

# *Little Bear's Trip to London*

John Herbert Marr

*Exile*  
Hundon  
CO10 8HD

©2013

# Little Bear's Trip to London

John Herbert Marr

Matthew Bear had been staying with Little Bear for nearly a week, and had played with Little Bear every day, building garages, setting out train lines, and reading stories. Now Little Bear was upset because Matthew Bear had to go home, but he was also excited because they had to go up to London for Matthew to catch his train.

They set off early, but the wind was howling furiously and rain fell hard against the car as they drove, which made their journey slower than usual. As they came in through Greenwich, the rain stopped. Mummy Bear pointed to the new Millennium Building, perched like a ring of steel cranes holding a web of wire and peering diminutively from behind a huge gasholder, only to suddenly disappear as they dived into the Blackwall Tunnel.

They crossed the City and parked at King's Cross and went to buy Matthew Bear's ticket. Little Bear was thrilled to see so many huge trains, and was really pleased when they had lunch in the platform restaurant. Matthew Bear had sausages and chips, Daddy Bear had a bacon roll, Mummy and Sissy Bear had egg sandwiches, and Little Bear had beans on toast. Little Bear was reluctant to leave the station, but soon cheered up when Daddy said they could take a taxi. Little Bear enjoyed riding in the taxi, and held tight on the big handles, and he kept asking questions all the way across London, until they reached the big shop. Mummy and Sissy went to buy chocolates and jars of marmalade, while Daddy showed Matthew Bear an ornamental fountain near the entrance. Little Bear wanted to throw pebbles in and they had to move away, so Daddy and Matthew Bear took Little Bear to ride on the lifts until Mummy and Sissy had finished their shopping.

As the rain had stopped, they walked through London towards Oxford Street. Little Bear was allowed to walk some of the way, but mostly he sat in his buggy as he was quite tired. Mummy and Sissy looked at clothes and book shops, while Matthew Bear looked at Computer Games shops. The rain started again as thick as Mummy's marmalade, and they were all drenched when Matthew saw the Virgin Megastore and dived inside. He thought he had landed in Paradise, and the other Bears had great trouble getting him out again. They had to remind him that he had a train to catch, and his mother would be waiting for him.

Finally, Mummy and Daddy Bear managed to get Matthew Bear to come back out into the rain with them, and they went down some stairs to catch the underground. Little Bear was allowed to walk now, for he was too heavy to carry on the stairs. He loved the deep escalators, and the underground trains roaring into the platforms, and jumped up and down with glee as they bumped and swayed from stop to stop.

All too soon, they were back at King's Cross and walking along the platform with Matthew Bear. The train was already in, and so long that Little Bear couldn't see the end of it. Daddy said it was too long for them to walk to the end to see the driver. Finally, they found a carriage with an empty seat, and Matthew Bear lifted Baby up to press the button. The door opened, and everyone said a sad farewell, and hoped Matthew would come down to see them

again soon. Everyone except Little Bear, that is, for he was far too interested in the electric door, and the other trains coming into the platforms, and the huge shiny blue carriages that Matthew was in to have time to be upset by so mundane a thing as his departure.

Finally the guard walked down, blowing a whistle and waving a lamp to signal that all was ready. The doors shut, the engine gave an answering poop, and the train pulled slowly from the station, gathering speed as they waved it goodbye.

Little Bear felt sad then, at the emptiness of the platform and the deserted rails, and wondered who would play with him tomorrow. They returned to the car and as a special treat, Daddy Bear drove down Regent Street so they could all see the Christmas lights before they turned back for home.