

August 2009

The Toys Are Talking Again

Some days it makes poor Gumby's head spin. Workers carry boxes down from upstairs and up from downstairs, and box after box of dolls, toys, tiny clothes, and furniture go out the front door of the museum. Gumby is at his favorite spot in the front window, standing near the metal display tower which holds the "Magnatudes". The Magnatudes are a collection of stuffed animals that cling to their tower by the magnets in their feet. They and Gumby are just about the only toys who have not been packed in a box for the move. As a group of three high school age boys carry another stack of boxes to the door, Gumby can hear the small voices coming from inside and recognizes them as belonging to Barbie dolls. "It is so totally dark in here!" "I hope those crabby old ladies aren't anywhere near us in the new museum." And a frantic voice crying, "Oh no,...my shoes just fell off. I'll never find another pair of shoes that match this gown perfectly!" Gumby would like to reassure her that the shoes will certainly be found when her box is opened, but he must not speak in front of the workers. Instead he wonders silently, "When will it be my turn?"

Trouble the Monkey climbs to the top of the Magnatude tower, swings by one arm, jumps down, and begins to climb again. Poplin the Pig watches him nervously and asks, "How do you do it, Trouble? I can't even pull one foot loose, my magnets are so strong." "Why does he do it might be a better question," Irma the black and white cow replies. "Trouble, settle down," she scolds. "You are disturbing all of your fellow Magnatudes with your monkey business." They fall silent as some workers arrive and begin discussing how best to transport the Magnatude tower. When the workers step outside, the tower erupts in chatter. "I can't believe we're finally going!" "This is so exciting!" "Good-bye Gumby, we'll miss you," Kath the Cat calls. Sterling the Unicorn notices Gumby's lower lip trembling and says with all the confidence he can muster, "I am certain we will be reunited at the new museum soon, Mr. Gumby."