

PENNY & THE ADVENTURE OF TICKLE-ME ELMO

By: Joshua Aiken

Characters:

INTERCOM SPEAKER-

PENNY-

CARLTON-

MOM

DAD

DR.PUPPYLIVER

AUNT MAUDRY

ELMO

TV ANNOUCER

BARBIE

INTERCOM: Clean up on Aisle 24! Clean up on Aisle 24! Remember Customers we are closed December 24th and December 25th. Have A Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and Um... oh... oh... right... Merry Kwanza... yeah Kwanza that's it... Clean Up on Aisle 24.

PENNY: (excitedly pointing at each object) Oh I love Christmas!! Its such happy holiday don't you think so Carlton?

CARLTON: (scowls at Penny)

PENNY: Now what do I want this year...Hmmm...Oh that easy bake oven looks nice, ooh and look at the puppies, ooh and I don't know what that is, but it's so so very shiny and I want it!

CARLTON: You are so lame Penny. You're freaking seven years old! Stop acting like your still in diapers and grow up! Penny! Penny..are you even listening to me-

PENNY: (screaming, after seeing a) TICKLE ME ELMO! Oh my GOD! Oh My GOD! Oh My GOD!! TICKLE ME ELMO!!! AHHHHH (jumping up and down in excitement)

CARLTON: Oh my god, you are so-

PENNY: Oh I want one so much. Sir, Sir! How much is this Tickle-Me Elmo doll?

STORE EMPLOYEE: Well typically its 29.99 but I can tell you really want it, don't you little girl?

PENNY: Oh yes I do sir! I positively do! I've been a good girl all year, and this is all I want for Christmas!

STORE EMPLOYEE: Well then its forty-five bucks, take or leave it.

PENNY: But kind sir, you just said it was-

STORE EMPLOYEE: Supply and demand kid, that's how the world works.

PENNY: Ok..? Mom may I please get the tickle-me Elmo doll?

MOM: Anything for my sweetie pie.

CARLTON: What!?

PENNY: Really!? Really Momma!?

MOM: (Laughing, then suddenly serious) Ahahh no. Honey do you remember what mommy said about Christmas this year?

PENNY: Yeah! You said that you were going to get me one real nice gift, because we needed to spend the family's money on more important things. Like lottery tickets.

MOM: That's exactly what mommy said! And when I mentioned one real nice gift, I was thinking something I could get at the dollar store, or something from the neighbors trash can. Not Tickle-Me Elmo! Now come on dear, let's get the groceries and go home.

PENNY: Yes ma'am.

(after arriving at the house)

MOM: DINNER TIME! Come on down kids.

PENNY: Mom, do you want me to set the table?

MOM: Penny, if I wanted you to set the table don't you think I would have asked? Now Carlton, my sweet sweet adorable child, I haven't had a chance to ask you yet, how was your math test today?

CARLTON: Well I didn't really take it. I was pushing Melvin Dimbulberry's head in the toilet during lunch and I told him if he wanted his lunch money he had to take my math test for me. So yeah, I got an A plus.

MOM: Well whatever it takes honey, I'm proud of you.... Penny... how did your math test go?

PENNY: Well I got an A-

MOM: Oh I didn't really care what you got Penny, I was just trying to be polite. (pause) But an A- that's nice.

PENNY: So Mom, I was just wondering since I've been a good girl, if there's any chance I could get Tickle-Me Elmo for Christmas?

MOM: Oh Penny you've been a very good girl. But rights now we don't have it in our budget to buy- oh oh hold a minute, hold one just second Penny. (turning towards the television)

TV ANNOUCER: And the winning numbers for the lottery are 3, 7, 11, 14, 39, and 5.

MOM: (flipping through hundreds of lottery tickets) Are you freaking serious? All six hundred tickets wasted. I'll just have to try again tomorrow. Now where was I sweetie? Oh yes Tickle-Me Elmo. You can't have that baby toy, and that's that.

PENNY: But Mom, it was only thirty dollars! I mean, you got Carlton an XBOX three-sixty, a play station three, and you bought him weed! He's twelve years old, I mean what's he supposed to do with-

MOM: An XBOX three-sixty, a play station three, and weed are all things necessary for a growing young boy. (sarcastically) Now is a Tickle-Me Elmo necessary for a growing young girl? No, no it's not.

PENNY: (whimpering) I'm sorry, I just thought..

MOM: SHUT UP YOU STUPID BABY. Sorry hunny, but you really are acting like an annoying little nasty brat right now, and mommy doesn't like it. No she doesn't.

PENNY: (whimpering)...I'm sorry. I just wanted something for Christmas, that didn't smell like a hobo's vomit.

MOM: What's wrong with homeless people's vomit? Are you being an ungrateful little girl now too?

PENNY: No I just-

MOM: Let's stop discussing that stupid little toy, and finish our dinner. Oh, and I forgot to mention you're going over to your father's house this weekend. He and his... partner are having a Christmas party and he wants you to be there.

CARLTON: Who's going to be there?

MOM: Some of his friends from work, and probably his sister.

CARLTON: Oh great, Aunt Maudry.

DAD: Now kids, I want you to be on your best behavior. A lot of my friends from the university, including my professor are going to be here tonight. Oh and if you see my professor, you might have to help him around the house, he's an older man. But please be on your best behavior. (Acknowledging guest entering the house) Hey! How are ya?

CARLTON: Whatever.

PENNY: Dad's parties are nice and all, but they are kind of boring.

CARLTON: It used to be more fun when we were little.

PENNY. I know. Remember what happened last year, when Aunt Maudry brought you an iguana, and you lost hold of it, and it bit you on your ding-a-ling.

CARLTON: What type of loser says ding-a-ling?

AUNT MAUDRY: (drunk) What's this (hic) about a ding-a-ling?

CARLTON: Nothing Aunt Maudry, Penny was just being stupid.

AUNT MAUDRY: (hic) Don't nothing me boy! You and your (hic) mother treat poor Penny like crap!

DAD: Hey Aunt Maudry, Carlton, Penny come on in here, were going to start the gift exchange.

AUNT MAUDRY: Come on you two!

DAD: Ok, Aunt Maudry do you want to pick the first gift?

AUNT MAUDRY: Ooh sure! Now which gift do I want (picking up and shaking each gift). Hmmmm. I'll take this one! (opening it) Oh my (hic) god! It's! It's! It's...well I actually don't know what the hell that is, Penny be a dear and tell me what that is, my vision is a little... woozy!

PENNY: Its. It's a tickle-me Elmo doll!

DR. PUPPYLIVER: (has a slight twitch) It's not any-any tickle me Elmo doll. It's specially constructed to bring joy and happiness into every child's life!

AUNT MAUDRY: Oh to hell with that... you can have it Penny! I was expecting a nice gift, like... some more wine!

PENNY: Wow what a nice gift... and sir who are you?

DR. PUPPYLIVER: Oh I'm very sorry; I'm your father's professor at the university. Dr. Puppyliver.

CARLTON: What was that?

DR.PUPPYLIVER: I'm Dr. Puppy-Liver.

CARLTON: (snickering) So, you know, I always heard that people's last names are based off of what their ancestors did for their job. So what was your grandfather a puppy's liver?

DR.PUPPYLIVER: (laughing hysterically) Ahaahahhahahaack! (suddenly choking on his teeth) Erg.. (begins stretching the sides of his mouth to put his teeth back in, after getting the back into his mouth grunts) Screw you young person.

CARLTON: (mouth agape shocked)

DR.PUPPYLIVER: Now, Penny please be a dear and come over here, I need to tell you something about that toy of yours.

PENNY: Ok.

DR.PUPPYLIVER: Penny, let me tell you a little more about that toy of yours. Elmo was my special-special project at the university these last few months. I have developed him-him into quite a character, and a fun toy-toy. But Sadly Elmo has one fault.

PENNY: Well what's his one fault doc?

DR.PUPPYLIVER: His only fault is if he manages to kiss-kiss one human being-

PENNY: What type of sick person would kiss a doll?

DR.PUPPYLIVER: Trust me Penny... trust me... there are some sickos out there! But if he manages to kiss one human being, then that person will turn into a doll just like him. Forever!

PENNY: Ok, Doc! I'll be careful, don't you worry!

DR.PUPPYLIVER: I'm trusting you Penny! I'm trusting you.

PENNY: Wow, my very own tickle me Elmo doll. Mom didn't have to buy me one, I got one for free! Hah! I can't wait till I can go to my room at mom's house to play with it!

(showing time has passed)

PENNY: Wow I'm home already! Ok Tickle-Me Elmo work your magic! (squeezes)

ELMO: (non-responsive)

PENNY: Come on Elmo... work...(pressing button again, and again)

ELMO: (non-responsive)

PENNY: Oh..I give up! (Punts the Elmo across the room!)

ELMO: Ay, what was dat for yo?

PENNY: Oh sorry...

ELMO: I mean you ova here kickin' me around-

PENNY: Oh my god..you can talk! And your doll! You're not supposed to be able to walk and talk all on your own are you?

ELMO: Yeah, yeah yeah..I can talk..I can walk... I can do also sorts things (snickering)...if ya kno' what I mean?

PENNY: Um, well you're not exactly what I expected?

ELMO: What was you expectin'?

PENNY: Um, well certainly... not this. Well look, I have to go to catch my bus, but just stay in my room while I'm gone ok! And don't talk to anyone... you might scare them!

ELMO: Whatever yo.

(Penny leaves for school.)

(Mom enters Penny's room)

MOM: (mumbling to herself..) That stupid little girl... always leaving her toys everywhere... even that new one she got last week. (mockingly) Tickle-Me-Elmo! What's all the rage about this little toy anyways!?

(squeezes)

ELMO: Ay baby cakes hows it going?

MOM. AHHHHHHHHHHH!

ELMO: Don't run away baby!?! You can tickle me all night and day! Ay bay bay!

CARLTON: Hey mom, Penny and I are home!

PENNY: Mom? Mom? Are you home?

(hearing muffled screaming sounds)

PENNY: Mom? Carlton I think she's in my room! Oh god!!...(slowing opening door)

MOM: (is tied up to chair) PENNY! CARLTON! Help me!!!

ELMO: Ok baby, now we can make this real easy-

MOM. Please don't hurt me Elmo!

ELMO: Or I guess you can make it hard. Baby don't struggle it just one little kiss.

MOM: But you're a doll!

ELMO: Ok for that, I might have to go Kobe Bryant on your-

PENNY: WAIT STOP! Elmo! Why are you doing this!? Why do you want to turn my mom into a puppet?

ELMO: A few, particular reasons (winking).

CARLTON: Ewwww

PENNY: But why her? What has she done to you!?

ELMO: (tearing up) You want really know why? It goes back to my days on the television show. Back when I was on Sesame Street... See that where DR. Puppuliver found me. I was working long hours, and I had fallen in love with my fellow monster, Rosita. She was so pretty with her big red... fur. She was gorgeous, and I was planning on marrying her. But then that my so called homie g, Big Bird stole her away from me.

CARLTON: Wait big bird was a guy?

PENNY: Yeah, I was sure that big bird was a girl. I mean what type of guy ice skates and-

MOM: Well your father does...

ELMO: BIG BIRD WAS A GUY OK!? Jeez. Well he stole Rosita away from me. Just like every other girl I'd ever loved. So I thought if I got a human, to become a monster, and I was the first monster that human knew. They'd love me, and only me! So then one day DR. Puppuliver was in the audience of my show. Secretly I stowed away in his bag and arrived in his laboratory. There he gave me the ability to speak to humans. For many years I begged and pleaded for him to let me go see the world but he always told me I wasn't ready. But this year he told that I should go spread joy to a little girl or boy! But he didn't know my secret plan....

PENNY: Aww... that's sweet. But that doesn't excuse you for kidnapping my mother!!

ELMO: Well you can't stop me now (bending over to kiss Mom)

MOM: WAIT! Before you... take my life I need to tell my daughter something. Penny I am so sorry I was such a terrible mother. I had forgotten that I have to love you, or else child services will take you away from me, and I won't get the child support.

PENNY: Um...thanks mom.

ELMO: Ok... can I kiss her now!?

PENNY: Wait! I know where you can find someone who is already a doll, and might just be interested in you!

ELMO: Well...ok... but this better be good kid or else your momma's gonna be my new lover!

(scene change)

INTERCOM: Clean up on Aisle 26! Clean Up on Aisle 26!.....That'd be Aisle Veinte-Seis Carlos, veinte-seis.

PENNY: Hi, I'd like to return this doll... I received it as a gift...

STORE EMPLOYEE: Um...yeah do you have a receipt?

PENNY: Um... yes right here (searching through bag)... here we go!

STORE EMPLOYEE: Ok, and was there anything wrong with the product?

PENNY: Well...he basically tried to seduce my mother. But otherwise no, he worked perfectly fine.

STORE EMPLOYEE: Ok well I'll take it and put-

PENNY: Oh its fine, I can put him back on the shelf myself.

(finds the toy aisle)

PENNY: Ok, now Elmo I'm putting you back into your original package, and you can't move around a lot. But I'm leaving it loose enough so that you can get out to see your new girlfriend.

ELMO: Well who's my new girlfriend?

BARBIE: Hi, I'm Barbie and I want to be your friend!