Understanding Perspective & Point of View

Perspective: Different character's points of view. They often impact the way a story is told.
Point of View: The perspective from which a piece of text is written or a story is told.

There are several different perspectives in this scene. List all of the different perspectives you can find.

Circle one perspective of the scene, and retell the story in FIRST PERSON point of view of that character.
Retell the story in THIRD PERSON point of view.

How does the point of view influence how the story is told?
Determine the Point of View AND the Perspective for each paragraph.

As I walked through my bedroom door, my mom came to stand beside me. The walls, once decorated with posters, and the bookshelves once covered in toys and games, were now barren. Only two boxes remained—an old collection of toys and one last box ready to go with me to college. Mom gasped and threw her arms around me as she saw the empty room. My excitement dampened when I realized how sad my mom was to see me go. I couldn't believe today was the day I would be leaving for college, and even though I was excited, I sure was going to miss my family.

Point of View: ______________ Perspective: ______________

When I walked into my oldest child's bedroom, I was shocked to see the bare walls and empty shelves. It felt like yesterday that I was looking into this same room watching him play happily with his favorite toys, zooming Buzz Lightyear through the air. Today, there are only two boxes left. As I hug him tightly, I whisper in his ear that I wish I could always be with him. My heart breaks to see my boy going off to college, and I'm not sure how I'll get along without him here at home. I'm reassured when he tells me that I'll always be with him. I just can't believe my dear son is leaving today.

Point of View: ______________ Perspective: ______________

Peering through the cardboard box, Woody could see Andy coming through the door, followed closely by his mom. He watched eagerly, excited to see what would happen. When mom began to cry while hugging Andy, Woody knew something was wrong. He quickly realized that he would be leaving, separated from his friends stuffed in the box sitting on the floor. Woody turned his head away from the sad scene and came face to face with an old picture of himself, Andy, and his best buds. His eyes lowered, and his heart sank with sadness.

Point of View: ______________ Perspective: ______________

How do the different perspectives effect how each story is told?

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