

LOVE OF TOYS

Written by

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An animated story about a toy store, told by the toys that come to
life after the store closes each day.

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INT. TOY STORE - EVENING

The toy store is decked out in Christmas decor. Garlands hang down the staircase in the middle of the room with ornaments of silver and gold. A tree covered in tinsel is decorated with toys and sticking stuffers. The store is bustling with shoppers trying to get their Christmas presents.

A gift wrapper is trying to keep up with the demand but she is covered in tape and tangled in bows. Children run rapid, chasing each other through the store with light sabers. A small girl of 4 years old falls to the floor of the lego aisle in a full on tantrum for no apparent reason.

A shipment of dolls is opened in the backroom and wheeled out into the store front. Before the clerk can get the boxes on the shelves, parents are grabbing the dolls and hurrying on their way.

A store clerk takes a PATTY-BELL doll box and places it in the display window next to a KENDAL teddy bear wearing a Santa suit and hat.

An announcement is made by a very tired and disheveled, female CASHIER, 28, whose line is at least eight people deep. With sudden enthusiasm she delivers her message.

CASHIER

Attention shoppers, the store will close in 15 minutes. Please take your items to the nearest check out line. Merry Christmas.

The store is put back together by its employees, shelves are stocked, aisles are swept, and the lights are shut off as the doors are locked behind the last employees by a security guard.

INT. DISPLAY WINDOW - NIGHT

The store is dark and quiet, but slowly the toys are beginning to wake from a slumber. Stretching and yawning, the toys wiggle out of their positions and begin moving around the store.

Kendal blinks and rubs his eyes, and opens them to see a Patty-Bell on the shelf next to him.

KENDAL

I haven't seen you before.

PATTY-BELL

I'm a new toy.

KENDAL

Well, welcome to the toy store.
I've been a display bear for 6
Christmases now, so I know the
store like the back of my hand.
Want me to show you around?

PATTY-BELL

Yes, that would be lovely. Thank
you.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

Kendal slides down the display window curtain to the floor.

KENDAL

Come on, it's easy.

PATTY-BELL

What if I fall?

KENDAL

Well, I'll catch you.

Patty-Bell steadies her nerves, breathes deeply and slides
down the curtain so fast that she loses her grip and tumbles
into Kendal knocking him down.

They roll across the hardwood floor, which dirties the back
of Patty-Bell's dress. She laughs from the excitement.

PATTY-BELL

I guess I'm not new anymore.

KENDAL

Oh, its just on the back, no one
will even notice. So where would
you like to see next?

PATTY-BELL

Well, what's over there?

Patty-Bell points to a wall full of action figures still in
their boxes.

KENDAL

Oh, that's collector's row. It's
where all the collectable action
figures live.

PATTY-BELL

Don't you guys ever leave your
boxes?

A RED CAPITAN action figure turns his head to look at her, tossing his cape over his shoulder.

RED CAPITAN

It would decrease my value. You should think about accessorizing to increase your value little lady.

KENDAL

Don't listen to him, he's just jealous cause his worth gives him no freedom.

RED CAPITAN

Ha, freedom. That's stupid, no body collects toys with freedom. You get played with and eventually thrown away. I will be kept forever.

PATTY-BELL

I don't think he's very nice.

RED CAPITAN

Oh no? Well, what do I care what some silly little doll thinks.

KENDAL

Come on let's go.

INT. BACKROOM - NIGHT

Kendal pushes open the swinging door and the two run through before it swings back at them. In the backroom, shelves are stocked with toys for next season. The plush valentine animals are having a dance party, showing off their specialty moves.

A stuffed LION, wearing a royal cloak and crown, peers down at the party. He bobs his scepter downed with valentine's hearts and sways his head to the music.

KENDAL

You shouldn't pay attention to the creepy action hero. They're all bitter toys.

PATTY-BELL

He was right about accessorizing though.

KENDAL

What do you mean?

PATTY-BELL

Well, Patty-Bells are not all made equally. Some come with exclusive clothing items. Like the action figures that increases our value. I don't much care what my value is, but I have always wanted an exclusive Patty-Bell headband. To keep my hair from my face, and I think it's very stylish.

KENDAL

Oh, I think you're stylish already.

PATTY-BELL

Really?

KENDAL

Oh yeah.

She bats her eyes at him, he blushes and clears his throat.

KENDAL (CONT'D)

I know what you mean, though. See the LION, up there?

PATTY-BELL

The king?

KENDAL

Yes, he has a fantastic leather belt. I've always wanted one, so that my suit jacket stays closed. It gets chilly in the window.

They walk through the backroom aisles, and approach two large boxes.

PATTY-BELL

What are these?

KENDAL

Oh, these are the donation bins.

PATTY-BELL

What's a donation bin?

KENDAL

When a toy is damaged or returned with a box, the store clerks toss them in these bins to be donated.

PATTY-BELL

And what happens to those toys?

KENDAL

No one knows, cause no one has ever returned to talk about it. Listen, whatever you do, stay away from these bins. Promise me.

PATTY-BELL

I promise, I won't go anywhere.

She takes his hand, he smiles.

INT. TOY STORE - DAWN

Kendal and Patty-Bell have spent all night sampling the candy, dancing with the valentines and playing Chinese checkers. They laughed and flirted, but when the sun started to rise all the toys scrambled to get back to their positions.

Kendal helps Patty-Bell back onto the shelf, she kisses him on the cheek and he smiles.

The security guard unlocks the door as the last on the toys drift off into their little slumber. Kendal tries to keep still, but he can't stop looking over at Patty-Bell.

INT. TOY STORE - DAY

The store is swarming with people buying Christmas presents as the countdown to the holiday shortens. The store clerk reaches her hand into the store window and takes hold of Patty-Bell.

The two toys glance at each other, both with terrified looks on their faces. The clerk lifts out the Chinese checkers board behind Patty-Bell and places her back in the window.

Through-out the busy day toys are being snatched up left and right by customers. Again the store closes late and disheveled as if a hurricane has swept threw.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

After the clerks put the store back together, they clear out and the guard locks the door. Again, the toys all begin to stir.

Kendal shakes off his stiffness fast and hurries over to Patty-Bell's shelf.

KENDAL

Are you ok? That was a close call today.

PATTY-BELL

I was afraid I would be taken away from you and never see you again.

KENDAL

I'm afraid that's a distinct possibility. You could be purchased any day, this could be our last night together.

PATTY-BELL

We don't know that.

KENDAL

No, but it's possible and we have to be practical. What if you get purchased tomorrow?

PATTY-BELL

Would you miss me?

KENDAL

Of course. You're my...

PATTY-BELL

Your what?

KENDAL

My friend. Uh, my special friend.

PATTY-BELL

You know what we should do? We should make tonight the greatest Christmas celebration possible. Since we don't know if it will be our last night together, lets make the best of it.

KENDAL

I like how you're thinking.

PATTY-BELL

I want to get you a present.

KENDAL

No, your company is present enough for me.

PATTY-BELL

But I would like to get you a present just the same. Give me a few minutes and I'll be back.

KENDAL

Ok, I'll prepare the window for our Christmas celebration.

INT. BACKROOM - NIGHT

Patty-Bell climbs the Valentine's display to speak to the Lion.

LION

What do you want my child.

PATTY-BELL

Your majesty, I have a very serious request. May I have your belt?

LION

My belt? Why child?

PATTY-BELL

I have a friend that could really use it, he sits in the display window and gets very cold. A belt would help keep him warm.

LION

What do I care if he is warm?

PATTY-BELL

He is my special friend, and I might be leaving soon. I want to give him a special gift to remember me by.

LION

And what will you give me in return for my belt?

PATTY-BELL

Give you?

LION

My daughter would love a dress like yours.

PATTY-BELL

My dress?

LION

Yes, I am proposing a trade. What do you say child?

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

Kendal readies the display window with tinsel and Christmas lights. He sets up toy tea cups and food for the two of them with two toy candles as a center piece.

RED CAPITAN

What's all this, romantic evening for two? You think this is gonna do it? Don't you think you should give her a present too?

KENDAL

Like what?

RED CAPITAN

What does she want.

KENDAL

Well, she does want a headband, but where am I gonna find an exclusive Patty-Bell headband, there hasn't been one in the entire store.

Red Capitan laughs.

RED CAPITAN

You don't know anything do you. The exclusive toys are often snatched up by the store clerks and hidden on a shelf in the layaway closet. There's definitely a headband in there.

KENDAL

Are you sure?

RED CAPITAN

Go see for yourself.

INT. LAYAWAY CLOSET - NIGHT

Kendal makes his way through the shelves, but it's taking a long time and he's getting tired. Just as he is about to leave he sees an EXCLUSIVE Patty-Bell doll wearing a headband.

KENDAL

Patty-Bell? Oh, you're not, I mean you're a different Patty-Bell.

EXCLUSIVE PATTY-BELL

Yes, I am exclusive.

KENDAL

I'm looking for a headband like yours to give to my friend.

EXCLUSIVE PATTY-BELL

Well, you won't find another one, I've got the only one in the store.

KENDAL

Oh please, can I have it?

EXCLUSIVE PATTY-BELL

If I give it to you, what will make me exclusive?

KENDAL

What if I give you my Santa suit? You'll be the only Patty-Bell doll in the world with a Santa Suit, that will make you exclusive.

EXCLUSIVE PATTY-BELL

The only one in the world? I like that.

INT. DISPLAY WINDOW - DUSK

Kendal folds and refolds the headband in Patty-Bells empty seat as he anxiously waits for her return. When she returns he sees that she has no dress on.

KENDAL

What happened to your dress?

PATTY-BELL

I traded it for the belt you always wanted.

KENDAL

But Patty-Bell, you will be unpurchasable now. We have to find you another dress.

PATTY-BELL

But there isn't time, the security guard is coming.

Kendal helps her into her spot.

KENDAL
Here, put this on.

He gives her the headband.

PATTY-BELL
An exclusive headband! How did you
get it.

KENDAL
I traded my suit for it. But good
thing I did cause maybe the
headband will make you appealing
for purchase still.

He puts his belt on his bare bear belly.

PATTY-BELL
Do you think it will work?

KENDAL
I don't know but we have to try.

INT. TOY STORE - DAY

The store clerk reaches into the display window to rearrange some of the toys and sees the Patty-Bell doll with no dress. She takes the doll and tosses her into a box.

Kendal sees her be taken away and he tosses himself off the shelf onto the floor in a desperate attempt to reach the box. He misses.

The clerk picks up Kendal, and the rest of the toys on the floor and carries them into the backroom for sorting. Back there, Kendal looks long and hard through the boxes to see if Patty-Bell is in them.

The stock boy grabs him up and tosses him in the donation bin, and then drags the bin out to the truck. The bin is loaded onto a truck and driven away.

INT. HOMELESS SHELTER - CHRISTMAS MORNING

The kids are enjoying hot coco and cookies as a volunteer Santa hands out their presents. A young boy asks Santa for a bear, and he gives the child Kendal.

Heartbroken, Kendal begins to tear up, there is no sign of Patty-Bell.

The boy carries his bear out to the street and takes his mother's hand. His little sister tags behind with Patty-Bell hanging out of her backpack.

KENDAL

You've been donated!

PATTY-BELL

So have you! And it looks like we're going to the same home.

THE END.