

Rock Bear in the Park

by Harvey Cazales



Rock Bear sat in his penthouse apartment. He was slumped in a comfy red armchair watching TV. He had just finished a World Tour. Fame and fortune was his, but he was alone.

"I know, I'll go to the Park." He thought.

Rock Bear went down to the garage. There was his car a 'Pink Cadillac'. He climbed up to pick something off the top shelf. It was a motorised skateboard. In large letters it read.

'COOL DUDE BOARD'



He swung the board under his arm and walked towards the Park. Then sat down by the road and pulled the kick start until the motor burst into action. Rock Bear jumped aboard.

"Whoosh!" He was away.

Rock Bear was happy again. He began to sing. To his surprise, people started to stare.

"Isn't that Rock Bear?" They cried. Soon a gaggle of girls were chasing him. He had to get away. He took a tight left, past a big bush and went sailing through some large iron gates marked 'Fun Fair'.

"Hey! You can't go in there". Someone called. It was the Park Policeman.



Rock Bear jumped a large ramp. He crashed through two swinging doors and found himself on a rumbling train carriage. It was the notorious 'Ghost Train'.



Cobwebs, ghostly linen figures and ghoulish neon faces appeared from nowhere. He even got slimed and was relieved when the train came out into the fresh air.

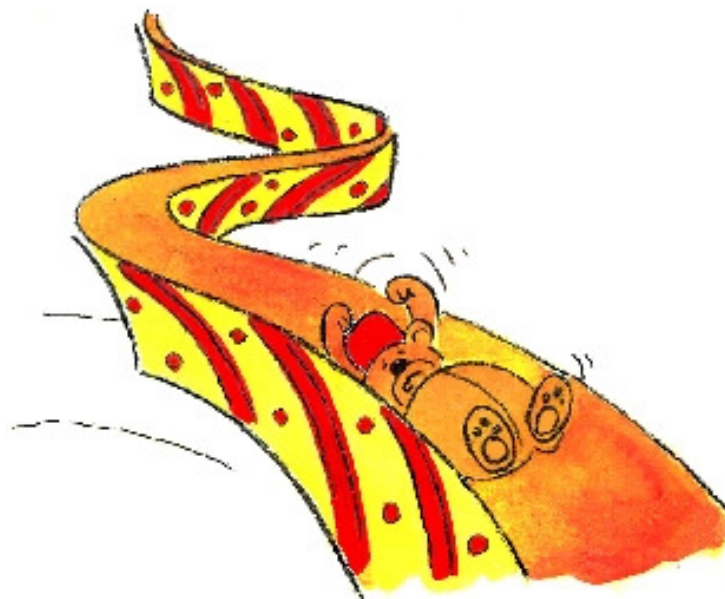
As he opened his eyes, there was the Park Policeman
"Excuse me! Sonny!"

Rock Bear did not wait. He picked up the skateboard and ran off. He spotted some metal steps leading upwards. As he climbed he heard the policeman puffing behind. Clomp! Clomp! Clomp! Rock Bear looked for escape. There was a sign in front of him, written in huge neon letters were the words 'WILD TING'.

He was on the 'Helter Shelter'. There was no way out. "There is only one thing for it." He climbed aboard the track and with one kick started to hurtle downwards. To steady his nerves, Rock Bear started to sing.

"WILD TING! I Tink You Move Me
WILD TING! I Tink You Groo-ve Meee!"

He was now moving at breakneck speed. Up! Down!
Twisting and turning!



"What fun? He will never catch me now!" Rock Bear cried.

Then disaster struck. The skateboard came loose from the track and he went hurtling through the air.



"Splash!" Rock Bear plunged into the River. The water was black and murky.

"Help! Help! Hel..!" His shouts faded as he sank underwater.

"Gurgle! Gurgle! Was this the end?"

"Whoosh!" He found himself being pulled up by two strong arms. He burst to the surface and met a familiar face. It was Moon Rabbit! The crazy drummer from his band.

"Well! Well! What a soggy bear!" Moon exclaimed. He hauled Rock Bear into the boat.

He was very cold and creating great puddles of water on the deck. Moon gave him a large towel and a hot drink in a silver flask. Rock Bear started to feel better.

"But! How come! Why!" He stuttered.

"Hold on! Old buddy!" Moon said. "Take your time and I'll explain. I've just bought this boat, so I thought I'd give it a spin. She's a beauty, don't you think?" He gave the boat an admiring pat and grinned. "I saw this flying bear! It was a strange sight! I thought you might be in trouble, so I came to the rescue!" He also fished out the skateboard.

Moon's speed boat was fantastic. It was sleek and painted a cool blue. It looked very fast.

"Come on! I'll show you what she can do." Moon said as he slammed the boat into gear. They took off with a roar! The power from the engine created a huge wake behind them. They went under bridge after bridge, dodging barges, pleasure boats and buoys. Moon loved going fast. Then they heard the wail of two enormous sirens. They looked behind and saw it was the River Police!



"Oh Dear! Just when we were having some fun!" Moon laughed. "Let's see if we can lose them!"

He went into full throttle and took off like a rocket! Zoom! They passed under at least five bridges causing havoc in their wake. At one point, turning over all the boats of the local rowing team. However hard they tried they couldn't lose the two police boats.

"Watch this!" Moon said. He swung the boat around and headed straight for the oncoming police launches.

"Oh No!" Rock Bear shouted and buried his head in his hands.

"Jumping Truncheons!" The astonished River Police gasped.

At the very last moment one of the police boats managed to swing away. Moon raced the speed boat through the vacant gap. The first police launch was not so lucky. It hit a low buoy and leapt thirty feet in the air. It landed with a 'K-Thump!' in the middle of an open barge. The other police boat stopped to check the fate of their fellow officers. Someone would have to explain to the police chief.

A worried Rock Bear knew he had enough excitement for one day.

"I would like you to drop me off!" Rock Bear asked.

"Can't take the pace." Moon laughed.

They pulled alongside a jetty by the park. Rock Bear couldn't wait to get out. It felt good to be on dry land. He tucked the skateboard under his arm and said goodbye.

Moon slammed the throttle into full gear and headed towards the mouth of the river. He started to sing.

"I've got to go down to the sea to-day! Hee! Hee! Ha! Ha!"
"Crazy Guy!" Rock Bear murmured. He wanted to get home. The quickest way was through the park. He was starting to relax, when he heard a voice he recognised.

"Hey you! I want a serious word."



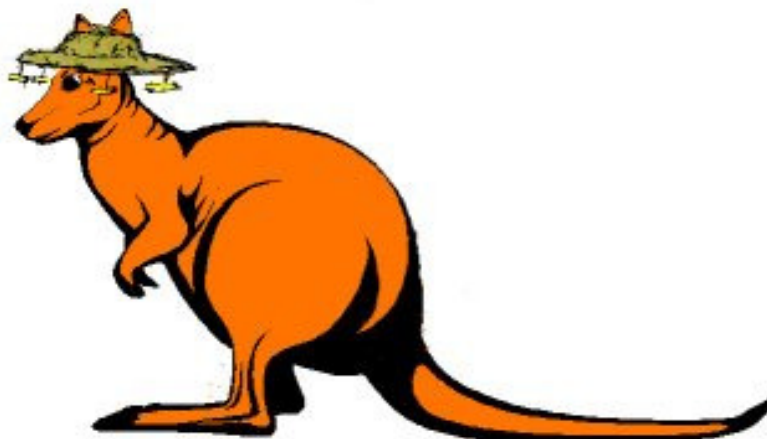
It was the Park Policeman again! He stood with his arms folded and was looking very angry.

Rock Bear didn't want any more trouble. He quickly pulled the kick start on the skate board. It spluttered! He tried again. It spluttered again. He gave a last desperate tug.

Rip! Rip! Roar-r-r..! The motor came back to life. He jumped aboard and was off!

The policeman could only stare in disbelief. He blew his whistle. Rock Bear didn't hear as he went flying down the road. He hit a small bump, cleared a wire fence and landed in some sort of enclosure. He was just gathering speed again when "Ker-Plunk!"

He hit something very big and soft! It was a Wallaby!



All the lights went out! Rock Bear appeared to be on another planet. He wandered weightless. Was he dead? Was this Heaven? Would he be happy? All his questions went unanswered.

"Rock Bear!" A soft voice called "Rock Bear!"

The dream seemed to lift. He started to wake up. There was a pair of pretty blue eyes staring down at him. It was a beautiful nurse. He was in hospital! He felt bruised and bashed all over. As he tried to move he groaned. His right leg hurt. It was in plaster.

"Is everything all right? It will hurt at first!" The nurse said calmly. Rock Bear thought she was nice and soon forgot his pain.

"What happened? How did I get here?" He asked.

She passed him a paper lying on the bed. The front page of the Daily Bun read :

'Rock Bear, the lead singer of the international pop group 'The Beartles' was involved in a mysterious crash yesterday as he rode his motorised skateboard around a local park. He ran into one of the Park's Zoo animals "Mr Bruce Wallaby". Luckily Mr Wallaby was unhurt in the incident.'

"Strewth Mate! This mad Pom Bear came out of nowhere! Near caused me to lose the corks on me bush hat!" Mr Wallaby said.

"So the Wallaby's OK!" Rock Bear sighed. At that moment the door of the room burst open and in walked the other members of his band. Bruno Bear the bass player, Charlie the lead guitarist and of course Moon Rabbit, his crazy drummer.



"Never a dull moment, my man!" Moon said. He produced some guitars and the band began to tune up. "I'll improvise with my sticks on the iron bed post."

"In that case I should sing!" Rock Bear said.

Soon Rock Bear's room was full of patients and staff listening to the band. He sang the last words of the song to the pretty nurse. She was very pleased. Every one cheered, when he finished. But the nurse kissed him. Rock Bear was happy again!



ROCK BEAR'S SONG

You know it's Great to be Alive
On a day like today
You know it mustn't be given away
You've got to enjoy
Every Moment, Every Day

You know it's Great to be Alive
On a day like today

If you took your time
And looked around
You'd find
What you really want to see
Don't let your dreams go
Let them be

You know it's Great to be Alive
On a day like today

Love conquers everything
Love conquers fear
Love is the answer
To what's being asked here

You know it's Great to be Alive
On a day like today
You know it's Great to be in Love
On a day like today

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