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RATTICUS & REIDAR

by Alana Valentine

EXTRACT

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RATTICUS comes on stage, he is singing (to the tune of 'Frog Went a Courtin').

RATTICUS Ratticus, he went downtown, uh-huh
Ratticus, he went downtown, uh-huh
Ratticus, he went downtown
To buy his love a wedding gown, uh-huh uh-huh, oh yeah.

Where shall the wedding supper be? uh-huh
Where shall the wedding supper be? uh-huh
Where shall the wedding supper be?
Way down yonder in Australie, uh-huh uh-huh, oh yeah.

First to come in was a bumble bee, uh-huh
First to come in was a bumble bee, uh-huh
First to come in was a bumble bee
With a big bass fiddle on his knee, uh-huh uh-huh, oh yeah.

Next to come in was the big black snake, uh-huh
Next to come in was the big black snake, uh-huh
Next to come in was the big black snake
He gobbled down the wedding cake, uh-huh uh-huh, oh yeah.

Little bit of biscuit on the shelf, uh-huh
Little bit of biscuit on the shelf, uh-huh
Little bit of biscuit on the shelf
Think I might eat it up all myself, uh-huh uh huh, oh yeah.

RATTICUS begins to eat the bit of biscuit he has found, he continues humming to himself as REIDAR the rat enters.

REIDAR Oi.

RATTICUS Mmm?

REIDAR What do you think you're doing?

RATTICUS Well, I'm eating this little bit of biscuit that I found sitting on the shelf.

REIDAR I can see that. I asked you what you think you're doing?

RATTICUS Well, I'm providing nutrition for myself, nutrition being a very important part of maintaining a healthy looking coat and strong (gulp) teeth.

REIDAR has moved forward and is bearing his front teeth at RATTICUS.

REIDAR That was my little bit of biscuit.

RATTICUS Well, it didn't have your name on it.

REIDAR It doesn't have to have my name on it.

RATTICUS Why not?

REIDAR Because I'm rough as bags and twice as nasty.

RATTICUS I'm beginning to comprehend that.

REIDAR Well comprende faster mate or I'll have your blood for breakfast!

RATTICUS I suppose now that I've eaten your little bit of biscuit that figures as a distinct possibility.

REIDAR Last time I saw a mouth like yours mate, it had a hook in it!

RATTICUS I'm sorry?

REIDAR I'm telling you to shut your trap mate.

RATTICUS My trap?

REIDAR Your mouth. You won't get anywhere around here by showing more toe than a Roman sandal.

RATTICUS I'm so sorry, I'm having a little bit of trouble understanding the local colloquialisms. Are you asking me to be more circumspect in my responses?

REIDAR SHUT UP!

Pause.

REIDAR You're new.

RATTICUS nods.

REIDAR You come off one of them...what do they call them....boats?

RATTICUS shakes his head.

REIDAR Floats?

RATTICUS shakes his head with a smaller shake as REIDAR comes closer still.

REIDAR Transport ships!

RATTICUS nods.

REIDAR So you're a sea rat?

RATTICUS shakes his head.