

The Palace of Differences

Emily, a porcelain doll....._____

Molly, a china doll....._____

Rosalie, a china doll....._____

Flame, a stuffed dragon....._____

Lazer, a royal robot....._____

Ten Volt, a royal robot....._____

Narrator....._____

Narrator: In a far away land, there is a royal nursery in Crystal Palace. Every night during a full moon, all the toys come alive. On this particular night, Princess Janine left her favorite toys out in the courtyard. The full moon is just rising. The dolls Molly, Rosalie, and Emily are very concerned about Flame, a stuffed dragon.

Emily: (To Flame, but not near him) Flame, you look so sad. Why? This is our night – the whole night – to be alive!

Flame: Well, Princess Janine picked me up by my tail and it came off. Look at this. (Showing his tail) And she didn't fix it either.

Molly: Poor, poor Flame. I'm so sorry your tail is off. Here, I'll pet you. There, now don't you feel better?

(Emily comes close to Flame and starts sneezing.)

Rosalie: Here, Flame, lie down. Let me hold your paw. There, now don't you feel better? (to Emily) Why are you sneezing so much, Emily? Do you have a cold?

Emily: (Starts sneezing but as she talks, moves away from Flame) No, I don't have a cold but sometimes I can't stop sneezing. I don't know why. (Now she's away from Flame.) There, I've stopped. See, sometimes I sneeze a lot and sometimes I don't.

Flame: Princess Janine fixed my tail once, but I don't know how. (to the dolls) You fix it. I just can't.

Narrator: The dolls and Flame are all kindness and sympathy with one another but, no one is able to solve problems. Meanwhile, traveling through Deep Dark Forest are two royal robots, Lazer and Ten Volt.

Lazer: Well, when that fuse box blew up, that was the end of our master. You know, that could have been the end of us, too.

Ten Volt: Well, it isn't because here we are. And we're free, too, from our master. The explosion though, threw our central processing units out of whack a little. We're not working quite right.

Emily: (sees robots) Oh, look, everyone! Here come two big tin cans. Let's welcome them.

Lazer: Tin cans! Did you hear that, Ten Volt: (To the dolls) How can you be so dumb? We're robots. We are very smart. We've been programmed to solve all palace problems.

Rosalie: Solve problems? What's wonderful! We have some big problems. Look at poor Flame's tail. We have petted him and loved him but still his tail's not fixed.

Molly: And poor Emily. Sometimes she can't stop sneezing. She can't have any fun. We love her but sometimes she just keeps sneezing.

Ten Volt: You think petting and loving will fix his tail and stop her sneezing? You must be nuts! It's very simple. All you have to do is think.

Rosalie: What do you mean, think? How do you do that? Does it mean we must love them a lot more?

Lazer: Love them? No one needs any love to solve problems. You just need to decide what to do. Look at the stuffing coming out of his tail. Put it back. And you (looking at Emily), walk all around and see when it is you start sneezing.

Molly: Put the stuffing back inside him. All right, let's try that. (Puts stuffing in Flame's mouth.) Here, Flame, eat this stuffing so it will be back inside you.

Ten Volt: Eat it? I can't believe this! I'm glad our master didn't program us to love! You need to give up that love stuff, you dummies. You need to get smart.

Narrator: The robots laugh and make fun of the dolls. Emily keeps walking around and sneezes a lot when she gets near Flame and stops when she's away from him. The robots then tell Emily to stand next to Flame. The more she sneezes, the more the robots laugh. The toys are very sad as they watch the robots. Finally, the robots stop.

Lazer: Why, this is the most fun we've ever had. Well, what should we do now? Say, let's have a party.

Flame: A party! That sounds good. Princess Janine has parties with us and maybe it will cheer us up. But – what will we wear? And where will it be?

Dolls: I don't know.

Molly: Well, do we need presents? And what will we eat?

Other dolls and Flame: I don't know. (To the robots) We can't have a party. We don't know how.

Ten Volt: You act like you don't have a brain in your head.

Toys: A brain? What's that?

Robots: They have no brains!

Rosalie: But we each have a heart – and a fairy who gave it to us. She thought that it would help Princess Janine to grow up well. You're so mean! You act like you have no heart!

Ten Volt: What good is a heart without brains? Our master made us very smart. We were the brains of the whole palace. We did everything! You don't even know how to have a party.

(dolls cry)

Narrator: Fairy Megan arrives because the dolls and Flame need her. She is their fairy and only visible to them, because she gave them a heart. Without a heart, the robots can't see her – not even with their laser eyes.

Flame: (Pointing up high to invisible fairy) What fairy? (Pause and listen) A brain? No, we don't have a brain. (Pointing to robots) Them? No, they don't have a heart. So, what do we do?

Emily: (To the dolls and Flame) Did you hear that? We must all join hands and say the magic chant. Wait. Listen to it. (Everyone listens.) Now all together:

Dolls and Flame: A heart and a brain,
 A brain and a heart,
 We need each one.
 Squeeze together,
 Wish together,
 And now we are done.

Narrator: Now the dolls and Flame not only each have a heart, but a brain as well – and each robot, besides a brain has a heart.

Flame: you know, now that we have a brain, we can solve all our problems. For instance, Emily, you only sneeze when you're near me. You must be allergic to my scales. Just don't stand close to me.

Emily: You're right, Flame. That just makes sense. I won't stand near you, but we can still be friends.

Molly: And Flame, how could I ever put the stuffing from your tail in your mouth? Of course, we need to put the stuffing back in your tail.

Rosalie: And Molly and I will sew it back on for you. We just need to go and get some thread and a needle. Come on, Molly, let's get it now.

(Rosalie and Molly go in castle.)

Lazer: (To Ten Volt) You know, it does feel good to have a heart. I've never felt so wonderful! Now that we all have a brain and a heart, we can plan the party together. And then, we will stay with you. I hope Princess Janine loves us a much as she does you.

(Molly and Rosalie return.)

Narrator: Everyone had a wonderful time at the party. Right now, dawn is arriving, but they are looking forward to the next full moon when they will be alive again. Meanwhile, when Princess Janine plays with them, she won't know that they are influencing her to grow up thinking well and making good decisions – plus being kind and sweet to all. It is truly better for everyone to have both a good brain and a warm heart.