

PATCHWORK BEAR

Helps Kim

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by Carol Duffy

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CHAPTER ONE

Kim Meets Patchwork Bear

Kim was sitting in a wheelchair in the mall. Her mother was buying groceries in the supermarket.



Kim's left leg was in plaster and her arm was in a sling.

It was very uncomfortable.

She saw a boy walking towards her. He was holding a very cuddly bear.

The boy stopped in front of her.

“Hello, Kim, you look sad.”

Kim did not ask how he knew her name. She just looked at the bear.

“Are you sad?”

“Yes, I fell out of a tree. I broke my leg in three places. I can’t walk for eight weeks.”

“This is Patchwork Bear. He’s been with me for a while. He is yours now for as long as you need him.”

He gave Patchwork Bear to Kim.

“Patchwork is special. He helps sad children. He helped me. I don’t need him now, it’s your turn. You may only keep him while you need him.

Then give him to someone sad.
You'll know who."

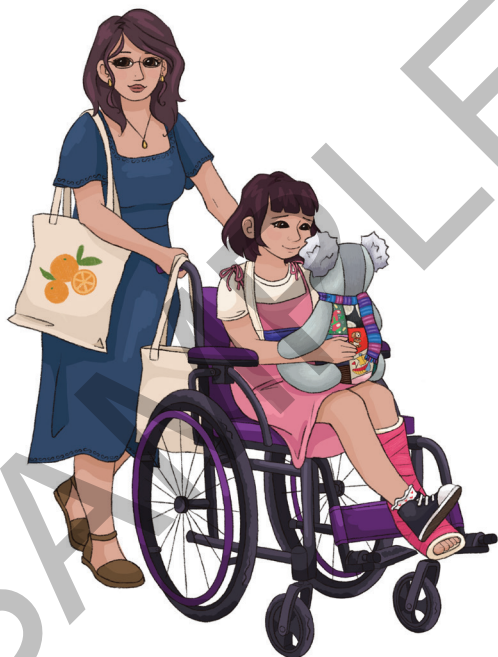
He patted Patchwork Bear.

"Goodbye, Patchwork."

"Why is he special? How will he help? How did you know my name?" Kim asked. But it was too late, the boy was running towards the ice cream shop.

Just then Kim's mother came back. "You alright, dear? Hope I wasn't too long. It's busy in there."

“I’m fine, Mum,” said Kim holding Patchwork on her lap and looking at him.



“What’s that? Where did you get that cuddly bear?”

Mum put her bag on the back of the wheelchair. She let the brake off and started to wheel Kim to the exit.

“A boy came up to me and asked if I was sad. I said yes and he gave me this bear. He’s called Patchwork Bear. He is special. He helps sad children. The boy didn’t need him anymore, so he gave him to me. Just for as long as I need him. Then I have to give him to someone else.”

“That’s odd! Well, I suppose it’s alright if you want it. Let’s get home and make you more comfortable.”

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