

# Best In Show

*by HallowsEveWrite*

Patrick and his sisters meet a fairy and discover the dangers of wishing for things at the expense of others.

The Costume Box

2026

*Chapter 1*

## Best In Show - Chapter One

Patrick was digging through his closet trying to figure out what to be for Halloween. He always struggled to pick a costume, which usually led to his Mom making him be part of a group costume with his sisters.

Evie, the oldest sibling at eleven years old, always knew what she wanted to be for Halloween. This year she had a crazy idea, she wanted to do a “Dog Show”. She had all her stuffed dogs with ribbons on them and she was supposed to be a “Judge”. She had already dropped a hint more than once that Patrick should dress as a dog. Which he refused every time. What would he tell his classmates on Halloween?

That meant the pressure was on. He needed to find something, anything, so he didn’t have to dress as some prissy mutt for his sister’s ridiculous idea.

His younger sister Zoe, who was only seven, would do whatever Evie wanted. Although she apparently didn’t have to dress like a dog, she was going to be a dog owner. Which seemed like a lame costume according to Patrick. He honestly thought this was an elaborate way to get him to dress up like a dog.

“What are you doing?” Evie asked from his ‘doorway’. Which wasn’t much of a doorway. His ‘room’ was actually just a small walk-in closet at the end of the hall. Originally the three of them had shared the master bedroom with three

beds. But Patrick had made the plea to his parents that he would be fine on his own in the tiny space. They agreed as long as he was happy with it. That meant a lot of his stuff was donated, moved to other rooms or in the boxes on the shelves. He discovered that ‘old’ Halloween costumes were nowhere to be found.

“Just looking for a costume... For Halloween.” Patrick told his nosy sister, she was technically in charge while his parents were out.

“We got rid of them. Besides, I thought you were going to be a puppy!” Evie exclaimed.

“I am not!” Patrick whined back, he had told her like a million times already.

“Well... Zoe wants to go play in the woods. So you have to come.” Evie told him, almost demanding him to jump to attention. Just like a dog who loves to go for walks.

Patrick moaned. It’s not like he hated the woods behind his house, in fact the opposite was true. But Zoe would make them play some pretend game the whole time and it would take forever.

“Come on.” Evie said and yanked him out of his tiny ‘room’.

Patrick was exactly right and Zoe was pretty insistent about playing princesses in the woods. She was running from tree to tree grabbing it with her hand and spinning around dramatically. “You’ll never catch me!” She screamed while Patrick and Evie walked calmly behind her.

“You could be like a Dalmatian or a Husky or a Poodle!” Evie suggested to him for the umpteenth time.

“I’m not going to be a poodle!” Patrick hissed at her.

“You’re pretty poodley already.” Evie said and ruffled his blonde curly hair.

“Stop it!” Patrick demanded.

“OH MY GOD LOOK!” Zoe screeched and pointed up in a tree.

Evie, Patrick and Zoe were all stunned. It looked like there was a cat in a match against a small human shaped bug on a branch. It was bright blue and sparkled in the sunlight.

“It’s a fairy!” Zoe gasped and picked up a stick and hurled it uselessly towards the cat who hissed.

“It can’t be.” Patrick said but all the same picked up a stick and threw it much closer to the cat who then took notice of the three of them. It wasn’t until Evie shouted at the cat that it scampered off.

The three of them stared at the fairy-like creature until it looked down at them. “Oh! Children!” He spoke.

“It is a fairy!” Patrick exclaimed in disbelief. “It talked.”

“Well crumbs.” The fairy said and fluttered gracefully and sat on a tree limb that was closer to the kids eye sight. He was wearing all blue and had pointed feet. “Thanks for the help.. I guess... But I had it under control.”

“You were about to be eaten.” Patrick told him but observed the little creature. “Can you like... Do magic?”

“Magic!” The fairy said rather harshly. “I am a blue fairy, I perform feats!”

“He does magic!” Zoe squealed.

“Can we have a wish, for like... Saving you?” Patrick bargained.

“A wish!” The fairy gasped but then considered it for a moment. “I suppose some type of reward is in order. Fine. One wish each, we’ll start with the boy since he asked.”

“Oh umm. Can I have like a hundred more wishes?” Patrick asked, he knew that's what you were supposed to ask for.

“No.” The fairy told him firmly. “One wish and it has to be reasonable and fun.”

“Uhhh” Patrick hummed trying to think of something. “Can I have like a million dollars?”

“What is a dollar?” The Blue Fairy asked, confused.

“Like money.”

“I can’t make money.” The fairy told him, waving his hand dismissively.

“What can you do?” Patrick asked, the wish granting fairy didn’t seem all that powerful.

“Hmph.” The fairy huffed at him. “Something reasonable.

Like I could make a girl in class fall in love with you?"

"No, gross."

"I could make everything think you're rich. That's close." He offered.

"But I won't be able to buy anything." Patrick said. "Oh! I got an idea."

"Alright but it needs to be fun and reasonable." The fairy reminded him.

"Well, you see. In my house we only have one bedroom and I sleep in a storage closet and my sisters share a room." Patrick explained.

"Uh huh." The blue Fairy said. "So you want your own room in your house?"

"Exactley." Patrick said. "That's pretty reasonable."

"It is!" The fairy said and fluttered up to look at him face to face. Show me your room.

Patrick, Evie and Zoe lead the blue fairy back through the woods to their house. Zoe couldn't stop asking questions to the fairy. She asked if she could have a puppy, the answer was no. She asked if she could be the smartest girl in class, yes but it would just make everyone else dumber. By the time they got to their backyard they were pretty certain of the little fairy's powers.

Patrick was all too happy to lead the blue fairy to his little

'room'. "See." He told him and the fairy flew around the room. "Can I have the biggest room in the house!" He exclaimed.

"Sure!" The fairy told him. "I can do that!" The fairy flew around in a circle and wispy blue magic filled up his room. The only thing that changed was rather than a single mattress on the floor it looked like the room consisted of just a bunk bed.

"What happened?" Patrick asked, he was both amazed at the display of magic but also confused since this was not what he had asked for.

The blue fairy smirked a little grin. "Well. I swapped the rooms! I'm no carpenter. I can't make a new room." He told them.

The three kids looked at the next door and what once had a sign reading 'Evie and Zoe' now read 'Patrick'.

"Wow!" Patrick shouted and burst into his new room. It was like a collection of everything Patrick had blown up to fill the master bedroom. The pink walls had been replaced with racing stripes of green and blue. Pokemon, Video Games and movie posters decorated the walls and he even had his own TV with his video game consoles already hooked up. In the middle of the room there was a huge king bed for him to sleep on, a massive upgrade from his old setup.

His sisters followed him into the room. Evie had a scowl on her face and Zoe was a little amused. "Where is all of our

stuff!” Evie complained.

The blue fairy was busy going through how he had found all kinds of toys in the house to fill the room. “The basement.” He told her.

“This is so unfair!” She complained. “This is our room!”

“Not anymore.” The fairy told her. “Now. I think I’ll be heading off.”

Patrick just started giggling which turned into laughter. “That is fun!” He told the fairy who grinned back at him.

“What about my wish! I want my room back.” Evie growled at the magical being.

“Yeah, I want a wish too!” Zoe agreed.

“Well... The thing is... I can only do one at a time.” The fairy told her. “But as a fairy I promise to come back and make your second wish. Maybe in a couple days.”

The fairy then flew out the window with a short wave.

“You can’t have this room!” Evie told him.

“Uh it looks like it’s mine now.” Patrick shrugged. “Enjoy the closet.”

“I’m going to get it changed back!” Evie growled at him. “Come on Zoe.”

“Where are my Barbies?” Zoe asked as the two of them slammed ‘Patrick’s’ bedroom door.

When their parents got home Evie and Zoe tried to convince them to swap rooms back but they were happy to let Patrick keep his new wish granted space. There things had been dispersed throughout the house. Some of them were even stored in boxes in Patrick's room which he was happy to let them try and find lost outfits, toys and school supplies.

Patrick found the whole predicament endlessly entertaining. Laughing and poking fun at the fact that their shared room was nothing more than a bunk bed in a closet.

Zoe didn't really seem to mind and they spent most of their time in Patrick's room anyway. It actually made Patrick feel like he had less privacy then before in some ways since Evie refused to spend any time in her 'room' then she had to.

The dog show outfit was now laid out in Patrick's room with all the stuffed animals and accessories, there was no room in the closet and with Halloween just a couple a day away. Evie hadn't given up on him dressing like a dog for Halloween and even said it's only fair.

Patrick was playing video games with Zoe while Evie babysat again, she was sitting on his bed. His room is the now defacto hang out spot of the house. But Patrick hit pause when he heard knocking on his window.

He got up and gasped. "It's the fairy!" He announced and opened the door to let him fly in.

"I see you are enjoying your room." He said with a grin.

"We are stuck in a closet!" Evie complained.

“Well I suppose that's true.” He told her. “But I came back to give you your wish.” He said to Evie.

“Well I wish Zoe and I had our room back, with all our stuff returned.” She told him.

“No can do, I just gave it to him.” The fairy declined.

“That’s so unfair!” Evie shouted.

“You can’t just undo his wish, make a new one.” The fairy told her.

Evie looked at Patrick. He was smiling like he had actually gotten the million dollars he asked for. “I wish Patrick was stuck in a Poodle costume.”

Patrick’s eyes went wide and his smile disappeared. “You can’t do that!” He told her.

With another wave of his hand blue magic flew into the air. This time they could see the effects of the blue fairy’s magic on Patrick's outfit. He lifted off the ground while the magic reworked the fabric of his outfit. The fabric unwove into threads and his hoodie extended past his hands and the fabric crawled up his neck. “Make it stop!” He squealed.

“He’s flying!” Zoe said unhelpfully.

His hoodie and jeans wove together in the air and slowly everything turned a creamy white. Paw-like mittens appeared on his hand, attached to the sleeves. His shoes turned into paw-like slippers attached to the legs of the pants. The back of the one piece outfit sprouted a tail and large floppy ears

shot out of the hood. Everything tightened up around him leaving an opening for his face, he couldn't even pull the hood down. There were no seams, zippers or buttons. It was as if it had always been a single piece of fabric. The last thing that happened was curly cream coloured soft fur erupted all over the outfit, leaving him extra fluffy. The magic stopped and he landed on the ground in a heap.

Both sisters burst into laughter as Patrick tried to find a zipper or tug at the face opening with his mittened hands. Nothing would budge. "Get this off me." He demanded. "This isn't reasonable!"

"Well it's within my power." The fairy told the group. "And it is a good look for you."

"This is humiliating!"

"Now you can be part of my group costume!" Evie squealed in delight.

"Halloween is in two days!" Patrick argued. "How do I go to the bathroom!"

"Like a doggy!" The fairy told him with a chuckle. "If you lift your leg high enough it'll open up enough for you to go." Now the fairy was smirking. Just like with the room there was a bit of a trick.

"This is ridiculous!" Patrick growled in frustration. "I can't live like this!"

"You look adorable." Evie told him.

“What! I look totally stupid. I have school! Is this like permanent?” Patrick was starting to sound panicked.

“Stuck is stuck.” The fairy said.

Even Evie was starting to look a little concerned. But she pushed those thoughts away. “You’re going to be the Best In Show!” She enthused.

The blue fairy giggled at the group of kids. “Okay! This was an easy one so I’ll be back on Halloween for the last wish.” He told them and zipped out the still open window.

Patrick tried to pull off the fur covered paws or even the slippers but everything was attached. The costume itself was all one piece, it didn’t even have seams, having been magically rewoven around him. The tail bounced against his leg like it was on an elastic and the floppy ears on either side of his head kept hitting him in the face when he spun his head around too fast.

Evie watched as his brother struggled with the impossibly adorable puppy costume. She smiled a little at how cute it made him look. “Is it uncomfortable?” She asked.

“Umm, no.” Patrick admitted. If anything, the costume was very comfortable. “But like... I’m not wearing any like... Underwear.” He told her.

Evie snorted. “Well poodles don’t wear undies.” She told him.

Patrick just grunted at her which made her giggle. After a few hours Patrick had taken more extreme measures. He had tried

to work scissors into the opening around his face but the fabric wouldn't cut. He had almost tried poking it with a knife but chickened out. "I can't get it off!" He shouted at Evie.

"Well Mom and Dad get home soon, maybe they'll help." She suggested.

"You'll get in trouble." He told her.

"What for?" She said with a shrug.

"For wishing me to be... be... A poodle!" He cried.

"They didn't care about my room. I doubt they'll care about this." Evie dismissed.

"I... What?" Patrick stumbled but came to the realization that she might be right. Would they even notice he was wearing a costume? It was almost a comforting feeling when he thought about it, if no one noticed then it wouldn't be that humiliating.

The problem was when his Mom got home that wasn't what happened. When she saw Patrick she started asking questions. "Why are you wearing that?" She asked him when she went into his room.

"It's his Halloween costume." Evie answered for him. "He's a poodle."

"Isn't it a bit... Cute?" His Mom asked which made Patrick scrunch his face at her. If anything his Mom was now too interested in the outfit.

“Mom, it’s stuck with like magic or something.” Patrick complained.

“Well take it off before you go to bed.” Mom said, ignoring her son’s comment and left.

Evie just giggled and snorted. “Good luck with that.”

## *Chapter 2*

# Best In Show - Chapter Two

He couldn't take it off and before bed he realized he needed to use the bathroom. Not only had he been wearing it for hours he had also learned that doing everything while wearing a pair of mittens was almost worse than the fact it was a humiliating poodle costume. Eating with a knife and fork was a challenge and the mittens got in the way of everything. He couldn't play video games with the controller and even simple things like using his tablet was next to impossible.

He went to the washroom and stared at himself in the mirror. His face was surrounded by poodle fur although this was the first time he noticed that his nose had been painted black like a dog's. Just when he thought it wasn't going to get any worse.

Patrick struggled to brush his teeth with the mittens, he was almost surprised that he didn't have dog fangs or something in his mouth. He then tried to at least tug the hood of the costume off, but the hole left for his face was too small to get his head through, and it didn't stretch at all. He eventually gave up and stared at the toilet, he really needed to go.

He pulled at the bottom of the outfit, like he was pulling down his pants, nothing happened. Everything was completely attached. He grunted and growled but remembered what the fairy said. He stood awkwardly in the

washroom and lifted up his leg. Nothing happened.

“I’m going to pee myself in this stupid thing.” Patrick muttered to himself.

He thought back to what the blue fairy had said about needing to go like a dog. That alone made his face turn pink, but he was getting desperate. He knelt down onto all fours and lifted his back leg. He finally felt the material separate enough for him to go. The only issue was that in the bathroom there was no way he could do anything other than pee on the floor, and he wasn't that desperate.

The indignity of the situation made him feel like he had to get back at his sister somehow. He just didn't know how yet. He went down the stairs and luckily no one was there and was able to go into the backyard and walk to where there was a big tree. Just like a real dog he got down on his hands and knees again and this time was finally able to pee. It felt all wrong though. His leg felt tired just holding it up and there was a cold late October breeze in the air. He shivered a little.

When he was finished he tried to imagine that it had never happened and rushed back to his room. Having his own room at least felt like some type of victory since he at least had the privacy he needed to crawl into his bed and pretend he was just wearing a pair of warm pajamas.

\*\*\*

He had hoped the whole thing had been a dream but when he opened his eyes one of the floppy poodle ears covered his

face. He got up and walked around his room. Knowing there was no way he was going to get out of school, but it was October 30th. If it was actually Halloween he would have been able to just lean into the ridiculous costume, today he would look like some kind of poodle boy.

His door opened to reveal Evie, she had already gotten ready for school and was watching him. "I can't go to school like this." He told her.

Evie looked at least a little empathetic. "You could stay home sick." She suggested.

"I had to pee outside!" He growled at her. "I can't do that there."

Evie snorted.

"Stop laughing, I'm serious." Patrick complained.

"Well then you got to go before school." She said.

Patrick just growled at her and went to make his breakfast. He was lucky that his Mom and Dad trusted them enough to get ready on their own so he didn't have to explain to them why he was dressed like a dog to go to school.

After a series of jokes from his little sister about how he should have his breakfast from a bowl on the ground he was on edge. He tried to put on a jacket and shoes before heading out but they were no where to be found. In fact he couldn't find any of his clothes, just like the ones he was wearing they seemed to have vanished.

"What about my baseball uniform?" He asked his sister.

Evie just shrugged. "I guess you can be the mascot."

"It's the panthers, not the poodles." Patrick grumbled. Again she just shrugged.

Luckily the paws weren't totally uncomfortable to walk in. They obviously had some way of protecting his feet from the harsh concrete. "Did you want to go before we get to school?" Evie suggested.

"Umm... No..." Patrick said. He didn't want to admit he had already taken a trip to the backyard that morning.

They were lucky on the way to school to not run into anyone but when it finally came into view he felt a pit in his stomach. He had made a plan to tell everyone he thought Halloween was today but he didn't think he could pull it off. Plus that still left the problem of why he was a fluffy white poodle!

He snapped out of it when he saw his best friend Adam rush up to him. "What are you wearing?" He spat out.

"Uhhh..." Patrick stammered as they got closer to the school and he could tell some others on the playground were also curious. "It's for... Halloween."

"Dude, that's tomorrow." Adam told him.

"Uh, I know." Patrick said, dropping the lie almost immediately.

"Did you lose a bet or something?" Adam ask with a smug

grin on his face.

"Something like that." Patrick admitted and shoved past him and went into the school.

He knew he was getting stares and whispers from everyone, Adam was one thing but he was pretty sure all his credibility wasn't going to survive the day.

The rest of the day was a series of humiliations. His homeroom teacher told him to go change and he truthfully told her, 'This is all I have.' His gym teacher marked down he didn't have the proper uniform. Then all his classmates were making snide jokes or trying to cozy up to him to give him a pet. It also didn't help that the mittens on his hands made everything difficult. He had to hold a pen awkwardly making his writing sloppy and barely legible. He was practically racing for the door when the bell rang.

He knew he needed to talk to Zoe. It was her wish tomorrow and he needed her to find a way out of this situation. He didn't know what yet since the fairy didn't seem too keen on undoing wishes. He didn't wait around for his sisters and ran home, trying to beat the crowd of students plus he had been holding it in all day and really needed to pee at his tree. He grimaced at the thought but he really needed to go!

When he got home he rushed into the backyard to relieve himself in privacy before heading inside. Only a few minutes later his sisters got home. He made his own way inside, not wanting to be out in the open for everyone to see.

"We need to talk." He told his sisters.

"That you're going to join us for Halloween tomorrow?" Evie asked.

"Well... I will, if you fix this costume." Patrick bargained.

"I think it's perfect." Evie said. "Maybe tomorrow we add a collar with a tag or something?"

Patrick scoffed. He didn't mean fix the costume. "It's humiliating and embarrassing. It's making act like a dog!" He complained. "We need a new wish."

Evie and Patrick looked at Zoe who was smiling, the last chance to fix this situation was up to her when the blue fairy visited tomorrow.

Patrick spent the rest of the evening in his room with his sister's. Those two were putting the finishing touches on all three of their costumes now that Patrick had actually agreed.

When he woke up the next morning, Halloween morning, he was greeted by Evie. She was already dressed in an important looking suit with her hair bound up high. "Time to wake up!" She demanded as she shook him awake. "Geeze this is soft." She sounded surprised as she ran her hands through the fur of the costume.

The sensation felt really strange in a good way to him, calming and relaxing which made him want to go back to sleep. He closed his eyes for a moment but was awakened when Evie shoved him off his big bed. "Get up!" She

demanded.

"Why?" He asked and made a big exaggerated stretch.

"It's Halloween." Evie told him.

"It's Halloween!" Patrick exclaimed. "Where is the fairy?"

Evie just shrugged like she always did.

Patrick decided to race down the stairs looking for her, only to be greeted by his Mom. "It's nice to see you dress up with your sisters." She told him and placed her hand on his head, which made him feel all calm again, quelling the idea that he needed to run off and find the fairy.

"It's not like I had a choice." He mumbled.

"It's not like they made you wear that." She told him.

Patrick just rolled his eyes, parents never understand what's going on even if you tell them.

Zoe and Evie came downstairs, Evie in her suit and Zoe was sporting an athletic outfit with a contestant number around her arm. She had a dog whistle around her neck and was holding a leash in her hand. "Patrick isn't ready yet." Zoe announced, holding up the leash.

Patrick still needed Zoe's wish to get out of the costume. "Oh... Okay." He agreed.

Evie was fast to take that as permission. She had all kinds of accessories to complete his 'dog show' look. It took almost half an hour, but his fluffy fur was brushed, a pink collar was

put around his neck with a dog bone tag and Evie even tied matching ribbons to his ears and tail. It was so much worse than he imagined when he looked in the mirror, not that yesterday was any better.

"Come on girls, I think that's enough." His Mom interjected, stopping his sisters from trimming his fluffy fur into more of a standard poodle look. The last thing they added were the pink leash and a big ribbon that had 'Best In Show' on it.

The two girls giggled, he just looked miserable. "Try to have a good day at school, I'm sure everyone will think it's funny." She told him as the three of them made their way down the street.

In some ways today was better and worse for Patrick. On one hand at least he wasn't the only one dressed up. On the other he was definitely the only one who looked like a prize winning poodle boy. His main worry was Zoe. What if the blue fairy visited her when she was in class. He never did figure out a wish that would undo the costume wish and his main plan was to bargain his new bedroom in exchange for freedom.

"Two days in a row?" Adam asked. "You must love poodles or something."

"I guess." Patrick said distracted.

"What's with all the bows?" He asked.

"I'm like... Part of a dog show." He explained vaguely.

"What's with this?" Adam asked and picked up the leash and gave it a tug.

"Hey!" Patrick barked at him and yanked it out of his hands. He couldn't get the clasp to work through his mittens.

"Hey man, I was just going to like take you for a walk or something." Adam said laughing at his own joke.

Patrick just stared at him like he was being serious. It made him think of trick or treating and running around having fun. At least after this whole ordeal was over he would have a lot of candy.

Adam just stared back at him. "I'm not actually going to take you for a walk." He said feeling the need to explain.

"Oh..." Patrick grumbled.

Adam just rolled his eyes and walked away.

Patrick didn't really get any opportunity to find his sister at school throughout the day, it was another humiliating day of girls calling him adorable or cute and boys teasing him and asking him to do tricks like play fetch or roll over. The worst part was when he was going to use recess to find his sisters, but someone had tied his leash to a pole. He spent most of it trying to work out how to untie it, but eventually someone took pity on him. The bell rang moments later.

After school, he met up with his sister's in a usual spot to walk home, kids in all kinds of completely normal costumes started filling the sidewalks. Patrick realized if he couldn't

find a way out of the costume this might be the closest he's going to get to looking normal, even if he was decked out in bows and dressed like a poodle. At least today he had an official excuse to be wearing a dog costume.

"How was school?" Evie asked with a smirk.

"Oh, just great." Patrick lied. "Everyone loved the outfit." He held his arms out, the leash still dragged behind him. "But it's pretty inconvenient, so we should ask the fairy to take it away."

"Think it'll be back?" Zoe asked.

"He said he would be!" Patrick said, his cool guy act wobbled with a hint of worry.

The three of them walked home. Zoe had changed topics and her and Evie had begun discussing the plan they had to collect the most candy during trick or treating. The plan now had Patrick up front and center since they agreed he would collect the most candy.

"I think we should wait for the fairy." Patrick said now sounding worried. "What if he comes back and we aren't here, we won't get our wish."

"Our wish?" Evie said incredulously. "You mean Zoe's wish."

"Yeah, but like... I need to get out of this" Patrick told her. "I can't live like this forever, I bet it's a big prank. We should wait."

"I wanna go trick or treating." Zoe whined. "It's my wish, so I

wanna go!"

It didn't take long for Patrick to end up agreeing to go out. He didn't really think it would work out anyway. He did find time to go back outside to his tree before the three of them went out together.

"This is a dumb group costume." He complained to Evie. "I'm not just saying that because you wished me to be a poodle, the whole thing is stupid."

"But you look so cute." Evie disagreed.

"I like it!" Zoe agreed.

Even though his sisters disagreed with him, they still ended up having to explain the outfit to everyone.