

Ride

To.

Nowhere

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The sun shone brightly, piercing the crisp early morning air. John had been on the road since early last evening. He was desperate to get to Tiraru before nine that morning. Aunt Jessica had passed away and there was to be a reading of the will at the office of Malcolm C. Mudge worth. He was the family lawyer and had been so for around thirty years. Aunt Jessica was a rather rich woman. The family knew of this and were all anticipating great wealth after the will had been read. John however was not like the rest of them. He had been as close to his aunt as was possible given the fact that he lived some hundred miles or so from her. All the same, he had found his way there quite often. At least once a month. He doubted seriously that any of the others would have been there any more often than they could help it. You see. Aunt Jessica was a very strange woman. Some said it was only eccentricity others said she was mad. Whatever they thought of her in life, they were only too happy to take her money from her upon her death.

John walked on. The sun was becoming warmer now. Dew hung in sparkling droplets from the tips of barley grass at the side of the road. Each droplet dazzled the eye like the glitter of a diamond. Unleashed by the power of the sun. He was hungry. Very hungry. The long walk had exacted its toll on him. At that moment he heard the distant droning of a vehicle. There had been none go by in the dead of night as he expected. Anyway, this was not a main highway" he thought to himself, thinking that he should have come another way. The drone of a motor came closer. He turned and shaded his eyes from the sun. It glared so brightly that he was unable to see what it was that was approaching. Nearer and nearer it came. It was odd that the closer the sound, the more intense the light grew. For the first time

John was growing apprehensive. The sound of the motor had become so loud that it was almost deafening to the ear. Suddenly, it stopped. It was instant as if suddenly switched off by some invisible driver. He shuddered as the feeling of immense unease ran down his spine. The glare of the sun was gone for the moment as he stood in the shadow of whatever the vehicle was which stood between the sun and him. Lowering his hand now, he saw the cause of the shadow. There before him stood a large black bus. He gaped as the doors swung open and revealed no driver. John stepped back. He suddenly felt compelled to move toward the bus though and stepped forward again stopping just short of the step. He looked along its length. There were no markings along its length and he had no memory of any company who ran black busses. Slowly he walked to the door. As he lifted his foot to the bottom step, he felt strangely at ease. He lifted his other foot to the step and as he did so; Suddenly the door slammed shut. He turned quickly in fright and ~~dash~~ as the motor switched into life. A voice spoke. "All passengers please take your seats", it said. The bus lurched forward as John stumbled along its centre aisle. He found a seat very quickly and took it holding onto the safety rail on the end. He looked out of the window. He saw the countryside passing by at high speed. A bit shaken and quite confused, John looked around the inside of the bus. There was no driver, in fact there was nothing in the bus. The seats were gone, all but the one that John was sitting on at that time.

He looked back at the window.Nothing.All had become suddenly black and there was no visibility out of the windows of the speeding bus.

John had become very frightened now and wanted nothing more than to wake up from the nightmare in which he seemed trapped.He took out, and lit, a cigarette.Shaking a little he reached for the window and attempted to open it.With a bit of a tug it came open.Behind it was another one.It was like Deja vous as he opened it again, and again and again as t ough stuck in some time warp.It had become clear to him that there was no way out of there and that he would have to wait until the bus got to wherever it was taking him.Then and only then would he discover his fate.

It took hours for the bus to finally begin to slow down .It jerked a few times and then came to a halt.At once, the doors opened.John could see a man standing at the steps. He stood up and shouted to him,"Stay away"he yelled. The man appeared not to hear him.He shouted again as the man took the first step onto the bus.John recognised him as his cousin wayne.It had been a long time since he had last seen him but that was him alright.John took a step towards him but was stopped with a hard toud.There was some invisible shield between the two of them.John could not get out of there to warn his cousin,who obviously couldn't hear him anyway.He banged on the invisible partition,but alas in vain for wayne tokk the second step onto the bus .The doors slammed shut and the motor started.The bus lurched forward on the road to the unknown once again. wayne stumbled to a seat and grabbed on to the rail.