

The Adventures of Red Dog & Bat Devil

The title 'The Adventures of Red Dog & Bat Devil' is written in large, colorful, 3D block letters. 'The' is green, 'Adventures of' is white with a green outline, 'Red' is orange, 'Dog' is purple, '&' is red, 'Bat' is green, and 'Devil' is blue. Surrounding the text are four illustrations: a dog on a blue motorcycle, a dog on a red motorcycle, a dog on a red motorcycle, and a dog on a red motorcycle.

12. Bonnie Doon

When Devil crawled out of his swag just before dawn he found Red rummaging around in the trailer. "I'm looking for the Black Knight, I can't find it anywhere" said Red. Red had broken into a cold sweat and was hyperventilating. "When did you last see it?" asked Devil. "It was still wrapped in a rag and lying in the tool box a couple of days ago." Bat heard the commotion and came to see what all the fuss was about. "Is this what you're looking for?" asked Bat, presenting Red with the Black Knight. "Sorry matie" said Bat, "I just wanted to polish it one more time. I kept it with me in my swag all night." Red could have throttled him there and then. "He's hard to live with, but he'd be hard to live without" mumbled Devil, while Bat did a few steps from the Tennessee Wig Walk!



"trespassers will be shot." "Encouraging isn't it?" said Dog.

A rambling 1900's farm house sat in the shade of some large fig trees. On the veranda was a lonely wicker chair. A large cat sat sunning itself on a window sill. The front door was open and Aunt Agnes was standing in the doorway, watching. The old lady was stooped with age. She peered into the distance trying to make out who was standing at her gate. "We have news of Bald Bob" shouted Red. "What?" came the reply. "She's as deaf as a Bat" said Dog, "careful" said Bat, "in any case, it's as blind as a Bat." "She's probably that too" quipped Devil who was ready to leave the Black Knight at the gate and hit the road.

They arrived at Grass Valley Farm at exactly 10am. The rusty old gate was locked. There were two notices on the gate - "beware of the dog" and

Aunt Agnes slowly walked over to the gate using her rifle as a walking stick. A kelpie cross was snapping at her heels. "Bones, sit" she commanded. Bones did as he was told, and so did Dog until he realised she wasn't talking

to him! Aunt Agnes must have been 90 if she was a day. She was unkept but well fed. She wore an apron which hadn't been washed in weeks. It was covered in vegemite or engine grease, they couldn't be sure and a dead mouse was sticking out of one of the pockets. "We have news of Bald Bob" said Red. The old woman looked up in disbelief. Red handed her the Black Knight and said "Bald Bob said to give this to you." Aunt Agnes looked lovingly at the chess piece. She ran her weathered hands over the little carving and after a long time she said "yes, that's Bald Bob's. Come in, if I'd known you were coming I'd have cleaned the dunny!"

The first mention of a toilet reminded Bat that he needed to go. "Where is the toilet?" asked Bat. "If you want to pee, it's over there behind the big tree. If you want to poo, come with me." All of a sudden Bat didn't need to poo anymore and he wandered over to the big tree.

Aunt Agnes took them inside her humble home. The lounge room walls were papered with press clippings of Bald Bob. On the mantel piece were the chess men she had received over the years. "He's been on the run for 30 years" said Aunt Agnes. "That's my husband's bike he's riding." Then she placed the Black Knight that Red had given her next to others, shuffling them gently along the mantel to make room for the new piece. "You've made my day" she said.

She never asked where they had seen Bald Bob and they never told her. "I'll make tea" said Aunt Agnes and she hobbled into the kitchen; the rifle was safely tucked away in the gun box. The tea was served from a crazed tea pot into dirty, cracked cups, but it was thick and treacly and the best they had ever tasted.

"How about I make us all a vegemite sandwich" said Aunt Agnes, as she scraped at one of the vegemite skids on her apron. Red declined much to everyone's relief. Aunt Agnes noticed Devil eyeing the dead mouse in her apron pocket. "O' don't worry about that, it's a gift from Ned Kelly the cat. Would you like it?" She offered the mouse to Devil. Devil's natural instinct was to take the mouse and eat it there and then, bones and all. Then he remembered who he had become and said "some other time." "There's Karaoke at the pub tonight if you'd care to join me" said Aunt Agnes. Red continued to make their excuses.

"We must go" said Red and they all stood up in unison! "Call again won't you" said Aunt Agnes and then she left them alone to fend off the playful nature of Bones. "Last one at the bakery buys the pies" said Dog. That was the only encouragement they needed to leave Grass Valley Farm and Aunt Agnes behind in a cloud of dust.

Stay Cool
The Skink



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