

The Adventures of Red Dog Bat & Devil



16. Devil's Island

Devil wasn't born in Tasmania. Devil's mother and father weren't born in Tasmania. Devil had never been to Tasmania but he always said "I am a Tasmanian Devil, I am a Tasmanian, how can I be anything else?"

As soon as the ferry docked in Devonport, the boys were revving up their H-D's in anticipation of a new place to explore. At the first opportunity Devil pulled over to the side of the road and took his first steps on Tasmanian soil. Devil looked around and sniffed the air, "smells like heaven to me." "All I can smell is rotting kelp and sea bird poop" said Red. "Just goes to show, it's whatever hoots your hooter" said Dog.

Their first ride was to a wild life sanctuary on the outskirts of Devonport. Devil had read about this little orphanage and was very keen to make it their first stop. As soon as the boys were through the gate the little devils recognised Devil as one of their own and came running over to say hello. For a moment Devil wanted to gather them in his arms and tell them "it will

all turn out ok." Then he remembered they weren't toilet trained and he patted them on the head instead. The little devils were being minded by a hyena who was an exchange student from South Africa. "Howzit, I'm Jippy" said the hyena with a grin. "G'day" said Devil, "I'm Devil and this is Dog, Red and Bat." "Come this way" said Jippy, "I'll show you around."

So the boys followed Jippy, and the little devils followed the boys, on a guided tour of the establishment. Jippy was full of himself. He started every sentence with "I've done this," or "I've built that" when in fact he had only been at the sanctuary for one month. Still the little devils thought the world of Jippy and he cared for them all the same. When the tour was over Jippy said "there's a neat little restaurant down the road, why don't you join me for a burger tonight?" The invitation took the boys by surprise and Red accepted without thinking about it.

"What did you go and say yes for?" asked Bat. "It'll be ok" said Red, "no doubt they'll do vegie burgers too."



When the boys arrived at the restaurant the blackboard menu stopped Red fair in his tracks. The restaurant served



Australian game burgers - kangaroo, emu and crocodile.



"I'll never understand the fascination for game meat" said Dog, making light of the situation.



"Me neither" said Devil, "they've spent thousands of years refining the taste of beef, lamb and pork and yet some punters still want to eat the wildlife."



"It's ok" said Red but his eyes showed his true feelings. Jippy seemed oblivious to Red's situation.



"I'll have an 8oz kangaroo burger with Joey fries" said Jippy. "What the hell are Joey fries?" asked Red.



"Relax, dude" said Jippy. "They're just thinly cut potato fries; great name hey?" Red didn't take too kindly to being told to "relax" by the teenager and said "do they serve hyena burgers in South Africa?"



"No way" said Jippy, "protected species us hyenas, anyway, you wouldn't want to eat hyena, dude, it's tough and full of gristle."



Dog and Devil both ordered emu burgers. Red thought that Dog and Devil occasionally ate kangaroo, but never in his company.



Jippy savoured his kangaroo burger one mouthful

at a time. Every time he swallowed he found a few words to describe the taste sensation, "you know vegetarians make the best burgers in the world" said Jippy. At one point Jippy called the waitress over and asked "what variety of kangaroo is this?" The waitress replied "Red Kangaroo, delicious ain't it?" That was the last straw. Red turned to Dog and said "this guy is really trying to wind me up. The evening dragged on long and slow. Jippy did most of the talking. Apparently this little dude had been to more places and done more things than all the boys put together. As soon as Jippy drew breath Red said "must be time you were in bed" and then he got up from the table without waiting for a reply. Jippy looked completely bewildered by the quick departure.

"Give the kid a break" said Devil, "he's a smart little dude, it's just his emotional development hasn't kicked in yet." Dog shot Devil a quizzical look, as this level of wisdom was virtually unheard of coming from Devil's lips. But Red was incensed and called out to the proprietor as he left the restaurant, "There's a 1000 bucks in it for you if you can get hyena burgers on the menu by tomorrow night!"

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The Skink

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