time in Walsall , Nick would return with an eight @-@ year @-@ old daughter , Dotty . The part of Dotty was cast to Molly Conlin , speaking of her casting , Conlin said , " I 'm really excited about it because I have always wanted to be in EastEnders . " Conlin was considered too old for the part of Tiffany Dean which she a previously auditioned for but she succeeded in impressing the producers , who offered her the role of Dotty instead . The part of Tiffany went to Maisie Smith . Dotty was originally eleven years old , but on Conlin 's casting , they changed her age to seven . Introduced as a guest character by Santer she made her first appearance on 25 December 2008 .

Starting to appear more frequently , Dotty became a recurring character . Santer told Digital Spy in May 2009 that Dotty 's storyline would go " to a very , very dark place ! " He questioned whether the character was born bad or if her father had made her that way , and if she could be more dangerous than Nick . As the storyline between Dot , Dotty and Nick progressed , Nick 's true agenda was revealed when he blackmailed his mother into giving him money for custody of Dotty . A BBC source told The Sun , " [Dot 's] horrified when Nick tells her Dotty is for sale . He shows no emotion and his evil grin sends shivers down her spine . She always knew Nick would sell his soul for the price of some pick ? n mix but she had no idea he ? d sell his own daughter . " In a further plot twist , it was revealed to the audience in 2009 , that Dotty was colluding with her father all along . The plot climaxed in June 2009 and marked Altman 's departure from the show for the fourth time . Dotty later left on 23 February 2010 .

= = = Characterisation = = =

Dotty is a seven @-@ year @-@ old child who has pigtails . The EastEnders website describes her as " butter wouldn 't melt when it comes to this cockney sparrow , but underneath she 's a devil in disguise " , as well as conniving , backstabbing and cold @-@ hearted . Altman described Dotty as " a chip off the old block " , as did Nancy Banks @-@ Smith from The Guardian though the Daily Record described Dotty as " a chip off her grandma 's block " . Charlie Clements , who played Bradley Branning , said that Dotty , being Nick 's daughter , was " bound to be a bit iffy . " He also called her " evil " , as did several critics . Simon called Dotty " [the] apple that hasn 't fallen far from the tree . " On Holy Soap , Dotty is called a " demon child " and " sweetness and light " on the

surface , " but underneath lurks a devil ! " . Nancy Banks @-@ Smith from The Guardian described Dotty as " enigmatic " , while Kris Green from Digital Spy compared Dotty 's image to that of Damien Thorn from The Omen and Regan MacNeil from The Exorcist . The Sun said " Dotty is one of the youngest , most wicked female soap villains " .

= = Reception = =

Jane Simon from the Daily Mirror criticised Dotty 's accent and the storyline surrounding poisoning Dot . Stuart Heritage from The Guardian said that Dotty gave him " the willies " . He said , " Technically Dotty has already left EastEnders , but it was an open @-@ ended goodbye and she 's free to return whenever she likes . This must not happen , simply because she gives me the willies more than anything else I 've ever seen " , Simon similarly opined saying that she was glad to see Dotty leave . Brown opined that Dot and Nick 's storyline with Dotty was one of her highlights of the series , as did Altman . Santer praised Conlin for her portrayal of Dotty saying , " I love that little girl because she 's having to play all these layers . Normally , what kids have to do of that age is say lines and be cute . She , though , has to play layers of deception . She has to play a character who 's acting . "