

The Magic Coaster

DJ Kane

“Alex, wake up, wake up, the County Fair will be arriving today, and you had promised Johnnie you would go with him.”

“Mom I’m up, getting ready”

His mother who is widowed, continued, “Eat breakfast and then call Johnnie”

Alex answered, “Okay Mom, will do.”

In a little town in South Jersey a County Fair is a big deal, bringing rides, games, farm animals for judging, and Town’s people from all over.

Life on the farm can be difficult, and lonely for teenagers. Work on the farm begins from early morning to dusk, and maybe more, except when the County Fair comes to town. Alex promised Johnnie his best friend, and neighbor he would go with him to the Fair, when it came to town. Today is the first day of the Fair, which would only be here for the week, and as a bonus, maybe they’ll meet some girls.

Alex finished breakfast, went outside, jumped the fence, and headed for Johnnie’s house, which was next door. Before he had reached the house, Johnnie had exited his house going directly to his truck, waving for Alex to hurry up and get in.” You’re such a slow poke Alex, we’ve got to go.”

“Please, Johnnie don’t break my chops, the Fair will be here for a week.”

As they drove, Jonnie mentioned that there was a new Magic Coaster ride added, and the Barker for the Magic Coaster was a show himself.

Reaching the Fairgrounds they parked, exited the truck, going first to the ticket counter. When they reached the ticket counter Johnnie said, “I’ve got this Alex”, and turning to the cashier he asked, “Can I have two dollars worth of tickets, and can you tell us, where the Magic Coaster is at?”

The cashier replied, “At the very end of the park, follow the crowd, most every one had asked the same question.”

“Thanks” Jonnie replied, and they were on their way, following the crowd.

Alex and Johnnie reached the end of the park, and were greeted by thick clouds of smoke, hovering over the Magic Coaster, and the large crowd. Which seemed to disappear at various times, under the clouds of smoke billowing from the Magic Coaster. They could hear the Barker, but barely see him, as the smoke had engulfed him as well. They decided to make their way through the crowd, to the exit line of the Magic Coaster to ask

questions about the ride, from the riders as they exited. Jonnie asked riders, “How they liked the ride?”

The typical answers were, “You’ll never believe me”, and “You’ve got to ride it yourself to know,” repeated over and over.

Alex and Johnnie decided to move from the exit line to the entrance line, getting closer to the Barker, and as they did, they heard the Barker announce more loudly. “Ride the Magic Coaster, I Guarantee you’d never experienced such a ride in your life, riding the Magic Coaster. Just two tickets, four bits, to experience the ride of your life, or your money back!”

“Alex you go first, and let me know how it goes.”

“Why me Johnnie, why not you?”

“Cause I paid for the tickets, and drove us here and you need me to drive you home.”

“Okay I’ll go, give me two tickets ”

As the Barker came close to Alex and Johnnie he shouted, “Which one will it be to ride boys, is it you?” pointing to Johnnie “Or you?” He pointed to Alex.

“It’s me.” Alex answered, as the Barker opened the car for him to get in. Strapping Alex in, the Barker wearing a sinister grin took the tickets, and said to Alex, “Have a wonderful trip Alex, and I’ll see you soon.”

With a mighty roar the the Magic Coaster began its ascend, up the smoke filled tracks, then suddenly became silent, and felt like it floating on air. It was such a weird feeling. Alex also had become puzzled “How did the Barker knew his name. Maybe he had overheard Johnnie mention my name he concluded, had to be that.” All of a sudden the Magic Coaster slowed down and stopped, the door opened, and the Barker appeared with a greeting. Alex couldn’t believe the ride was over. “Welcome Alex, we are at our first stop,”

“First stop?” Alex questioned, confused.

The Barker continued, “A stop where you will be joined with all your beloved pets you had ever owned, that have since passed. As Alex exited the coaster on his right was a table with a fish tank with Angelfish, like the ones he had one time when he was younger, and he then noticed Rusty, his Golden Lab on his left, holding his favorite toy in his mouth. Rusty, a dog he loved, and cried so much when he died “Mom, Dad and I missed you so much Rusty,” Alex said.

Alex was teary eyed as he begun playing with Rusty, just as they had done, in the years gone by. After about an hour, the Barker announced that we would be going to the next

stop, and we should return to the Magic Coaster. After Alex said his last goodbyes to Rusty, he returned to the Magic Coaster, strapped himself in, doors closed, and the ride resumed. “Why does the Barker say we, I only see me?” Alex said silently to himself, “So many questions?”

With a roar! The Magic Coaster resumed its ride, and in moments fell silent, as it had before, once again stopping, with the Barker giving Alex a similar greeting.” Welcome Alex, we are now at our second stop. A stop you will be joined by your deceased Dad. The door on the coaster hadn’t opened yet, and to soon, for Alex, as he was unstrapped and ready to go as the door opened. Upon exiting Alex saw his Dad walking towards him with outstretched hands, as they embraced. “It’s been so very long Dad, Mom and I missed you so much,”

”I missed you guys also, and very happy you decided to ride the Magic Coaster.”

“I did with a little persuasion, from my friend.”

“Dad, I saw Rusty, and played with him.”

“I know son, I was watching you, it was like old times”

“Should I tell Mom I saw you and Rusty?”

Don’t think so Alex, It will be our little secret, don’t think you should tell anyone.”

“Sure thing Dad, it’s mine and your secret, oh, I forgot Rustic’s secret too.”

It ended way to soon; the Barker announced it was time to go.

Alex’s Dad said” Take care of your Mom, and the farm. I’ll be watching you always.”

They hugged and kissed one last time as Alex entered the Magic Coaster, strapped himself in, and as the door closed, throwing a kiss to his Dad, and whispered “I love you Dad,” and Alex heard a faint voice from above, “Daddy loves you too” as the ride resumed, with a roar, and then silence, until the silence was broken by loud screaming crowds of people surrounding the Magic Coaster which was playing loud Carnival music. The Magic Coaster stopped and Alex unstrapped himself, and as the door opened jumped out, looking for Johnnie. As he made his way towards the end of the exit way he spotted Johnnie. “How was it Alex” Johnnie asked.”

It was just like the riders had told us, “You’ll never believe it, until you ride yourself” Alex answered. “By the way Johnnie, how long was I gone?”

“About, twenty minutes, enough time for me to use the rest of the tickets. Why are you asking?”

“Just wondered,” Alex answered, and continued. “ Lets call it a day, and come back tomorrow Johnnie, and you can ride the Magic Coaster and tell me how it was.”

“It’s okay with me Alex, and they made it a day, heading home, with no questions asked.