

# OLIVIA'S

Ripped Red

# DRESS

By Rebecca Lee



Olivia was a doll in a red dress. She lived in the department store with all the stuffed animals, Barbie dolls, and action figures on the toy floor.

At night when the lights were off and the people were gone, the toys would climb out of their boxes and crawl out of their baskets and go on adventures to the other parts of the store. They had to be very careful when they did this because there were cameras that could see them if they weren't. The toys would all line up against the wall and walk sideways to hide from the cameras. They were professionals.



One night when Olivia was riding up the escalator, her dress got caught and began to tear. She heard it go rip rip ripriprpripr and soon a whole piece of her dress was missing. The Barbie that was standing next to her started to laugh. Olivia looked at her torn dress and began to cry. Teddy Bear tried to comfort her but it didn't help.

The next day, the man in the black suit noticed that part of Olivia's dress was missing. "What happened here?" he asked her but because toys couldn't talk to humans, Olivia could not respond. The man took her behind the counter and put a yellow sticker on her arm that had a big "half off" written on it. Then he carried her back to her basket and put her down with the torn part of the dress in the back.

Olivia lay in her basket all day. Nobody picked her up to try to play with her and she was very sad.

That night when all the lights were off and all the people were gone, the toys climbed out of their boxes and crawled out of their baskets to go on a new adventure. They lined up against the wall and walked carefully so the cameras couldn't get them. When they got to the escalator, Olivia grabbed the sides of her dress and pulled it tight around herself, she didn't want any more of it to get ripped. Teddy Bear held her arm so she wouldn't lose her balance and fall.

When they reached the fourth floor, Teddy Bear and Olivia went to the part of the store that had the children's clothing to find Olivia a new dress. They were very careful to make sure that the cameras couldn't see them. Olivia tried on all the dresses but none of them fit. When it was almost morning time she and Teddy Bear went back to their baskets, "we'll try again tonight," Teddy Bear promised but Olivia was still disappointed.

In the afternoon, an old lady in a purple dress picked Teddy Bear out of a basket. "I think my granddaughter would love this one," she told the man in the black suit. They walked over to the counter and the old woman took some money out of her green bag, which had a huge yellow sunflower on it. Just like that, Teddy Bear was gone.

In December when the holidays came around, the toy floor was full of people. There were mommies and daddies, grandmas and grandpas, aunts and uncles, big brothers, little brothers, big sisters, little sisters, and all kinds of people looking for presents for their loved ones. Olivia sat in her basket watching all the toys getting picked up by people and taken away. Nobody picked her up even once.

By January, all the old toys were gone. Olivia was the only adventure professional left and so she was the one who had to teach all the other toys how to sneak along the walls. She made sure to warn them about the escalator with her dress as proof of how dangerous it could be. She really missed Teddy Bear and wished that he were there with her to help her with the new toys. She hoped he was somewhere safe and happy because she didn't want him to be sad.

By the spring, Olivia was beginning to feel like she would never leave the store. Then one day at the end of April an old woman in a purple dress came into the store. She had a green bag with a big yellow sunflower on it. Olivia thought she had seen her before but she couldn't remember. There were always people in the store.

"Can I help you?" the man in the black suit asked.

"I'm looking for a present for my granddaughter," the old woman replied.

"Right this way." They began to walk away but the old woman stopped.

"Whatever happened to this doll?" she asked, holding up Olivia so the man in the black suit could see.

"We could never figure that out," he replied, "it's a mystery."

"She seems perfect," the woman said and she walked to the register with the man in the black suit and purchased her.

The first stop after the leaving the toy floor was the sewing floor. Olivia had seen this part of the department store before but she had never in the light. It was the most amazing sight. All the walls were covered fabrics. There were black ones and white ones, colorful ones, and even some with patterns. There were also turning shelves that were so full of buttons that another button would not fit. The best part was one whole aisle of ribbon. There were plain ones, patterned ones, and even some with sparkles.

“Can I help you?” the saleswoman asked. She had a yellow ribbon with numbers wrapped around her neck.

“I need to fix this present for my granddaughter,” the old lady replied holding up Olivia to show the ripped dress.

“Whatever happened to this doll?” the saleswoman asked.

“It’s a mystery,” the old lady told her.

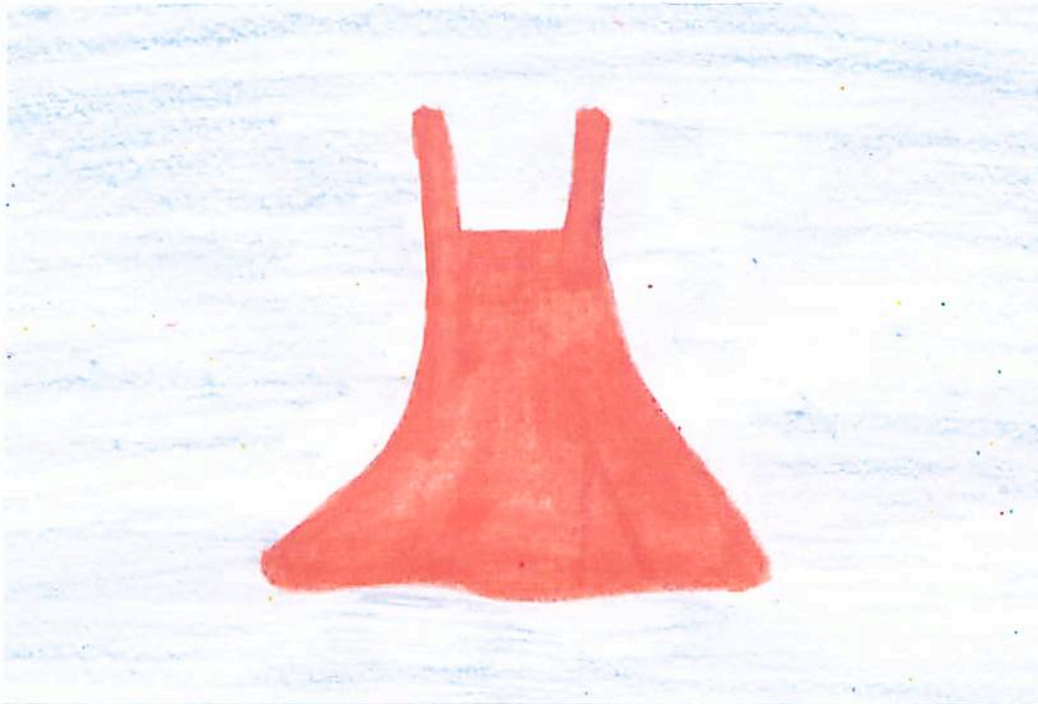
“Let’s get her measured.” The saleswoman unwrapped the yellow ribbon with numbers and wrapped it around Olivia’s waist. Then she measured how tall she was and how long her arms were. The old woman wrote down the numbers the saleswoman called out.

“You’ve been very helpful,” said the old woman as she picked up Olivia and carried her to one of the fabric aisles. First she picked out plain red one that was kind of like the one her dress was made out of. Then it was time to check out. The same saleswoman as before measured the fabric, cut and folded it into a smaller piece and placed it into a paper bag.

“Five thirty five.”

The old woman reached into her purse and took out a five-dollar bill, one quarter, one nickel, and five pennies. She was ready to go home.

When they got home, the old woman slowly climbed the stairs and was a little out of breath by the time they came to a big blue door. The woman unlocked the door and locked it back behind her when they were inside. She checked to see that nobody was home and took Olivia into a room with a white door. In the room, was the most beautiful machine she had ever seen. It was black and shiny with shiny metal switches. The old woman took off Olivia's red dress and got to work on the speedy repair. She opened up the bag from the fabric store and took out the beautiful red cloth. She cut it into a small triangle shape and Olivia watched in amazement as the beautiful machine attached the small triangle to the ripped triangle in her dress.



When the old lady was done sewing she picked up the dress and held it up so Olivia could see it. "Just like new," she said. Then she quickly put Olivia's dress back

on and took her to a room with two beds. Olivia was surprised and happy when she saw Teddy Bear sitting on one of the beds! The old woman put Olivia onto the other bed and left the room.

Teddy Bear smiled the biggest smile in the world and asked Olivia how she had gotten here.

“The old lady picked me up,” she responded. She began to tell him the whole story but he stopped her when he heard two little girls walking towards the room. When the girls entered one of them walked over and gave Teddy Bear a hug while the other turned to her own bed. When she saw Olivia there, her eyes got wide and bright and her smile took up her whole face. She picked up the newly fixed Olivia and ran into the kitchen.

“Grandma, Grandma, is this from you?” she asked excitedly.

“You like it then?” the old woman responded.

“I love it! Thank you!” She gave the woman a big hug.

“It’s almost dinnertime. Go wash up.” The little girl went and put Olivia down on the bed and told her sister that it was almost dinnertime and the two girls went together to wash their hands.

That night when all the lights were off and all the people were asleep, Olivia and Teddy Bear climbed out of their beds. They were very careful to make sure they didn’t wake up the little girls. They went on an adventure to the sewing room so Olivia could tell Teddy Bear the whole story about how she had gotten there. She was so happy to have her best friend back.

The next morning when the girls woke up they found Teddy Bear and Olivia lying in the middle of the room. "How did they get here?" one of them asked.

"I don't know," the other responded, "it's a mystery."

