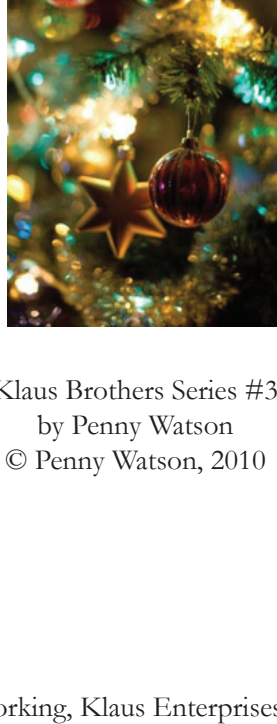


Teaser for Sweet Adventure



Klaus Brothers Series #3  
by Penny Watson  
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From: Andrea De Luca  
Subject: Wonderful Toys!  
Date: October 14  
To: Sven Klaus, Director of Toy Design and Woodworking, Klaus Enterprises

Dear Mr. Klaus,  
I wanted to write and tell you how wonderful your hand-crafted wooden toys are. I bought the model airplane kit for my nephew's birthday gift, and he absolutely loved it. My sister and I were amazed by the beautiful craftsmanship and impressed by the clever construction. The directions were clear and imaginatively presented. (I especially liked how an "elf" presents the directions...such a cute idea!). We will definitely be purchasing more of your products in the future. It's great to see a company that still believes in well-made old-fashioned products, instead of mass-produced hunks of plastic.

Thanks again,  
Andi De Luca

PS, I'm a freelance writer, and I would love to do a story about your toys, especially with Christmas right around the corner. Any chance I could have a tour of your woodshop and an interview? Thanks!

From: Klaus Enterprises  
Subject: Thank you  
Date: October 15  
To: Ms. Andrea De Luca

Dear Ms. De Luca,  
We are delighted that you enjoyed our Model Airplane #3. Please stop by our website to see new products for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,  
Ulrich Munsterman  
Assistant to Sven Klaus  
Toy Design and Woodworking Shop, Klaus Enterprises

From: Andrea De Luca  
Subject: Interview?  
Date: October 15  
To: Sven Klaus, Klaus Enterprises

Hello Mr. Klaus. I see that you had an assistant reply to my note. I am sure that you are an extremely busy man, and do not have time to personally answer all of your emails. However, I am very interested in doing a feature article about you and Klaus Enterprises. Could you please contact me to discuss this further? There's a lot of depressing news out there, and folks would love to see something uplifting and fun during the holiday season. I noticed that Klaus Enterprises has an office in Manhattan, but I couldn't find an address for the woodshop. Where exactly are you located?

Andi De Luca

From: Klaus Enterprises  
Subject: News Story  
Date: October 23  
To: Ms. Andrea De Luca

Dear Ms. De Luca,  
I am afraid Mr. Klaus is not able to conduct an interview at this time. I have enclosed a \$20 gift certificate for Klaus Enterprises Toy Shop. Please enjoy with our compliments.

Sincerely,  
Ulrich Munsterman  
Assistant to Sven Klaus

From: Andrea De Luca  
Subject: Interview and Tour  
Date: October 23  
To: Sven Klaus

To Whom It May Concern:  
I find it rather interesting that very little information is available about Klaus Enterprises on the internet. Although there is a list of trustees for Klaus Enterprises (all with the last name Klaus, I might add), none of their addresses are readily available. I also found a wedding announcement for Nicholas and Lucy Klaus, but no mention of the location for the affair. (Although I must say the European honeymoon sounded quite nice). All of this, coupled with the fact that Mr. Sven Klaus is not available for an interview, is most perplexing.

Mr. Munsterman, you wouldn't happen to be trying to placate me with the gift certificate, would you? (Thanks, by the way).

Andi De Luca

From: Sven Klaus, Klaus Enterprises  
Subject: Hey from Sven!  
Date: October 24  
To: Ms. Andrea De Luca

Hi Ms. De Luca! Sven here. I've been busy working on a new steam engine design. The steam is warping the wood, so I'm trying to figure out new ways to protect it using environmentally friendly products.

Ulrich told me you've been corresponding with him. So glad your nephew liked the kit. I had a great time playing around with those designs. How far has he gotten it to fly? My brothers and I had a friendly competition, and Wolfig won...his made it 76 feet.

Our family's toy-building business has been going on for many generations. Because of that, we don't allow anyone to tour the premises. My father (CEO of Klaus Enterprises) wants to keep our toy construction top secret and not allow competitors to view our upcoming designs. There's nothing nefarious going on, honestly.

Thanks for writing.

Sven

From: Andi De Luca  
Subject: 78 feet!  
Date: October 25  
To: Sven Klaus

Dear Mr. Klaus,  
Thank you for personally responding to my email. I noticed your commitment to the environment on the website which is very cool. I can see from your bio that you definitely have the whole hippie vibe going on (nice tie-died T-shirt and Birnies). We also conducted a friendly little competition with the airplane model, and I won (not that I'm ultra competitive or anything). 78 feet. You might want to tell your brother to work on his technique.

Funny how you keep avoiding my question about where exactly your toy shop is located. I understand wanting to prevent competitors from stealing your family secrets, but come on. There must be some part of the woodshop I could see.

Maybe we could just hang out for an hour or two, drink some herbal tea and chat about how Klaus Enterprises is staying "green." What do you say?

Andi

From: Sven Klaus  
Subject: Travel Plans  
Date: October 28  
To: Andrea De Luca

Dear Ms. De Luca,  
Yes, I am very passionate about the environment. In fact, I am just about to go on a trip with Love The Earth, a nonprofit group dedicated to restoring natural habitats that have been destroyed by unsafe deforestation practices.

So sorry I won't be able to help out with your article. Maybe later in the year?

Sven

From: Andrea De Luca  
Subject: Putting Me Off Won't Work  
Date: October 28  
To: Sven Klaus

Dear Sven,  
Putting me off won't work. My colleagues call me a pit bull for a reason. I am sort of tenacious when it comes to getting a story, and right now, Klaus Enterprises is on my radar screen. I contacted Love The Earth, and they said their next replanting session isn't happening until the spring time.

How about a telephone interview?

Andi

From: Sven Klaus  
Subject: Andi De Luca  
Date: October 28  
To: Ulrich Munsterman

Hey Ul....that De Luca chick is driving me nuts! She's still harassing me about an interview and tour. Did you send her a gift certificate? Any ideas how to get her off my back? Also, we need a new shipment of walnut by Friday. I'm running low.

SK

From: Ulrich Munsterman  
Subject: Irritating Customer  
Date: October 28  
To: Sven Klaus

My apologies about Ms. De Luca! I must concur with her self-assessment. She appears to be a pit bull. I sent her all the approved materials concerning our toy workshop and Klaus Enterprises' philanthropic projects. She is still determined to pester you about the interview and tour. I will start sending her Out Of Office emails.

Walnut is ordered. So is birch...looked a little bit low to me.

Ulrich

From: Klaus Enterprises, do not reply  
Subject: Out Of Office Update  
Date: November 3  
To: Andrea De Luca

Sven Klaus is currently out of town on business. He will respond to correspondence when he returns.

From: Andrea De Luca  
Subject: You Can Run, But You Can't Hide  
Date: November 3  
To: Sven Klaus

I know damned well you're checking your emails, Klaus. Just wanted to let you know my research concerning the Klaus family has proven...very interesting. Verrrrrry interesting. I am following up a lead about your family's ancestors in Bavaria, Germany. If you don't agree to an interview, I'll just have to work on this article independently. Who knows what fascinating tidbits of information I'll turn up?

Sincerely,  
Andi "The Pit Bull" De Luca

From: Sven Klaus  
Subject: Nice Threat, Pit Bull  
Date: November 4  
To: Andi De Luca

Ms. De Luca,  
I was actually considering giving in to your request for a telephone interview, but I've changed my mind in light of this latest message. I don't respond to threats. Research away, Ms. Pit Bull. Klaus Enterprises has nothing to hide.

Have a nice day,  
Sven Klaus

From: Santa  
Subject: Inappropriate Emails  
Date: November 5  
To: Sven Klaus  
cc: Nicholas Klaus, Gregor Klaus, Wolfgang Klaus, Oskar Klaus

Just to remind you boys....no matter how rude and/or irritating a customer may be, we NEVER get into an inappropriate email exchange. (Got it, Sven?). Your mother is making chicken cacciatore tonight for dinner. Don't be late. (Who's bringing the Chinese food?)

Dad

From: Oskar Klaus  
Subject: Even Hippies Get The Blues  
Date: November 5  
To: Sven Klaus  
cc: Gregor Klaus, Nicholas Klaus, Wolfgang Klaus

Whad up, Hippy Boy? Dad's on your case. I thought you were a pacifist.

From: Gregor Klaus  
Date: November 5  
Reply To: All

Sven's in trouble? Not Oskar? Has hell frozen over?

From: Oskar Klaus  
Date: November 5  
Reply To: All

Ha ha ha....freaking hilarious, Greg. I haven't been called in front of the Council for at least...um....a week. Asswipe.

From: Wolfgang Klaus  
Date: November 5  
Reply To: All

Need help, Bro? Who ya sending "inappropriate email" to????

From: Nicholas Klaus  
Date: November 5  
Reply To: All

Sven, thanks for the new work table for Klaus Küche. Lucy loves how you made a holly and ivy border with pieces of walnut and cherry. It's fantastic. Having problems with a customer? What's going on?

From: Sven Klaus  
Date: November 5  
Reply To: All

Jay-sus! This crazy ass reporter is all over me! I'll forward her emails. What the hell should I do?

From: Gregor Klaus  
Date: November 5  
Reply To: All

She sounds like trouble, Sven. Not a good idea to have a pit bull investigating Klaus Enterprises. You should try to smooth things over.

From: Nicholas Klaus  
Date: November 5  
Reply To: All

Do you want me to send her a batch of chocolate truffles? Lucy and I just whipped up a batch. They're incredible. I agree with Greg. You need to apologize and pour on the charm.

From: Oskar Klaus  
Date: November 5  
Reply To: All

Nick, you can send a batch of the truffles over to my place. ASAP. I'm having a chocolate truffle emergency. (Tell Lucy I said hi).

From: Sven Klaus  
Date: November 5  
Reply To: All

Okay, maybe a box of Klaus truffles would be a good idea. And I'll send her an apology (with my damned tail between my legs). The last thing I need is a distraction like Ms. De Luca. I'm trying to get my Christmas orders lined up. She is a serious pain in the arse.

See you guys at Dad's house. Who's bringing the take-out?

From: Oskar Klaus  
Date: November 5  
Reply To: All

I'm on it. Moo goo gai pan for everyone!

From: Wolfgang Klaus  
Date: November 5  
Reply To: All

Thanks, Ol  
Sven--good luck with Ms. De Luca. After you butter her up with some truffles, she'll be putty in your hands. :)

From: Sven Klaus  
Subject: Apology  
Date: November 5  
To: Andrea De Luca

Dear Ms. De Luca,  
I must apologize for my last email. I am honestly going out of town for a while...I have a business trip as well as some charity work. The month before Christmas is extremely busy for me; I don't think I'll be able to squeeze in any interviews. Maybe next year?

Gotta run....my mom's making chicken cacciatore for our family dinner night.

PS. A complimentary box of Klaus Küche chocolate truffles will be sent to your snail mail address (we have it on file from your previous order).

Sincerely,  
Sven Klaus

From: Andi De Luca  
Subject: Sauvignon Blanc Makes It  
Date: November 5  
To: Sven Klaus

Most important thing to remember for chicken cacciatore....fresh basil and oregano, and Sauvignon Blanc makes the whole recipe. Is your mom a good cook? How about we tentatively schedule a phone interview for December 15? It will only take a few minutes, I promise!

I love chocolate truffles!

Andi

From: Sven Klaus  
Subject: Mom Burns Water  
Date: November 5  
To: Andi De Luca

My mom is hopeless in the kitchen. She once blew up the microwave trying to cook broccoli. I'm hoping my brother Nicholas and his wife are helping with dinner tonight. They are both experienced chefs. Otherwise, our back-up plan is Chinese food.

December 15 sounds fine for a brief phone interview. I'll let you know when I'm back in town.

Sincerely,  
Sven Klaus

From: Andi De Luca  
Subject: Charity Work?  
Date: November 5  
To: Sven Klaus

What charity work are you doing during your time off? Just curious. Have a nice dinner,

Andi

From: Sven Klaus  
Subject: New York Children's Literacy Project  
Date: November 5  
To: Andi De Luca

My brother Wolfgang is Director of Charitable Donations at Klaus Enterprises. He is organizing a fundraiser for the New York Children's Literacy Project in Manhattan. It's a black-tie affair. Unfortunately, I won't be able to wear my Birkenstocks. But it's for a good cause.

Ulrich Munsterman, my assistant, will be taking care of my correspondence while I'm away.

Sven

From: Andi De Luca  
Subject: I need tickets!  
Date: November 5  
To: Hannah De Luca Andersen

Sis! I DESPERATELY need tickets to the New York Children's Literacy Project fundraiser coming up in December. Can you get me some? Thanks, little sis.

Love ya,  
Andi

From: Hannah De Luca Andersen  
Subject: Are You Crazy?  
Date: November 5  
To: Andi De Luca

Are you crazy? Do you know how much those tickets cost? Even if I knew someone on the board (which I do), we cannot afford those tickets. It's for the rich and famous, honey, not the down-to-earth De Luca sisters. The boys miss you. When are you coming over for a visit? I hope you're not still bothering Klaus Enterprises. You gotta let that go.

From: Andi De Luca  
Subject: Pretty please!  
Date: November 6  
To: Hannah De Luca Andersen

Oh, please, please, please, please....get me some tickets!!!! How about two tickets...you can be my date for the big night. We'll get all glammed up....come on, sweetie. It will be a blast! I know you can sweet talk one of those board members into a couple of freebie tickets.

Please!  
Andi

PS. You are the best little sister in the world!

From: Hannah De Luca Andersen  
Subject: You are pathetic  
Date: November 9  
To: Andi De Luca

Okay, I can't believe it but John Carlton gave me two free tickets! I think he still feels sorry for me since David passed away. So, you've got a date. Now we need to go shopping...your favorite activity! :) The boys told me you let them watch a horror movie last night while I was out with my book club. What am I going to do with you????? Now they keep asking me gross questions about body parts falling off, if zombies have to go to the bathroom, etc. Thanks a lot, sis.

See you soon,  
Love, Hannah

From: Sven Klaus  
Subject: Operation Pit Bull A Success  
Date: November 16  
To: Ulrich Munsterman

I haven't heard from the Pit Bull in a week! If she emails about a phone interview, just put her off. Hopefully, she's off my case. Thanks for looking after things while I'm in Manhattan. Once the fundraiser is over, I'll be back to finish our holiday orders.

Talk soon,  
SK

From: Ulrich Munsterman  
Subject: Good News  
Date: November 16  
To: Sven Klaus

Glad to hear the Pit Bull is no longer bothering you. However, she seemed quite determined to investigate Klaus Enterprises. I sincerely hope she is off the case.

Have a nice time in Manhattan.  
Don't forget your dress shoes (no Birnies allowed).

Ulrich