



Ruru and Kiwi's Midnight Feast

by Clare Scott

- i This book belongs to . . .
- ii Dedication
- iii title page

4-5

The Ruru and Kiwi

went into the bush,
wrapped snug in night's velvety black.

They took some runny

mānuka honey
tied up in a flax-woven sack.

6-7

The Kiwi looked up

to the sky above
and sang to the tune of the breeze,

"Oh lovely Ruru! The evening is here.

Let's visit our friends in these trees,

these trees,

these trees,

Let's visit our friends in these trees!"

8-9

Stars pricked the darkness,
 high in the sky.
The bush was shadowed and still.

Glow-worms shone bright
 as silver moonlight
splashed down on the treetops and hill.

10-11

Then Ruru flew up
 to a tall rimu tree
and she hooted so loud and so clear.

“It’s me, Ruru! Oh, the moon looks brand new!
Let’s call all our friends to meet here,
 meet here,
 meet here.
Let’s call all our friends to meet here!”

12-13

Kiwi said to Ruru,
 “Lots are better than two,
Together we’ll laugh, feast and sing.

Yes, let’s have a party –
 I’m really quite arty.
I’ll decorate everything!”

14-15

He draped rātā vines
 on pūriri and flax,
ponga, nīkau and ferns too.

“A feast is such fun in moonlight, not bright sun.

We'll throw a great party for you,
 for you,
 for you.

We'll throw a great party for you!”

16-17

Kiwi sniffed round,
 scratching down on the ground,
as pūriri moths flew all about.

The frogs jumped ahead,
 while centipedes sped
and a calm giant wētā crept out.

18-19

Perched with a treat
 near the large kākā beak,
to all Ruru called, “It's no fuss!

It will be a sight on this memorable night
if you come and party with us,
 with us,
 with us,
if you come and party with us!”

20-21

The geckos climbed up
the tōtara tree,
while the kauri snails slithered below.

Kākāpō boomed,
and tiny skinks zoomed
near old Tuatara so slow.

22-23

They gathered to play
at midnight, not midday
in the land where the kauri tree grows.

And there in the wood, proud Kiwi stood
with some grubs at the end of his nose,
his nose
his nose
with some grubs at the end of his nose!

24-25

Up swam an eel,
and the bats gave a squeal
from the mataī and tall cabbage tree.

The friends in the night
were all filled with delight
and wild excitement and glee.

26-27

They dined on worms

and larvae that squirmed,

sitting under a kōwhai in bloom.

28-29

And side by side, with no need to hide,

they danced by the light of the moon,

the moon,

the moon.

They danced by the light of the moon . . .

30-31

Glossary

[illustration note: this page will carry factual information about each of the creatures mentioned in the story, and illustration should be minimal, limited to perhaps a small vignette or frame]

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