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opening extract from

Bear's Golden Hearts

written by

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On a high, high shelf, in the most wonderful toyshop in the world, there was a small brown bear. The toyshop was very grand, yet the bear longed for the day that he would leave it. One day, he thought, a special child would love him and take him home. But there was nothing very special about the small brown bear, except for the little sack of chocolates that he held in his paws, and nobody wanted to buy him.





One day, a big boy pushed forward to
buy an expensive Power Blaster.
"Here you are," said the shopkeeper, tucking
the small brown bear into the paper bag with
the shiny new toy. "You can have this for free."



The boy ran outside and pulled his
Power Blaster from the bag. Then he threw
the bag into the gutter and ran off, shouting,
"Bang! Boom! Bang!"
He didn't even notice the small brown bear.







As time went by, the chocolates became old
and stale. The shopkeeper threw them away,
though he kept the sack because it was decorated
with little golden hearts as bright as sunshine.
Surely someone would want a small brown
bear with golden hearts, he thought.
But no-one did.





The children who came to the shop liked
Laser Guns and Robot Fighters better than bears.
Some of the children frightened the bear.
They were noisy and rough.
They snatched and shouted.

