

FEEL THE POWER OF THE PACK

RUDY

AND THE

WOLF CUB



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CHAPTER ONE

Rudy's skateboard was teetering on the edge of the highest half-pipe in the Skateway. His nerves rattled as he stared down the sheer ramp, which was sloping away like a huge concrete wave.



His two best friends, Femi and Edie, were watching nearby. Femi was wide-eyed and waiting to be amazed. Edie's ghostly aura was glowing with anticipation. But if Rudy chickened out, they wouldn't think any less of him.

They all loved practising tricks and always hung out at the Skateway after school. But none of them had ever done *The Daring Double*.

At least, not yet!



‘Are you sure about this, Rudy?’ Edie called out, as Femi resisted the urge to hide behind his bandages—he couldn’t miss this!

The afternoon sun glinted in Rudy’s eyes as he gave his friends a reassuring wink. He kicked off. His skateboard hit the ramp. The autumn breeze flicked his spiky fringe, pushing back his little wolf ears.



Rudy's wheels spun in a blur, down the ramp and up the other side, then:

WHOOOSH!

He shot into the air.

Rudy's friends watched, willing him to make it. He grabbed his skateboard and the world spun around him as he flipped in a daring, double somersault.





Femi's and Edie's jaws dropped.

But Rudy landed safely back on his wheels and scraped to a stop at the bottom of the concrete pipe with a pop-slam!



‘That was awesome!’ Femi cried, almost bursting out of his bandages.

‘And ever so slightly . . . *stupid!*’ Edie said. ‘You are mortal, remember?’

Rudy smiled, flashing his pointy canines. He couldn’t believe he’d done it!

‘Let me try,’ Femi said and ran to the top of the half-pipe.

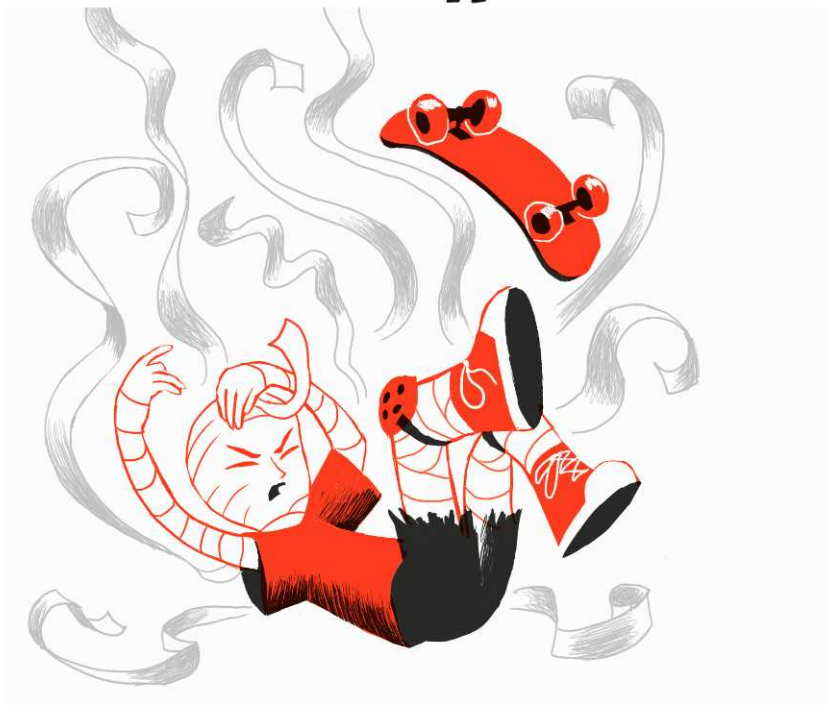
‘Be careful, yeah?’ Rudy called out, fearing for his friend.

Femi looked good as he kicked off, but halfway down, a loose bandage caught in his wheels.

Edie and Rudy gasped.

The faster Femi skated, the more his bandages unravelled and tangled until . . .

WHUMP!



Femi's board flipped over and he crash-landed on the ramp, with a ball of bandages round his ankles.

Rudy and Edie ran to their friend. 'Are you OK?' Rudy asked.

Femi groaned and gave them a thumbs-up. Edie clapped her hands, delighted and relieved. ‘That was spectacular, Femi. Just not in a good way!’

As she and Rudy began untangling their friend, Rudy froze.



The sound made Rudy’s wolf hackles rise. As his mind focused, he dropped everything and shot off across the park, leaving the others staring, open-mouthed.

A moment later, they ran after him.

‘What is it?’ Femi asked when he and Edie found Rudy crawling around behind the bins.

The answer came as a huge surprise when Rudy emerged holding a little, furry wolf cub.

‘*Ahh*, he’s adorable,’ Femi cooed, as the cub playfully clawed at his loose bandages.

