



Old Bear

Old Bear had been hibernating in deepest darkest Peru (the garden shed) for the last 20 years. Now, it was Covid-19 lockdown time, and a world wide movement had started, supposedly in New Zealand, to put bears on display in windows or the front of houses to entertain kiddies as they walked past. Playgrounds closed, no play dates and just a daily walk option for the young ones. So very different from the normal Easter school holidays. Bear spotting was a very small way to enliven things a bit.

In his youth, old bear had been a loved friend, partaking in tea parties, hanging out in the cubby house, chuckling with the two year old, and sharing the pull out child sofa with the Labrador. He had done everything a bear was supposed to do. The passage of time, meant that eventually, as Old bear started to get a little ragged, he was folded into a large box, along with quite a few other toys and relegated to the garden shed.

Now, he is back in the full of things. A little older, a little more grubby and slightly dazed. He hangs from the porch post outside the front door, along with two other bear friends strung on the garden fence. His appearance has elicited shouts from those walking past, especially parents, having to cope with young ones at home. He will stay there now until after the end of the school holidays. Stoically enduring the weather, and staring from old weary all knowing eyes on a changed world. Old bear has a job to do again, after twenty years in hibernation.