

## THE CASTLE DREAM

(B. Harley)

BILL:

It was really strange, Peter. I dreamed I was standing on this road, and up ahead I saw this castle. I don't know why, but I knew I had to walk towards it. So I started walking towards the castle, and I came across this old woman. She was sitting by the side of the road. She was sitting there like she was having a picnic. She was very strange looking, too. She had this gray cloak around her shoulders, spread out around her. She looked like a volcano with a head on top.

She looked up at me and she said, "You're just in time for lunch. Now what do you have to eat?"

I said, "I don't have anything."

She said, "You must have something. What's in your pockets?"

Well, I reached in my pocket. I said, "I've just got this."

I had this eraser and I pulled it out and handed it to her, and she said, "Good!" She grabbed hold of it from me, and when she grabbed it, it turned into a sandwich. I don't know how, it just did.

She said, "Sit down." She tore it in two, and we started to eat the sandwich.

Then she said, "Now. You have to have this." She reached into her pocket and she pulled out this stone, a rough, round stone. She gave it to me.

I said, "What's it for?"

She said, "Don't change the subject, just show it to someone when you need to."

I said, "How am I gonna know?"

She said, "You'll know! You'll know! Now, why are you going to the castle?"

I said, "I don't know."

She said, "Well, I do. You're going to the castle to see the king. You see, he's very sick and only you can help him."

"How'm I gonna do that? I'm not a doctor."

"Don't change the subject. There you go again. Now, let me hear the song."

"Song?"

"Yeah, the song, the laughter song. Let me hear it."

I was trying to think of something. The only thing I could think of was this song I sang when I was a little kid with my brother. We made it up. It was really stupid.

I said, "I can't sing this, it's stupid."  
 She said, "Sing the song, don't change the subject, sing it!"  
 So I sang.

"I got me a dog, it eats like a hog  
 I got me a skunk, it sleeps in my bunk  
 I got me a giraffe, you oughta hear him laugh,  
 He goes ahuh ahuh ahuh ahuh ahuh!"

She said, "Very good. Now off you go."  
 That was it.

So I walked down the road until I came up to the castle, this huge castle, huge gray stone walls towering up above me. I walked up to the castle door. I knocked on the door, and the door just opened. I stepped inside. The door closed behind me.

There I was inside the castle. It was quiet. Then this tall bird-like creature walked up to me, leaned over me, and said, "May I help you?"

I said, "I'm looking for the king."

The bird said, "There's no king here."

I said, "Well, they told me there was. This woman told me I gotta find him . . ."

The bird said, "We'll see what we can do. Come with me." And she started to lead me down this hallway, so I started to follow her, and as I did this other creature walked up to me on one side of me.

It was a lizard-like thing, tall and red, and it took hold of my hand and then it said, "Blah-blah-blah-blah, blah-blah-blah-blah- blah-blah-blah-blah-blah-blah-blah-blah."

So we started walking down the hall, and as we got a little farther down the hall a blue thing came out, this blue rodent, kind of gerbil-like thing, it was fat and round, standing on its hind legs, and it grabbed hold of my other hand, and it said, "Bloo-bloo, bloo-bloo, bloo-bloo-bloo-bloo-bloo-bloo-bloo."

I asked it a question, where we were going, and the red one answered, "Blah-blah-blah-blah-blah." And the gerbil just said, "Bloo-bloo-bloo-bloo-bloo." So I tried to stop the bird again, but the bird just said, "There's no king here."