

The Bear and the Piano

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One day in the forest, a young bear cub found something he'd never seen before.

"What could this strange thing be?" he thought. Shyly, he touched it with his stubby paws.



"PLONK!"

The strange thing made an *awful* sound. So, the bear left. But the next day he came back, and the day after that too. And for days and weeks and months and years, until eventually...

The sounds that came from the strange thing were beautiful, and the bear had grown big and strong and grizzly.

When the bear played, he felt so happy. The sound took him away from the forest, and he dreamed of strange and wonderful lands.

It wasn't long before the other bears in the forest were drawn to the clearing. Every night, a crowd gathered to listen to the magical melodies coming from the bear and the strange thing.



Then, one night, a girl and her father came across the clearing. They told the bear that the strange thing was a piano and the sounds it made were music.

"Come to the city with us," they said. "There is lots of music there.

You can play grand pianos in front of hundreds of people and hear sounds so beautiful they will make your fur stand on end."

The bear knew that if he left, the other bears would miss him very much. But he longed to explore the world beyond the woods, to hear wonderful music and play better than ever before. And before long...

The bear's name was up in big, bright lights in the big, bright city. He played sold-out concerts in giant theatres. Every night, he performed with such passion and such grace, to wild applause and standing ovations and huge admiration.



The bear recorded albums that went platinum. He was interviewed for magazines. He won awards. He met new people every day and created headlines everywhere he went.