

Recapitulation:

A sea-serpent, or lake monster, had been frightening people in the Snowy Mountains area. The Flying Dogtor discovered that it was only Crafty Carson Carpetbag, the sneaky snake, in disguise. But Crafty and Old Man Redback caught the Dogtor, and held him in a cave where there was a dark, cold well of water so deep that they said it connected with the bottom of the ocean. And the Dogtor, helplessly bound up with ropes, fell into this well.

(singing) The Flying Dogtor

IV

The Dogtor found himself falling through the icy water, and there was nothing he could do to stop himself. But within moments <sup>to his astonishment</sup> he felt himself swirling around and changing direction - as a great wave of water seemed to mount up from the bottom of the well. *Soon*

~~Suddenly~~ he was shooting upwards and the next second he burst from the top of the well in a flood of water that swept, splashed, swirled around the cave, knocking over the plotters' lamps and their campfire, scattering snakes and spiders everywhere. The Dogtor caught a glimpse of Old Man Redback shooting on a wave out the mouth of the cave, legs all a-tangle and a look of astonished dismay in his face. The Dogtor's ropes were loosened in the turmoil and he landed on a ledge in the cave.

Then he saw Crafty. The sneaky snake was tangled around some rocks in the cave - trying to get free while he stared with amazement and terror at something behind the Dogtor.

The Dogtor looked around . . .

Rearing out of the well was a most enormous sea-serpent - a real sea-serpent, with flaring nostrils and long sea-weedy whiskers . . .

"GRR-r-r-r" it roared at Crafty. The snake went so pale he lost his carpet pattern. He trembled to the tip of his tail. Then he slipped free, shot out of the cave, and disappeared over the ranges of the Snowy Mountains, so fast that local residents tell that he broke the sound barrier down the second valley . . .

The Flying Dogtor turned to the sea-serpent, and introduced himself.

"So there really was a real sea-serpent in the lake ~~at~~ the time!" he said.

"I regret that is so," replied the serpent in excellent English with a slight ~~foreign~~ <sup>Indian</sup> accent.

"And I must apologise if I have inconvenienced anyone. But I lost my way about a month ago when moving from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific for the summer holidays. It's much calmer there, and I prefer the class of fish."

The serpent threaded himself back into the well. "If you will excuse me," he said, "I really must go now. I was just leaving when I saw you falling down towards me."

The serpent lowered himself till only his head was visible.

"I enjoyed visiting here, until that snake started mocking me," <sup>serpent</sup> he said.

"Goodbye," <sup>he</sup> ~~the~~ serpent added; and then, with a great sucking sound that seemed to come from the depths of a distant ocean, the water swallowed him and he was gone.

OUT

STIRRING BAND MUSIC - then under to end, with crowd noises

Sir Thomas Persian, <sup>but</sup> the Minister of Fishery, was so delighted when he learned that the mystery of the lake was solved that he held a big parade through the streets of Canberra in honour of the Flying Dogtor.

There were Mounted Policemen, and Marching Geckoes, and very important representatives from other nations.

The Flying Dogtor rode in an open car with the Minister ~~of Fisheries...~~ <sup>while crowds</sup> ~~Crowds~~ <sup>and cheered</sup> lined the streets and cheered and cheered.

OUT

While the Dogtor's best friends were given seats of honour in a special grandstand, and they cheered louder than anyone.

CHEERING CROWD UP

THE END