



Boris the Dancing Beaver

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"Boris the Beaver"

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Dancing Boris drawing courtesy of Jacki Charsley

Boris is a Russian beaver, a member of the Petersburg beavers who have lived in Russia for hundreds of years.

But Boris is no normal beaver. You see beavers normally like living by rivers so that they can gnaw down trees, build little dams and make themselves luxury swimming pools. Its not that Boris can't swim, he can dive and swim perfectly in the water like the rest of his brothers. No the difference is that Boris really loves to dance.

Even when he was a young beaver, while his brothers were practising synchronised swimming, he slid away to watch the Cossacks dance. The Cossacks also live in Russia and are famous for their horse riding and their dancing. They have a special form of dancing where they squat down, fold their arms, and alternately put their legs straight out in front of them; it is very fast, and very difficult.

Boris used to watch them and then try to imitate them, folding his arms and dancing. Of course he had a special trick, he could put his large flat tail on the ground to stop him falling over, and then he could stick both of his back legs out together! And as the Cossacks whirled and danced around the camp fire, Boris would dance with them in the woods and he soon knew all the dances. He even invented his own dance where he not only did a complete Cossack dance, but accompanied himself by slapping his tail on the ground in a thumping rhythm as he sang their songs.

Whenever Boris heard music he would dance; but his family laughed at him and teased him. "Who's even heard of a dancing beaver" laughed his older brothers.

"Waste of time" said his Father, "he should stop playing around and start pulling his weight; we've got swimming pools to build!". Even his Mother didn't understand, she enjoyed watching him dance, but worried about his future and how he would cope.

Not much later the time came when it was normal for beavers to leave home. The beavers usually went off together in small groups, so that it didn't take them long to set up in business. But none of his brothers would take him, "We need swimming pool builders" they said, "not singings and dancers." And they all left without him. Boris stayed at home for a few months, but his parents had started to bring up a new

family, and really he got in the way. He also knew that his Father did not want him to teach the little ones to dance, even though they loved it.

So one dark night Boris left home and walked through the woods to his favourite Cossack Camp. As the Cossacks danced so did Boris, he danced all night until he was so tired that he fell into a dreamless sleep. The following morning, after a cup of strong acorn coffee, he sat down to think, what should he do now? In the end Boris sat down on an old car tyre and cried. Where should he go? What should he do? Who would want him? Suddenly Boris had an idea, he would pray. He'd been told that God cared even for the little sparrows, so he'd surely have time for a beaver. So Boris prayed that God would show him what to do.

Boris felt better after that and set of to walk out of the woods, he knew that his future was not there. Eventually he came to the edge of the woods and stated walking across a meadow towards a lake in the distance. Now Boris, being a dancing Beaver did not just walk, he sort of skipped and thumped his tail in some sort of rhythm to his walking. The funny thing was the further he walked into the meadow the louder his tail thump seemed to become. Eventually Boris lost the rhythm and didn't thump his tail, but there was still a thump behind him! Boris spun round, and behind him was a white rabbit who had been happily dancing behind him.

The white rabbit was called Rebecca and she and Boris talked for ages. She ran a dance school for rabbits and tortoises called slow slow quick quick slow and whereas the tortoises preferred line dancing, the rabbits wanted to do ballet, ballroom dancing and, of course, Russian dancing.

That night, when it was getting dark (rabbits only dance in the dark for safety reasons), the rabbits showed Boris how they danced, but the young ones weren't very good as they kept tripping up and falling over each other. Boris then showed them his Cossack dancing. He stuck his little legs out, thumped his tail and sang in Russian at the top of his voice. The rabbits loved it. By the end of the evening he had them all dancing, although with their long back legs and their little tails the rabbits had a great deal of trouble trying Boris' trick of sticking out their legs. Boris solved that by having them dance back-to-back Cossack style and with their front legs crossed so that they could keep their balance.

Boris loved it. The rabbits loved it and Rebecca loved it. From then on Boris became a dancing instructor, and toured the world learning more dances, and teaching the Cossack dances. But Boris was always grateful to God for looking after him and finding him a place where he was happy. All that worrying, thought Boris, got me nowhere, but trusting in God got me to the right place.

And Boris is still teaching the rabbits his dancing, if you listen carefully, at night. you can hear the rabbits dancing on the fields, thumping their feet and singing Russian songs.

From the same author on Feedbacks

Felburgh (2010)

Felburgh is the story of a vicar (Peter) and his life in a new parish; one that he has not chosen and that has not chosen him. The parish is set in seemingly idyllic Suffolk seaside town of Felburgh somewhere between Felixstowe and Aldeburgh. The parish, like most parishes, is only normal on the surface and has underlying tensions and vast social differences. The church itself has a third of a million pounds in the bank, some of the congregation are downright antagonistic and quite a few have interesting pasts. The church has previously seen a rapid succession of vicars, who have been driven out, escaped or just disappeared, this has left a legacy of distrust and discontent. Finally, like the Parish, the vicarage itself also has an interesting history, one which soon impinges on Peter's life and not necessarily for the better. All in all it's a mixture most vicars would run from, but Peter has no choice but to stay as he has nowhere else to go, so can he make a success of it or will history repeat itself once again?

Barnabus Makes Someone Smile (2010)

Barnabus notices a small child who does not seem to smile, ever. However, with a little lesson from a peculiar cat Barnabus learns how to make him smile.

Vignette (2010)

Brian is a vicar on the edge, the edge of suicide that is. He has a number of rural parishes and they all contain farmers who are on the edge, or over the edge, of bankruptcy. It is all out of his control and try as he might he cannot deal with all the pain and angst and it has finally got to him. But he is not allowed to find relief in the comfort of a cold bullet via circumstances that are again out of control. However, as his life spirals downwards there is one chink of light, perhaps, just perhaps it will provide him with a way out.

Barnabus Prepares for Bonfire Night (2010)

Fireworks can be pretty and bonfires can be warming, but to hedgehogs they can be deadly. Barnabus works out a plan to keep the hedgehogs safe, but it is not that simple.

Barnabus and the Lost Spider (2010)

Barnabus, the church mouse, believes that everything in his church is in exactly the right place. Then he opens the boiler room door and finds...

Barnabus and Loadza Mice (2010)

Barnabus is bored, in fact Barnabus is very bored. So he decides to invite a few friends over for a video party, unfortunately ...

Barnabus Trusts a Cat (2010)

Barnabus, the church mouse, doesn't like cats very much and certainly wouldn't normally trust one with his life, but one Christmas...

Barnabus and the Inheritance (2010)

A Barnabus Church Mouse Story.

Barnabus gets a surprise letter telling him he's got an inheritance. What can it be? His mind runs wild, is it money? A Mansion? Perhaps it's a ...

Barnabus and the New Year (2010)

It's New Year's Eve and Barnabus is all alone in his church basement home. Have all his friends gone out and left him? he feels really miserable, and then...

Barnabus and the Winter Supply (2010)

Barnabus has been a diligent Church Mouse, he has stored enough food to feed all the mice in his church for the whole of the winter, but then it starts to rain up North and other mice are in trouble, what should he do?

Alien Gel (2010)

Henry is a perfectly normal person in a perfectly normal world, then he is forced by circumstances to buy a weird hair gel. From then on his life begins to change as the hair gel starts to interfere in its own peculiar way. The question is: can Henry keep it under control?

Barnabus Meets Ratatouee (2010)

It's Christmas Eve and all is well in Barbabus' church, that is until there is a scratch on the door and the appearance of a very hungry Romanian rat. Should they say there is no room, or let him and his companions in?

Wilfred's Heavely Journey (2010)

Wilfred, the churchyard rat, is feeling off-colour and down-hearted, so he decides to go on holiday. He chooses a cruse, but it turns out to be not quite what he expected.

Spike and Mother's Day (2010)

Spike the hedgehog has a problem, a real problem. It's two days before Mother's day and he hasn't got her a present, and even worse has no idea what to get. Can his friends help him or not?

Spike Learns to say Sorry (2010)

Spike the hedgehog absolutely loves cycling, but his father has given him two basic rules to obey and one day Spike forgets them, it leads him into all sorts of trouble.

Spike Plays Hedgehog Rugby (2010)

Spike the hedgehog has been made captain of the local hedgehog rugby team, but will his first decision at his first match be a big mistake?

Barnabus needs an Albatross (2010)

The church needs money to repair the church tower and Barnabus and his friends hatch a plan that they hope will give the church the money it needs. Trouble is it all depends on finding a rare and special bird.

Barnabus and Hank the Armadillo (2010)

Barnabus, the church mouse, is looking after his church as normal and has an American guest, Hank the armadillo. However, they do not get on very well until the church boiler begins to throw a fit.

Barnabus and Risk Management (2010)

Barnabus, the church mouse, has to entertain his friend's Aunt. She is a bit of a snob and loves to find fault with the state of

Barnabus' church. She discovers a box of soft toys in the wrong place and has a good moan, but Barnabus has an unusual answer; one involving sky-diving!

Sarah has a problem (2010)

Sarah the skunk has a couple of problems; one being her temper. She just can't keep it and when she gets angry those around her get squirted with her special smell liquid. It's not a recipe for keeping friends, so she hasn't any. Then one day...

Arboreal Love (2010)

Can trees feel for human beings as human beings feel for trees? Not everybody thinks so, but one old lady holds a secret: a secret of a love and passion for a tree that knew no bounds. But could this love be infectious?

The Last Assignment (2010)

They are highly trained operatives. They have been specially prepared for any mission. They are kept under tight reign. But there is this special assignment, could it be their last?

Cold (2010)

Jim Tarrent is an ex-army sergeant turned private investigator following his untimely departure from the army. On solving his first case he gains a partner and together they look like they will make a go of his business. However, Jim has a traumatic past that he cannot seem to leave behind and his partner is probably no better off. Then two cases hit them that could change their lives, and their detective agency, for ever.

The Rectory (2010)

Stephen Holmes is the type of person for whom every silver cloud has a black lining. Up to now he has led a fairly uneventful life. Uneventful that is if you forget that everything he touches has a knack of turning to dust or biting back. So much so that after nearly a decade as a bank clerk he has not progressed more than one tiny step up the promotion ladder; so much so that he's really given up on living and thinks of himself as just existing; so much so that you'd hardly call him a good catch or for that matter any sort of catch. However, a surprise letter offers him the chance to

change all that and to begin a new life, nay a new wealthy life. But he knows that every time someone fills up his glass with beer it has a habit of leaking out through unnoticed cracks, so can it all be true, and are there really new horizons ahead?

Lumen in Let Your Little Light Shine (2010)

Lumen is a glow worm with attitude. Currently he's fed up with being a glow worm and lurned his lights off. But there is a problem, if his light doesn't shine, just where does his energy go?

Book Woman (2010)

Mary is the Manager of a private lending library in the sleepy Suffolk coastal town of Eastburgh. She originally wanted to be a journalist, but following a dreadful accident that she was forced to realign her career aspirations. Mary has a reputation of being rather short with people and fending off chances of friendship, not that she has much chance of friendships as she works full time and cares for her elderly mother.

However, Mary's nicely ordered world of books and home is slowly turned round thanks to an unexpected discovery, a young girl and Mary's changing inner needs.

The Soulmate Agency (2010)

The Soulmate Agency is a dating agency with a difference. Instead of pairing people up they invite groups of people away for a week and run them through a series of exercises to help them get to know one another. However, that is not to say the owner doesn't have a hidden plan of possible matings. But one assorted group, as soon as it arrives, starts to defy the odds...

Trembine Halt (2010)

Trembine Halt is a tiny Cambridgeshire village. Like most small villages the dozen inhabitants have their various foibles, but they have learnt to live together and support one another when necessary, even coping with the odd transitory interloper. However, lurking underneath are emotional hang-ups, hidden relationships, suicides and selfishness. All would remain as it was, except on one snowy day a freight train gets stuck in the village and the addition of the extra person starts off a train of events that will have long term repercussions.

Nocturnus (2010)

John Smith and Jane Doe (yes that's their real names) are ordinary people living separate lives. He as a peripatetic lecturer and she as a night-time cleaning manager. In the normal course of events their paths would probably never cross. However, some events are far from normal and the two get thrown together to dispose of a corpse.

The question is can they get away with it? Especially as it's not just the police after them.

But the story is more than just a simple tale of misdeed and misdemeanor. Jane leads her nocturnal life for very good reasons (well good to her) and John prefers to travel rather than stay at home for equally valid reasons (well valid to him.) So as their lives are forcibly intertwined are their reasons still valid or are they redundant?

The Face (2010)

Brian is the type of guy who likes to have everything cut and dried and his life on a well-ordered track. He's been in the same teaching job since leaving university and spends every summer holiday house-sitting for his cousin George. However, this summer, after seeing a woman's face in a supermarket, his life starts to change in ways he would never have contemplated. However, there is more to come and his well ordered life starts to spiral way out of control, the problem is that he rather begins to like it that way.

Botanago (2010)

Botanago refers to a mathematical formula, which is invented within a robotics company by an eccentric and irascible middle aged research engineer called Albert, who is not all he seems. All would be well if they left him alone to think his mathematical thoughts, but in Jeddle Robotics lie people with ambition and downright managerial ruthlessness that Albert detests. So while he strives to perfect his cherished formula, he must also deal with the rest of his life, and that is nowhere near as easy.

Ruth (2010)

Ruth is a runner with a unique sexual chemistry that combines in almost near perfection with the story-teller; but she says little and wants nothing else. However, as far as he is concerned this is enough, then the unexpected happens and life gets turned on it's head...

Bitter (2010)

Jim Tarrent and Jenn Tarrent are settling down to a new routine in their detective agency following their marriage.

They have the usual mix of cases, but also pick up a case for military intelligence involving two dead service personnel discovered in unusual circumstances while Jim (who still dreams of his army past) plugs away at solving a child hit and run mystery no matter what it costs.

However, both cases lead them into murky territory where simple objectives have morphed into potential scandals that no-one on high wants revealed.

Jims unusual evidence gathering skills and Jenn's organisation lead them further on than anyone else, but perhaps the outcome is not worth the trouble involved.

(Bitter is a sequel to 'Cold')

Sydney takes a stand (2011)

Sydney the frog only has a small muddy puddle as a home and now the council want to take it away - there comes a time when every frog has to make a stand. Unfortunately this time the stand is against a giant digger; can he survive?

Barnabus can Fly! (2011)

Barnabus the church mouse has got himself into a pickle again! He's been teaching the mouslets all about bats, but now he can't find one and his class are beginning to disbelieve him - can there be a solution?

Barnabus and the 'Swerve' (2011)

Barnabus has a lot on his mind; the church want to sell off their ancient pipe organ and he needs to find a way to beat the Red

Rodents at Mouse Volley ball. The answer could lie in something very different...



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