**The Reiver Rat**

**(Ulster Scots)**

**Page 1**

The Reiver Rat wis a bad yin,

The Reiver Rat was a deil,

He took whit he wantit an ate whit he’d taen.

Haes life wis yin muckle meal.

His teeth were shairp an yella,

His manners were coorse an crude,

An the Reiver Rat went ridin –

Ridin – ridin –

Ridin alang the highway

An plunnerin the traivellers’ food.

**Page 2**

A rabbit come leppin alang the road,

Then stapped wi her loofs ower her heid,

Fer blockin her wye wis the Reiver Rat,

“Houl still,” he gowled, “or yre’re deid!”

**Page 3**

“Gie’s yer pies an slim breids,

Yer puddins an teacakes tae!

For I am the Rat - the Reiver Rat,

The reiven Rat – the thieving Rat –

Aye, I am the Reiver Rat o the Road,

An whitiver I want I’ll hae.”

**Page 4**

“I hae nae cakes,” the rabbit replied.

“This clover is aa I can gie.”

The Reiver Rat gied her a scunnersome look.

“Haun it ower,” he said. “Let me see.

**Page 5**

“This clover is maun tae be sapsy.

This clover’s as wersh as can be.

But I am the Rat, the Reiver Rat,

An this clover belongs tae me!”

**Page 6**

A squirrel come lowpin alang the road,

Then stapped wi a shooglin shiver,

For there on his cuddy the Reiver Rat

Wis thunnerin, “Staun and deliver!”

**Page 7**

“Gie’s yer black bun an shoartbreid!

Empty yer caramel coffers!

For I am the Rat, the Reiver Rat,

The reivin Rat – the thieving Rat –

Aye, I am the Reiver Rat o the Road,

An the Reiver Rat disnae go haufers.”

“I hae nae shoartbreid,” the squirrel replied.

“I jist hae some nuts in this sack.”

The Reiver Rat wheeched it awa an snarled,

“Yer sack fu o nuts I will tak!

These nuts, I doot, are weel past it.

These nuts are hard as can be.

But I am the Rat, the Reiver Rat.

An noo they belang tae me!”

**Page 8 & 9**

Some eariwigs come craalin alang the road,

Then stapped an turnt heelstergowdie \* (M head over heels but to use ‘cope carly’ wouldn’t rhyme)

For yelling oot, “Halt!” wis the Reiver Rat,

An haes manners were rugh an rowdy.

“Gie’s yer toffee an tablet,

Yer sookers, choaclits an chews!

For I am the Rat, the Reiver Rat,

The reivin Rat – the thieving Rat –

Aye, I am the Reiver Rat o the Road,

An I’ll naw tak a tellin fae youse.”

**Page 10**

“We hae nae sweeties,” the eariwigs replied.

“We jist hae this braw green leaf.”

“Nae onie mair – it’s mine,” said the Rat.

“An tae ony appeal I am deif!”

**Page 11**

“This leaf is aa dreech an soor!

It’s a pocket an puir as can be.

But I am the Rat, the Reiver Rat,

An this leaf belongs tae me!”

**Page 12 & 13**

Wi niver a please or a thank ye,

The Rat went on day efter day.

Fleas fae a spider! \*

Mulk fae a cat!

He yince stole haes ain cuddy’s hay!

The critters wha traivelled the highway

Grew thinner an thinner an thinner

While the Reiver Rat turnt lumpy an fat

Fae aitin up aaboady’s dinner.

**Page 14 & 15**

A duck come hoddlin alang the road,

Then stapped wi a “Hoo d’ye do?”

“I see ye hae nathin tae ait,” the Rat girned.

“Sae instead I will hae tae ait you!

I doot ye’ll be dried oot an drouthy.

I doot ye’ll be teuch as a tree,

For I am the Rat, the Reiver Rat,

The reivin Rat – the thieving Rat –

Aye, I am the Reiver Rat o the Road,

An I fancy a duck for ma tea!”

**Page 16 & 17**

“Houl yer wheesht,” the duck quacked, “foe I hae a sister

Wi pastries ye micht weel prefer.

I know that she’s keen for a crack wi yersel

An I’m sure that ye’d like to meet her.

Awa in her cave, her deep dark cave,

At the tap o the hill richt noo,

Are puddens an pieces a-plenty,

An there ye may ait till ye’re fu.!

“Lead on!” gouled the Rat, an they took tae the road,

On the bak o the cuddy thegither

Up went the road win ae enn in sicht –

Jist yin turn efter anither.

**Page 18 & 19**

At last they come tae a lonely cave,

An the duck begun tae quack

She quacked, “Guid day tae ye,sister –

Sister – sister –“

An …….

“Sister, sister, sister …..”

A voice fae the cave come back.

**Page 20 & 21**

“D’ye hae ony cakes an choaclits?”

The thieving Reiver cried.

And, “Choaclits! Choaclits! Choaclits ….”

The voice fae the cave replied.

“I’m comin tae tak them!” the Reiver skriaked.

Haes greedy een grew roon.

And, “Tak them, tak them, tak them!”

Returnt the welcome soond.

The Rat lowped aff haes cuddy, Intae the cave he strode.

**Page 22 & 23**

The duck taen a houl o the cuddy’s reins

An galloped doon the road.

Roon the bends an doon the brae

Past bonnie mountain scenes,

The quare wee duck went ridin –

Ridin – ridin –

Gallopin doon the highway,

Bak tae her stervin freens.

**Page 24**

Then they shared oot the scran fae the saddle pokes

An dined the lee-lang nicht.

Lood wis the music an lood the sangs,

An the bonfire’s flames bleezed bricht.

Wild wis the moonlicht dancing,

Canty the crack an cheer,

For noo that the River Rat wis gone,

They were free fae herm an fear.

**Page 25**

An as for the Rat in the echoey cave,

He skraiked an traiked until …..

He fun haes wye oot o the darkness

On the ither side o the hill.

**Last page**

A sleekit, cowrin, timorous Rat,

He reives on the road nae mair,

For hae’s taen a job in a cake shap –

A cake shap – a cake shap –

An they say he aye works in the cake shap,

Sweepin the cake shap fleur.