

The Porcelain Doll



A Miraculous Tale

Mike C.

Preface

This story is based on a series of real life events that happened one April day at a LEGO show in the United States.

The events had a very dramatic effect on the lives of several people, not least the little girl Roxy known as 'The Porcelain Doll', her entire family and the character known as 'Mr. Red'.

To call it a miraculous tale may not be an exaggeration as it brought about such a positive change in so many lives which resulted in a fairy tale happy ending.

The Porcelain Doll

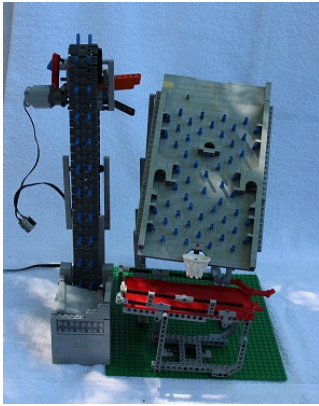
Mr. Red is a kid whose real name is Bill. He taught grade school English for 35 years and has been retired for 14 years but is still a kid.

He spends all his spare time playing with LEGO. He puts together some really amazing machines. Some of which have medieval themes that date back to olden days in England, France and Germany. Others

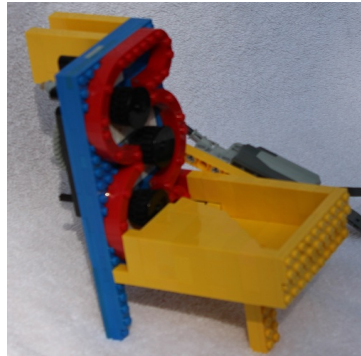
move small LEGO soccer or basketballs through diverse and intricate paths, or manipulate the small balls by lifting, shifting or counting them. Two examples of these complicated and amazing machines are the Pinball and Serpentine machines.



Mr. Red with one of his intricate LEGO machines



The Pinball Machine



The Serpentine Machine

Mr. Red loves to travel to LEGO shows all over North America wearing his bright red suit. He is called Mr. Red of course because of that suit.

The suit originated long ago when he was teaching. Wearing it he would ask his students “What have you read (red) today”? The hope was to amuse and encourage them to read. It seemed to work and so he continued to wear the suit on other occasions too, eventually becoming ‘Mr. Red’.

Children often ask him if he is Santa Clause as he wears rimless glasses, and has snow white hair and beard. Of course he isn’t Santa, but he does believe in miracles.

The Porcelain Doll, whose real name is Roxy, is a lovely little four year old girl. She has blue eyes and blonde hair

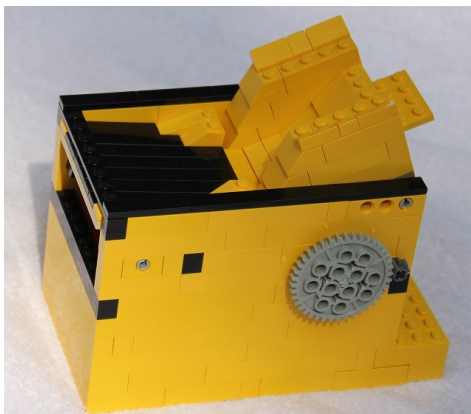
worn in bangs at the front and down to her shoulders in the back.

Unfortunately, Roxy is a troubled little girl. She has never spoken a word, does not like to meet or interact with people and seems to pay no attention to anything or anyone. Roxy's Mom and Dad are very worried about her. They wondered if she may be totally deaf. They would often make loud unexpected noises behind her, but Roxy never reacted. Hearing tests resulted in the same total lack of reaction. Is she deaf, they still don't know?

Maybe she is deep in the throes of autism or suffering from some form of mental disability? Without any reaction from her, it is impossible to tell. They are at their wits end not knowing what to do. Doctors and child specialists have been unable to offer any help or solutions. Oh yes, her parents don't know it yet, but Roxy believes in miracles too.

The family travels all over with Roxy, her fourteen year old sister and nine year old brother. They visit various exhibitions or shows that have appealing themes. The hope is Roxy may respond or engage in some way with the people and their many different displays. It was at one such show that destiny was going to create a small miracle. A miracle that no one expected even though at least two of the people involved believed in them.

One day in April Mr. Red travelled south to a large LEGO show in Kentucky. He proudly displayed some of his wonderful LEGO machines. In the LEGO world they are collectively called the ‘Great Ball Contraptions’. There were twenty two of his machines complete the circuit. They can move various small LEGO balls through many intricate ‘ins and outs’. Usually most of the public are very interested



to

The Great Ball Contraption

and entertained by watching these machines. They often attract quite a crowd.

Mr. Red’s pet project is called, appropriately, ‘The Great Ball Contraption’ or ‘GBC’. On the particular day in question there was the usual group of spectators. No one had any idea that two of the people present were on a collision course. The result would be a miracle rather than a disaster and would change many lives forever.

While demonstrating his machine, Mr. Red slowly became aware of a little girl who had been staring fixedly at him for quite a long time. She was wearing a yellow dress with white polka dots and stood about three feet tall. Of course

he didn't know it was Roxy, or about her problem.

He introduced himself as Mr. Red and asked the little girl several questions. She didn't appear to respond, so he asked her to place a LEGO soccer ball in one of the machines. She did so and then returned and continued to stare at him. He found a wayward LEGO basketball and trying to engage her further, he asked her to put it somewhere when he closed his eyes, and then see if he could find it. This she did, then returned and once more continued to stare at him. Mr. Red turned his attention back to the gathered crowd and his machine. Roxy continued to stare.

Suddenly he felt a tap on his shoulder and looked around to see Roxy standing defiantly right in front of him with her hands on her hips.

"My name is Roxy", she said as plain as day.

The reaction from her family was shock, astonishment, awe, confusion and utter amazement bordering on hysteria.

With tears forming in their eyes they asked each other,

"What on earth just happened? Oh Dear God, did we hear correctly? Did Roxy speak her first words ever? Please say it's true".

Not only had Roxy spoken for the first time but she continued to have a long drawn out conversation with the man in the bright red suit. At this point it became obvious that Roxy had been having silent conversations in her head,

but with goodness knows who. She had the full command of language that any four year old has. She asked about the machines and what they did and seemed to understand their functions when Mr. Red explained them to her.

Still fully engrossed in the machines, she would rush to collect any errant balls that dropped to the floor and place them back on the machines. Many times other children would also try to pick up the errant balls, but she would firmly announce,

“No, it’s my job”

If one of the machines went wrong she would beg Mr. Red to quickly come and fix it. Usually he would bring the tools he needed with him, but on one occasion he had simply forgotten them.

Roxy

immediately ran behind the

display, found the tools and returned with them for him.

A very pleasant and enjoyable day of fun, action and



The Ball Counter Roxy’s

Favourite Machine

reaction with the LEGO machines was enjoyed by Roxy, Mr. Red.

Eventually Roxy's Dad came over to shake Mr. Red's hand. He used such vigour that Mr. Red swears he can still to this day feel the iron like grip.

Mr. Red soon noticed a woman who couldn't stop crying. Copious amounts of tears cascaded continually down her face, as if from some secret tear reservoir, totally soaking her blouse. He wished he had a box of tissues to offer her. This was Roxy's Mom. She couldn't believe what had just happened. It was akin to a miracle.

When they decided to leave, Mr. Red, shaking their hands, asked if he would see Roxy and her family at next year's show. Roxy's Mom responded with a bear hug any bear would be proud to master. It knocked the wind out of him while her tear stained blouse soaked his shirt too.

It was the beginning of a long and miraculous journey. It would have far reaching and happy consequences for not only Roxy, but all concerned. This included her direct family, all her other relatives and friends.

Just two days later when Roxy returned to the nursery school she attended, the staff were astonished. Who was this little girl that seemed to have replaced the solitary and remote child that was there just last week? She had always kept to herself, even during indoor or outdoor activities. She would quietly seclude herself well away from the other children. The teachers had no success in engaging her and

had basically given up. Now she talked, mixed, mingled and interacted with the other children and the school staff. She was no longer in a silent withdrawn world of her own.

In a few days relatives and friends also reacted with shock and amazement at the transformation. They all knew that a minor miracle had occurred. Things would gratefully and gladly never revert to the silent days of Roxy's past. She would continue to interact as any four year old would with anyone she met and started to develop friendships with other children.

Roxy will undoubtedly grow to be a lovely young woman and hopefully have a long and happy life. She will continue to develop her social skills and expand her circle of friends and acquaintances. The memories of those first troubled years will slowly and thankfully fade for her family. They will be replaced with many happier memories befitting Roxy's new lease on life.

It is unfortunate that the end of this miraculous tale will probably remain a mystery. The family and Mr. Red did not keep in touch. The distance between their individual homes and the fact that they were in different countries has resulted in a loss of contact.

Roxy may end up having only vague memories of Mr. Red who brought about the minor miracle that wonderful day in Kentucky.

The legacy of that day will remain with her for ever. It will ensure that the rest of her life is as normal and happy as anyone could wish.

To Mr. Red, of course, she will always be The Porcelain Doll. He hopes she will prosper and live a long and happy life. He also knows that no future LEGO show could possibly match what happened on that miraculous day in Kentucky.



Mike C.

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