

# TOYS-R-ALIVE

By Regina Ballard

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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

What happens to the dolls in a toy store after store hours? They come alive in a world filled with comedy and adventure. Meet totally clueless Pretty Hair Melinda, and her pals, Beach Buff Ben and Surfer Sam.

There's also streetwise Jewel, who is always on a manhunt, especially for someone like playboy millionaire doll, Mike, who is really secret agent, James Pond, 007. A frumpy career doll, Colleen, has her eye on Dice, a no-nonsense Navy Seal doll, and she undergoes a remarkable transformation to get his attention only to learn that she need not have changed at all.

Raggedy Freddy and Franny, lovable and mischievous, tangle with the grumpy and sarcastic stuffed Teddy Bear and have to run for their lives. In turn, Teddy thinks basketball celebrity, Miguel "Blue Streak" Johnson is just a little too cocky and the two constantly engage in a comedic battle of words.

When a group of the dolls venture over to aisle 10 for a little excitement, they accidentally unleash the Bionic Warrior toy who threatens everyone with his mission of destruction. And the late arrival of the very spoiled Princess doesn't help! All in all, it's just another evening at the toy store.

### **DEDICATION**

To my husband Kevin and son, Britton, who are often my unwitting inspirations for humor. And praise to my Savior, Jesus Christ, for blessing me with the gifts of a scribe.

*The Playwright*

## CAST OF CHARACTERS/COSTUMES

(8 m, 7 w, 2 voices only)

- PRETTY HAIR MELINDA** (Darby Doll): Somewhat of a ditz. She has long, thick hair, cute clothes and her own comb and brush.
- SPARKLY JEWEL** (Darby Doll): Sarcastic, streetwise talker with a nasal Northern accent. Dressed in sparkly party dress, with jewels in her hair, and wearing sparkly rings and necklaces.
- CAREER GAL COLLEEN** (Darby Doll): Liberated. Dressed in plain unflattering suit and oversized glasses. Her hair is brushed straight in an unflattering hairstyle.
- BEACH BUFF BEN** (Darby Doll): Talks like a surfer, wearing surfer beachwear.
- SURFIN' SAM** (Darby Doll): Another.
- MILLIONAIRE MIKE** (Darby Doll): Speaks with an English accent. Comes across like a rich playboy at first until another side of his personality is revealed. He is actually a special agent 007, James Bond edition that poses undercover as a playboy.
- NAVY SEAL DICE** (Military Collection): Tough and bad. Dressed in camouflage clothing. A '90s GI Joe.
- MIGUEL "BLUE STREAK" JOHNSON** (Basketball Collection): Hyperactive and a fast-talking funny man. Dressed in basketball uniform with a ball velcroed to his hand.
- FREDDY** (Raggedy Doll): Yarn hair, raggedy style clothes, child-like.
- FRANNY** (Raggedy Doll): Freddy's sister.
- TEDDY** (Stuffed teddy bear): Grumpy and sarcastic, but really a teddy bear underneath.
- BIONIC WARRIOR**: Evil, futuristic-looking robot who talks robotically or uses a voice synthesizer.
- PRINCESS**: Spoiled and conceited doll.
- MR. SCHEZINSKY**: Toy store owner (voice only).
- CHRIS**: Toy store clerk (voice only).
- MOTHER**: Emily's mother. Thinks that her daughter has a vivid imagination.
- EMILY**: Child who purchases the dolls in the end.

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**SETTING**

The setting is an aisle of a toy store at night. The stage should have several large doll boxes from which Dice and the Darby girl dolls, Colleen, Melinda and Jewel, can emerge. Several blocks large enough to sit on are scattered about.

**PROPS**

DICE - Gun, bandanna, map, knife.

TEDDY - Giant price sticker.

MELINDA - Brush.

BLUE STREAK - Velcro basketball.

COLLEEN - Briefcase, scarf, sneakers, short party dress.

JEWEL - Large jewel, nail file.

MIKE - Two ink pens, watch.

BEN AND SAM - Surfboards.

MISC. - Two large flashlights, deck of cards, box with guy and girl figurines inside.

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**Scene 1**

*(AT RISE: VOICES are heard from offstage.)*

MR. SCHEZINSKY: Chris, are you going to lock up?

CHRIS: Yes, sir, Mr. Schezinsky!

MR. SCHEZINSKY: Don't forget to turn off the lights. I'll see you tomorrow bright and early. Big sale day, you know.

CHRIS: Yes, sir. Goodnight!

*(LIGHTS go off. Sound of KEYS JINGLING as door is being locked. SPOTLIGHT on DICE inside display box. Suddenly he moves and slips out of his box and looks around with gun drawn. Finally he relaxes.)*

DICE: *(Gruff, commanding voice.)* All right, dolls, it looks like the coast is clear. Nobody move until I turn on the flashlights, and that's an order! The last thing we need is for somebody to break something. Nobody wants to buy a broken toy.

*(SPOTLIGHT follows DICE to giant flashlight on each side of the stage. LIGHTS on one side come on and then on the other as he goes through the motions of turning on the flashlights. JEWEL, MELINDA and COLLEEN begin to move out of their display boxes and stretch.)*

JEWEL: Oh, thank goodness. I thought this day would never end. My feet and back are aching. This dress weighs a ton. *(Plops down on a block.)*

DICE: I'm going to get the others. Don't wander off! It's a stuffed jungle on aisle 13. *(Exits SR.)*

MELINDA: *(Fluffing hair.)* Wow, what an elongated day! *(Whines, dismayed.)* And look at my beautiful hair! It's like, I have box hair. It's completely flat in the back.

JEWEL: Oh, you'll get used to it after a while. Besides, when some little girl finally buys you, your hair will never look as good as it does now anyway.

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JEWEL: *(Continued.)* I've even known some Pretty Hair Darby Dolls like you whose hair ends up sticking straight up in the air!

MELINDA: *(Gasps.)* As if!! Where did you hear such way offensive, I'd-rather-die-*tales* from the hair crypt?

JEWEL: From the dolls over by the Exchange and Return counter. *(Lowers voice, mysteriously.)* They said they saw one little girl carrying her Pretty Hair Darby Doll around by her hair. The rest of her was just dangling free and her hair was frizzy and knotted...

MELINDA: *(Covers ears.)* I'm freakin'! I just can't believe something so way harsh. *(To COLLEEN.)* Why would some child-babe do that to my really whack hairdo?

COLLEEN: *(Shrugs.)* Who knows? Usually it's because the little girl is too young to know better. Sometimes the little girl treats you well, but you fall into the hands of her mean brother and well, we won't talk about what happens then. *(Confidently.)* At least I know that an older, more responsible girl is going to want me since I'm from the Career Gal series.

JEWEL: *(Sarcastic.)* Yeah, and you're just selling like hotcakes. *(To MELINDA.)* I think that two have been sold this entire month! Rumor has it that the Career Gals are bound for the clearance bin!

COLLEEN: That's preposterous! At least I'm not laden with cheap, fake diamonds and jewels that are going to fall out or turn brown.

MELINDA: I prefer to think of them as faux, not fake. It sounds so much better, don't you think?

JEWEL: *(To COLLEEN.)* Listen honey, fake, faux or whatever you want to call them, I glitter and you don't. Guess which of us is going to get played with and who's going to end up in a yard sale or tied to little brother's remote control airplane!

COLLEEN: You are such a negative person. Those things rarely happen anymore now that we are so expensive.

MELINDA: *(Defiant.)* Well, I hope no one ever buys me then! I mean, like what's so great about it if you don't know what disaster awaits you.

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MELINDA: *(Continued.)* I would just go postal if I ended up wearing some homemade outfit made out of a quicker picker-upper and rubber bands!

COLLEEN: Relax, Melinda, don't listen to Jewel. Those are just some of the extreme cases of doll abuse. Haven't you ever heard about the dolls that get bought by the little girl who loves them and dresses them up in new clothes and buys all the accessories that go with them. *(Sighs.)* I hope whoever buys me will also get my Executive Office Center accessories. I would have my very own desk with drawers that open and shut, and a telephone that really rings and even a personal computer!

JEWEL: *(Sarcastic.)* Wait? What's that noise? Why, it sound's like a stampede of children all crying out for Career Gal accessories. *(Mimics.)* "Mommy, I want the doll that's dressed in the plain ugly clothes with the big glasses, not the shiny pretty one with the diamonds and jewels."

COLLEEN: If you'd use that plastic, rooted-hair blob that you call a head, you might consider that wearing evening attire to the office would encourage the sexist stereotyped image that women are trying to avoid.

JEWEL: If you'd clean your Mary Tyler Moore glasses, you'd realize that you don't have to dress like a 1970s reject in a polyester leisure suit to be taken seriously.

MELINDA: Hmm, I wonder what my accessories are? I'm sure they must be way cool.

JEWEL: It's written on the side of your box, honey. Haven't you ever read it?

MELINDA: *(Hand on hip.)* As if! Like, I'm sure I went to the "how to read your box" course in school. *(Stresses.)* I'm a Pretty Hair Melinda, not a Studious Sarah.

COLLEEN: *(Walks to MELINDA'S box.)* It says here that your extra accessories include a hair salon with a battery-operated hair dryer that really blows air!

MELINDA: That is so tubular! A real hair dryer!

*(BEN, SAM and MIKE enter from SL.)*

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