

SKIPPY'S VALENTINE

by Anony Mouse



The evening candle ceremony around the fan's BATB bench was finally over. As the others started leaving, Skippy told Allison and Judith that she had to visit the "Loo". They wanted to wait but she shooed them away, promising to follow.

Five minutes later, Skippy emerged and started after the others. The moon was just rising over her head ...

Skippy liked the moon. She had, for years. And she'd seen it in many places, from her home in Port Pirie to all across the United States, Canada, and parts of Europe. She'd even seen it from the deck of ship or two, and in the wee hours of the night, after 'last call for alcohol' had sounded at the bar, and the last, straggling customers had been sent home. She'd seen it from the back of a horse, from her own back yard, and from distant shores. It was a fine companion, no matter where she went, or with what friends - and Skippy had many of those.

She knew that the moon rising over the Manhattan skyline was the same moon that she saw back home, but somehow, the nearly full orb with a yellowish cast looked different, here in the US. She stared up at it as she walked, taking it in, rather than carefully watching the somewhat uneven path, in front of her.

Suddenly, she bumped into someone coming the other way, also staring up at the moon. As her eyes looked up, she stared into the azure sapphire eyes of someone she only saw on TV and video.

"Are you all right?"

"Aye, I am at that, Mate."

"You're Australian?"

"How could you tell?"

Vincent gave a wry smile at that.

"My mates and I were just having a celebration. They'd love to meet you."

"I am sorry. I have a previous engagement planned and I don't want to be late. Perhaps another time?"

"With this being Valentine's Day, I'm sure I know who with!"

Vincent raised one eyebrow, but didn't say anything else.

"Happy Valentine's Day, Australia."

"Happy Valentine's Day to you and your Catherine."

"How did you ...?"

Skippy just gave a joyful laugh as she heard her friends calling her name.

"TTFN * my friend." And she toddled off to catch up with Allison and Judith. She turned and watched as his shadow passed around the bend. She had quite a story to tell them.

END

* Ta ta for now