



A Walk in the Wenallt

The name's Russell, Jack Russell.

My patch is quiet for most of the time; an occasional terrier may wander up the path to the woodlands but soon disappears when he spots me. I have a reputation to keep up. When I come up against a dog like that, I have a motto: "Live and let die."

And there I was gnawing on the remains of a beef shinbone when I was aware of a bigger presence, casting a shadow over my prize possession. I looked up and stared into the eyes of a grizzly Rottweiler. We hadn't met before and I stopped chewing into the bone and showed him my teeth. Then he showed me his! Steely and sharp edged.

Who was this brute? Had a daft name. Called himself Dr. No, Dr. Julius No, as in yes, no.

Think tactics here. Not one to ask for help, I looked around and spotted a long stick I had been playing with earlier. I picked it up in the middle and offered it to the stranger. He took it between his jaws and nearly yanked me along with it.

I released my grip in the nick of time and watched as this new visitor attempted to go further into the woodland. Unfortunately, he had forgotten a fundamental principle about woodlands. There are trees, either side of the path and, as Dr. No. raced up a

narrow incline, both sides of the stick caught on the bark of two trees, catapulting him back further along the path, landing upside down at my front paws.

“I wouldn’t try that again, fella. In my business you prepare for the unexpected. I’m not so much a problem solver but a problem eliminator. Now just move along and bully someone else your own size but fangs for the memories.”

I heard the familiar rattle of my dinner bowl and the cries of Miss Moneypenny.

“Jack, come and get your food. You need to keep up your strength if you intend to fight above your weight.”

I gave a lopsided smile, a result of getting vertigo as a pup, but made my way towards the woman who thinks she owns me. No one owns a Jack Russell even if she does have the food dish, the lead and the best beef flavoured dental sticks around.

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