

## Ko te Haerenga

Ko te pō o Whiro.<sup>1</sup> He tangotango<sup>2</sup> te rangi, ā, he tino makariri hoki. I te pārae<sup>3</sup> kei tua o Tāwauwau,<sup>4</sup> i mua i tētehi whare karukaru<sup>5</sup> e tū tōtahi<sup>6</sup> ana, kei te tatari tētehi waka pango. I te whare, ka whakawetohia ngā rama, ā, ka puta mai tētehi tāne me te kuhu ki te waka.

“Hei, Wiremu,” tāna ki te taraiwa.

“Kia oora, Hēnare,” ka mea a Wiremu me te whakakā i te waka. “Kua rite?”

“Āāāe,” tā Hēnare me te hītako nui. “Heoi me haere ka tika i tēnei pūrari hāora? E rua hāora noa iho te tawhiti. Ehara au i te ruru.”

“E kī rā! Kua kōrero kē tāua mō te take nei,” te kī a Wiremu, i te waka e ruturutu ana ki runga i te huarahi tokatoka. “He tere ake te haerenga i te pō.”

“Ai auē,” te kī a Hēnare, me te wiriwiri i ōna ringaringa. “Kua mātaotao ōku raho.”

Titiro pī ana a Wiremu ki a ia. “Kāti, whakakāngia te whakamahana. Me whakarongo au ki ōnawe i te haerenga katoa?”

“E kāo,” te ngānehenehe<sup>7</sup> a Hēnare. “Ka moe au.”

Ka tākiri<sup>8</sup> ia i te upoko o tōna huri<sup>9</sup>, ka whakawhāiti i ngā ringaringa, ka kati i ngā whatu. E rua ngā meneti i muri mai, ngongoro ana ia.

Kei waho, kāore he paku aha ki runga i te rori, hāunga te waka pango. Nā te kino o te rori tokatoka, āta haere ana a Wiremu. Ka haere ki wīwī, ki wāwā ōna whakaaro. Ka mahara ia ki

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<sup>1</sup> Whiro is the new moon, which can't be seen in the sky

<sup>2</sup> Tangotango: Intensely dark

<sup>3</sup> Pārae: Level or undulating open country

<sup>4</sup> Kei tua o Tāwauwau (kīwaha): In the back of beyond, middle of nowhere

<sup>5</sup> Karukaru: Run-down

<sup>6</sup> Tōtahi: Solitary

<sup>7</sup> Ngānehenehe: To grumble

<sup>8</sup> Tākiri: To pull up

<sup>9</sup> Huri: Hoodie

tāna pēpi hou, a Miriama, e toru marama te pakeke. Ko Miriama tāna tamaiti tuatahi me tōna hoa a Moeawa, ā, he pēpi tau te wairua. E rikarika ana ia ki te hoki atu ki tōna whānau whai muri i te take nei.

Kātahi ka ngau tōna puku i te hiakai, ā, ka huri ōna whakaaro ki te kai e kainga ai e ia kia oti rawa te mahi. Tērā pea he motū<sup>10</sup> me ngā rīwai ka tunua ki te umu, me ngā pīni e toremi ana i te pata. Kāore, tāna ki a ia anō, tērā pea he heihei kē, ka tunua ki te tō me te kūmara.

Namunamuā! Waiwai ana tōna waha i te whakaarotanga atu.

Taka ana te wā. Huri ana te waka ki tētehi huarahi papatau,<sup>11</sup> me te pahure i ngā nōhanga iti<sup>12</sup> e moe ana. Kātahi ka puta ake ki tētehi atu huarahi e tokatoka ana, e pōuriuri ana. Ka moe tonu a Hēnare.

Whakapōturi ana te waka, tū ana ki roto i tētehi ngaherehere paina. Oho mai ana a Hēnare me te titiro ki tōna waea pūkoru. Kua rua karaka. Hītako a Hēnare.

“Haaaukei,” tāna ki a Wiremu. “Ki te hoe!”

Putu atu ana rāua i te waka, me ngā rama ki mua e kā tonu ana.

He teitei ngā rākau, ā, ka pā kaha te kakara o ngā ngira pāina ki ō rāua pongaihu. Hīkoi ana rāua ki muri o te waka, ā, tuwhera ana te pūtu.<sup>13</sup> Ara ake ana te haunga o te tūpāpaku e whakapirau ana.

“Ai!” te kī a Wiremu me te waiwai o ōna karu. “E hika!” ka mea mai a Hēnare, e hīpoki<sup>14</sup> ana i te ihu me te waha ki tōna ringaringa.

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<sup>10</sup> Motū: Steak

<sup>11</sup> Papatau: Hard surfaced, sealed

<sup>12</sup> Nohanga: Settlements

<sup>13</sup> Pūtu: Boot

<sup>14</sup> Hīpoki: To cover

I te pūtu e takoto ana tētehi tūpāpaku e takaina ana ki tētehi hīti e tino paru ana. I tētehi pito o te tūpāpaku nei e kounu<sup>15</sup> ana ngā waewae tahanga. He waewae tāne, he waewae parauri, he waewae pāhura.<sup>16</sup> He waewae e pania ana ki te toto.

Tono nei a Wiremu, “Māku te upoko, māu ngā waewae.”

“E!” tā Hēnare. “Tēnā raaawa atu koe.”

Ka nguru<sup>17</sup> noa a Wiremu.

Nanao ana rāua i te tūpāpaku, ka hiki, ka kawē ki te pūtāke o tētehi rākau pāina e tata ana ki te waka. Ka hoki rāua ki te pūtu o te waka me te nanao i ngā hō. Hoki ana ki te rākau, ā, tīmata ana rāua ki te kerī rua.

I waenga i ngā ‘hā’ me ngā ‘hō’ o te pukumahi, pahupahu ana rāua. Kōrero ana a Wiremu mō tōna hiakai. “Ko te (hō!) motū tūāmaoa<sup>18</sup>(hā!) tāku.” Hei tā Hēnare, “Mmm, aua atu te wā (hō!) kāore au i kai i te teiki (hā!) heoi i tēnei wā tonu (hō!) kei te tino hiakai au (hā!) ki te ika me te kotakota (hō!) rīwai.”

Ka taka te wā, ka whakarētō i te rua. Tū ana a Wiremu mō te wā poto ki te ūkui i te werawera e heke iho ana i tōna kanohi. Ka mea ia, “Ki te hoki atu tāua mā te Ara Matua Tuatahi, i Taumarunui kei te mōhiohia tētehi whare kawhe e tuwhera ana ao te pō, pō te ao.”

“Rawe. Hei, he nawhe tēnei?”

“Kāo. Me haere tonu. Me tata ki te rua mita te rētōtanga o te rua.”

“Te rua mita? He aha ai?”

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<sup>15</sup> Kounu: To project, protrude, stick out

<sup>16</sup> Pāhura: To be hairy

<sup>17</sup> Nguru: To grunt.

<sup>18</sup> Tūāmaoa: Medium-rare

“Eo!” He wairua hōhā tō te whakautu a Wiremu. “He hiahia nō tāua kia kore ai te pōkokohua nei e hahua e ngā kararehe o te wao paina nei.”

“Aaa,” te kī a Hēnare. Tīmata anō rāua ki te kerī.

Taka ana te wā, heke tonu ana te tōtā. Kātahi anō te rua ka whakaotia. Takahuria ana te tūpāpaku ki roto rā. “Pokotiwaha!” te kī a Wiremu me te tuwaha ki roto i te rua.

Hei tā Hēnare, “Hei aha māu<sup>19</sup> ngā kupu poroporoaki, kai a te kurī!<sup>20</sup>” Kātahi ka huri ia ki te whakakikī i te rua ki te oneone.

Mea rawa ake, rongu ana a Hēnare i te ngotongoto ki muri i a ia.

“He aha ...” tāna kī me te huri o te tinana.

### **Pakō!**

Tītahataha ana a Hēnare mō te wā poto i te taha o te rua, ko te pōkaikaha<sup>21</sup> te tā o te kanohi. Kātahi ka taka ia ki roto i te rua nāna anō i kerī.

Whakaheke ana a Wiremu i tana pū. Titiro iho ana ia ki roto i te rua me te ngō.<sup>22</sup> “Anā tō kai,” tāna kī, “me ko pīwaiwaka!”<sup>23</sup>

Kātahi ka nanao ia i te hō a Hēnare hei whakakikī i te rua. I a Wiremu e mahi ana, ka hamumu<sup>24</sup> ki a ia anō me te whakaaro harikoa ki te motū e kaingia nei e ia i Taumarunui.

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<sup>19</sup> Hei aha māu (kīwaha): You don't need ...

<sup>20</sup> Kai a te kurī (kīwaha): Food for the dog, an insult meaning 'you bastard'

<sup>21</sup> Pōkaikaha: Confusion

<sup>22</sup> Ngō: To grunt

<sup>23</sup> Me ko pīwaiwaka (kīwaha): You're a nark

<sup>24</sup> Hamumu: To hum