

Thomas and Friends-Sodor Memories

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Memories of Sodor's trains

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1 - Cows

Cows

Fergus the traction engine was getting old. His bearings were worn and he clanked as he puffed along. He was taking thirty empty cattle trucks to market at the next station. He clanked and rattled along the mainline and over the viaduct. "Come on, Come on," hissed Fergus. "Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh!" screamed the trucks. Fergus rattled and clanked, the trucks clattered and screamed. Some cows were grazing near by. They weren't used to trains. The noise and smoke disturbed them. As Fergus clanked by, they twitched up their tails and galloped across the huge pasture, and charged the fence, breaking it and busting the coupling between the 24th and 25th trucks. The last twenty-five trucks coasted to a halt at a signal. Fergus felt a slight jerk, but didn't mind he was used to trucks. "Bother those trucks," he thought, "why can't they just come along peacefully." he was at the market station before either he or his driver realized what had happened. When Spencer, Mallard, Duchess of Hamilton and Murdoch heard about the incident, they laughed and boasted, "Fancy allowing cows to break his train," chortled Murdoch. The other engines laughed as Fergus shunted the trucks in between the four laughing engines. Donald and Douglas sidled alongside Duchess of Hamilton, Edward and Toby sidled alongside Spencer and Mallard. The laughing stopped right away. "Ye wuldn't be makin' fun of ool' Fergus, noo, wuld ye.' Donald and Douglas scolded. "You couldn't help it," comforted Edward. "you haven't dealt with cows like me and Edward," Toby put in kindly. The next day, Fergus was collecting passengers as Duchess of Hamilton sped through his station with Murdoch on the end of her express passenger train. A long stretch of track lay ahead. In the distance was a iron bridge. Her Driver and Murdoch's driver applied the brakes and the slid to a halt 2 ft from missing a cow. Mallard and Spencer doubled headed an express and the slid to a halt, having passed through Edward's station. The two trains had to go back to the station. Duck brought the last twenty-five cattle trucks and they loaded the stray cow onto one of Duck's trucks and Duck took them to market. As soon as the line was cleared, the two trains crossed the bridge. "Not a word, keep it dark," they whispered as they passed each other, but the story soon spread. That night at the sheds, Fergus chuffed, "Four big engines afraid of a cow." "Afraid, rubbish. We didn't want the poor cow to hurt herself. We stopped so as not to scare her, you see my dear, Fergus," Mallard huffed. "yes, Mallard, I see," huffed Fergus, Mallard felt somehow that Fergus saw to well. All the other engines had a great laugh that night and through the next day.

2 - Lawson and Dawson

Lawson and Dawson

It was a busy day and the engines were tired from all the work. "I'm exhausted," Emily huffed. "Me, too," huffed Mallard. Duchess of Hamilton was tired and red in the face. Spencer was pleased to rest his wheels. Just then, the Fat Controller arrived and spoke to his engines. "Two new tank engines named Lawson and Dawson are arriving from the Mainland tomorrow. Oh and by the way, Gordon, Mallard, Spencer, Duchess of Hamilton, the Mainland scrapyards found four other engines like you. Tomorrow, I would like you to collect them and bring them back here," he boomed. All four engines were pleased. The next day at the Big Station (Knapford Station) the two new engines arrived. Their wheel configuration was different than the other engines. It was 0-4-4T. "they had this type of configuration for the mainline tank engines. The next day, there was trouble. Thomas was rushing to get his long train of summer tourists to Pip & Emma's train for the docks.. A whistle from another steam engine dumbfounded the signalman and he sent Thomas onto Pip & Emma's track and Thomas rammed Emma and the two engines came off the rails. Lawson and Dawson acted quickly. Lawson went to the station and told the stationmaster to call for help and Dawson pulled the coaches away and shunted them into platform #3, and on platform #2's track was Pip and Emma's train. Oliver arrived with the works train. Both Thomas and Emma were dented and Thomas's buffer was broken. "There is no one to help with you train, Pip," the Fat Controller ordered. Pip's heart sunk. "Poop Poop," whistled Gordon and Pip's heart soon rose and together, the two fast engines were able to get the coaches to the docks just in time. Pip and Thomas were soon mended and the Fat Controller heard what the two Mainline tank engine twins did and he rewarded them by telling them and Thomas that his branchline will have 2 new tank engines and that Toby, Percy, Rosie, Wilbert, 16, Fergus and Arthur should get acquainted with the two engines. Now Thomas's Branchline has ten tank engines that all help out and take turns running the branchline. The two new engines are really useful and really reliable and right on time. They keep the line runnin' day and night.

3 - Escape

One day, Douglas was talking to Oliver when Neville steamed by. He was hauling a heavy train of coal cars. "Come on, Douglas, quit gossiping in the sun when there is work to be done." Later Douglas spoke to Neville, "Oliver and I are ole friends and you and he have a lot in common," Douglas. "Oh, yeah and what would that be," Neville snapped. "Scrap," Douglas said quietly. Neville gasped with a horrified stare, "Don't mention that word, it makes my wheels wobble." "It does the same to Oliver. The other railway wanted to scrap him, but I saved him and his brake van too, but all the same Sir Topham Hatt certainly does need another steam engine here." Yes, he does and quickly." Later that night, Neville was still working. He had taken the "Mid-night Goods" to a station on the faraway part of the island where only the diesels work. He was shunting himself 6 oil tankers and a brake-van when heard "hiss" "That sounds like a steam engine," he thought. The "Hiss" came again. "Who's there," he called out. A whisper came, "Are you Sir Topham Hatt's engines." "Yes, and proud of it." "Thank heavens! My name's Joey and I'm here from London and I'm an old 6-4-6 steam engine and tender and me and my ten cattle cars are here to be broken up." "But what are you doing." "Escaping." "From what." "Scrap" Neville shuddered and gasped, then he remembered Douglas's story of saving Oliver. "I'll be glad to help you, but it'll have to look like you guys are ready for scrap but I'm taking you away." All the drivers and firemen and guard set to work. Everyone worked fast. "No time to turn round, I'll run tender first and marshal you in front of my train." As they puffed along they were looking t big bad diesels and when they reached the station throat, they were stopped by the guard. "Aha," called the foreman, "a goods train of cattle cars and a British rails locomotive, you can't take these." "Yes, we can, see for yourself." the foreman looked all along the train. "Seems in order, right away guard." The guard blew his whistle from his van and the train raced away. "That was a near thing," Neville chuffed quickly "We've had worse," chuffed Joey and they foraged ahead. It was morning when they arrived home. "Thank you," Joey huffed. The next day Neville told the other engines about Joey. "I already told Sir Topham Hatt," Neville chuntered. 6 days later, Joey and his train of cattle cars looked splendid and there was something new... a brake-van. "This van was given to me by the Fat Controller," Joey chuffed. Now he and his train are useful on market days and he is wise to not mess with the cars but they would always cause trouble and he would biff and bump them and would always yell at them, "Be Polite, kind, nice and quit being rude." and they learned right quick that he would stand for no nonsense around him and his train of cars. The coal cars were the worst but he really gave them a piece of his mind and he was otherwise useful, quick, reliable and always right on time. The railway loved trains that were on time and really useful. This engine was given a fresh coat of Silver paint and a bigger tender for more coal and was strong enough to pull trains up steep hills. This is the sound of engines working hard, especially ones that have escaped from their doom in the breaker's yard with a train behind them and given a treat by the head of the Sodor Railway and the engine has made new friends and enemies. Wait and see what happens in "Joey and Sixteen" with a rude engine. Will Joey make him see sense. Wait and See

4 - Gladstone, Poppy and Rosie

Gladstone, Poppy and Rosie

The engines of Sodor were busy. It was summer. Gladstone, a 0-4-2 tender engine was taking coaches of tourist all around Sodor. Poppy was shunting trucks in the yard and Rosie was taking the express along with Gordon, Murdoch and Henry. Henry took visitors to the hills, Gordon took them to Croven's Gate to transfer to the Skarloey Railway, Rosie took the visitors in her train to the suspension bridge and Murdoch took his visitors to the arched stone bridge and tunnel. Six tracks run up top and below. The trains had been running right on time. That night, Rosie was taking eight mail trucks around Sodor collecting and delivering mail. The train reached the arched stone bridge. A strong seaward bound wind hit the stones of the bridge and it collapsed. Rosie's driver slammed on the brakes but it was too late. Her track broke and she fell onto the lines below. Four of the eight mail trucks stayed on the rails. Rosie's driver & fireman jumped clear after they had tightly locked up the brakes. The brake van had a phone to keep in contact with either the yards or any station. The driver called the Fat Controller at his home during his dinner; a plate of kippers with a side of bangers and mash. "WHAT?!. I'll send Gladstone and Poppy to help. The two engines soon arrived at the crash. Poppy brought Rocky the crane and the breakdown train. Gladstone pulled the unhurt trucks back to the station. Rocky set to work lifting the heavy mail trucks back onto the tracks and Gladstone pulled them away. A flatbed truck was behind Rocky t set Rosie on. Rosie's crew jumped onto the hook and they helped attach the chains to some rails underneath Rosie and slowly she was hoisted onto the flat truck and the workmen and the cranes were left to fix the bridge. All the engines had to bring trucks of bricks even the big, blue, express engine, Gordon had to do it. Fergus and Travis, the two traction engines and Ernest the small well tank engine brought rails and ties. Poppy was taken Rosie to Crewe, in England. All the engines had to help do Rosie's work until she returned from Crewe. She returned six days later and she was fitted with an "emergency" brake which helps to stop much more quickly and efficiently than ever before. Trucks dare not play tricks on her, because they know that she will have her driver stop suddenly and the trucks will derail.

5 - Winter

It was winter on Sodor, blankets of snow lay across the tracks like blankets over a little boy or girl. Drifts as big as a house covered the line. The Skarloey Railway's tracks were soon cleaned off. Fearless Freddie was taking friends and other family members from all over Sodor to visit relatives for the holidays, Skarloey was taking heavy trucks of slate to the wharf, Duncan took coal to the station, Bertram was taking gunpowder to the rock quarry, Duke was taking a tree to the transfer yard, Rusty took workmen up and down the line, Sir Handel collected decorations from the harbour, Peter Sam, Ivo Hugh, Smudger and Stanley helped with the passengers. Percy, Edward, Rosie and Gladstone were taking parcels, Thomas, Emily, Molly, Neville, Dennis, Diesel and Fergus took coal to all the stations, Travis the traction engine collected the tree from the wharf, Gordon, Henry and James took heavy coaches. The next day the Fat Controller came to see the engines at the sheds. "The National Railway Museum is closing and so I'm buying all the engines and they might need some repairs. We are also getting their coaches and trucks," he said. All the engines cheered and whistled. It was soon six days before Christmas when all the trains arrived. Rocket arrived with three hundred of all six hundred coaches by himself. Green Arrow, Flying Scotsman and Mallard arrived with all the trucks and brake vans. Duchess of Hamilton arrived with the last three hundred coaches. Boxhill arrived with a special train of Christmas dinners, City of Truro arrived with a lowmac truck with crates of ordainments, Polly pulled in with some dogfish hoppers of hats, scarves and mittens. Bill and Ben were shunting two trains of presents into place. Green Arrow coupled up to one, City of Truro coupled up to the other. Emily buffered up behind Green Arrow's train and Polly buffered up behind City of Truro's train. Duck and Oliver got four little GWR coaches to add to their trains. The trucks were on their best behavior and didn't misbehave. Then trouble hit. Green Arrow's safety valve burst and Emily had to push the long train into the Big Station. "What happened," asked the Fat Controller. "my safety valve burst," gasped Green Arrow. He was blue in the face and ready to burst. Emily pulled him to the works and Green Arrow thought, "this is no way to spend Christmas." He left the next day for the huge Christmas celebration at the Big Station.

7 - Dirty Work

Diesel the new engine was sulking. The trucks would not stop singing at him. When Stephen returned and heard the trucks singing, he was horrified and bumped them hard. "Shut up," he snarled at the trucks, "I'm sorry our trucks were rude to you, Diesel," Stephen huffed as Diesel shunted back, bumping some trucks. "It's all your fault, you made them laugh at me." "Nonsense" replied Henry "Stephen is a trustworthy engine, and he wouldn't lie about us." "Henry's right," Emily chuffed. "That would be Disgraceful," put in Gordon. "Dispicable," Henry puffed. "Disgusting," James snapped at Diesel. "Unacceptable," Pip and Emma put in. "Thoughtless," Emily added. Diesel hated Stephen, he wanted him to be sent away, so he made a plan, he was going to tell lies about Stephen. The next day he spoke to the trucks. "I see you like jokes, You made a great joke about me yesterday. I laughed and laughed. Stephen told me one about Gordon. I'll whisper it. Don't tell Gordon I told you." and he snickered away "HA! HA! HA! HA!" guffawed the trucks, "Gordon will be cross with Stephen when he finds out, lets tell him and pay out Stephen for bumping us." They laughed rudely at the engines as they passed. Soon Emily, Pip and Emma, Gordon, Henry and James round out why. "Dispicable" "Disgusting" "Disgraceful" "Unacceptable" "Thoughtless" they said. He did it to use, so we'll do it to him and see how he likes it. Stephen was tired out. The trucks had benn cheeky and troublesome. He wanted a rest in the sheds. The five engines barred his way. "Hoosh! KEEP OUT!!!" "Stop folling, I'm tired." "So are we," hissed the engines, "we like Diesel, we don't like you, you tell lies about us to the trucks." "What's going on" asked the Fat Controller. "They're accusing me of lying, Sir, because no Steam engine would do that," He snapped. Diesel lurked up. "Now, Diesel, you heard what Stephen said." "I know nothing." "I see," said the Fat Controller. Diesel sqirmed and hoped he didn't. "I'm sorry Stephen, but you must go to Edward's Station for a while, I know he will be glad to see you." "As you wish, sir." Stephen steamed sadly away while Diesel smirked with triumph.

8 - A Close Shave

Stephen, the big 4-6-4t, steamed sadly to Edward's station. "It's not fair," he complained, "Diesel has been telling lies about me and made all the engines and The Fat Controller think I'm horrid." Edward smiled. "I know your not and so the Fat Controller. You wait and see. Why don't you help me with these trucks." Edward had @5 trucks. (Mail truck, hopper, lime box truck, low loader, flat truck, sausage van, milk van, tar tanker, oil tanker, three plank hopper, cattle truck, milk tanker , dogfish hopper, lowmac, fuel tanker, two gunflat trucks, meat van, poultry van, egg van, gypsum hopper, pipe wagon, gondola, auto carrier, container flat truck and a brake van) Stephen felt happier with Edward and set to work to help him with his trucks. The two engines had to work hard pushing and pulling the trucks up the hill. "Goodbye," whistled Stephen as he rolled over the crossing. At the level crossing as he rolled into view, the guard blasted his whistle. Stephen looked back and saw the trucks chasing him. The driver slammed his reverser into full speed ahead. When the trucks bumped him, his driver applied the brakes. Looking ahead, Stephen's driver saw Pip and Emma pulled away with their empty coaches. The signalman changed the points, into a siding where a barber set up shop in a shed at the end of the yard. He slid along the line and smashed the wall down and he had saved people's lives by derailing his trucks. The barber was furious. When Thomas arrived he had brought Oliver the GWR 0-4-2T, Rocky the crane, the breakdon train and The Fat Controller who was pleased that Stephen had stopped the trucks and he told Stephen that Diesel was gone and never coming back. After his trip to Crewe, Stephen returned.

9 - Super Rescue

The diesels survived the shed and one of them actually tried to take the line over and was told to leave the engines alone. The next day, there was trouble. Duchess of Hamilton's regulator had failed. She was coming home, tender first. "Oh bother," she thought. The signalman changed her track onto D189's track and she coupled up to the diesel and she had the diesel push her up to the express and then she took and moved the two engines to the next station. Mallard took the coaches and Green Arrow took the trucks. Duchess of Hamilton took the two diesels back to the other railway and then she ran tender first home. She thought about what Henry had told. "Well, emergency you know, trains must get through and he is right and she steamed slowly back to the sheds.

10 - Lady Carlisle

All the engines of the Fat Controller's railway love new engines arriving. One wet day, a 4-6-0 Castle class steam engine and tender named Lady Carlisle had been unloaded from the ship. The Fat Controller had come to the docks and told Lady Carlisle to take some trucks of lumber to Farmer McColl. The trucks were coupled up behind her and she set off. A signalman a ways a way up the line had left the "Home" signal "Clear" and the points changed and on the siding was a train of bricks, coal, ore, steel, rock, slate, cars, tar, scrap, china clay, fuel, paint, ink, iron, printing presses, crates of tools and paper on several flat trucks, hoppers, box wagons, tankers, and low loaders. Lad Carlisle was making great time until her driver saw that the points lead down the wrong line. The rails were wetter down here due to more heavy rains and it being in the valley. She slid along the tracks and then it happened. One minute the trucks were all on the rails, next minute the crew had jumped clear and the trains had derailed. Gordon brought Rocky the crane and Thomas brought the Fat Controller and Thomas took the lumber trucks to Farmer McColl and Gordon put Lady Carlisle on the tracks. Henry brought the breakdown train and the works coach and then he took Lady Carlisle and the now upright trucks back to the big station. The Fat Controller was cross. "Lady Carlisle, what happened," he thundered. "It was the signalman up the line near Farmer McColl's," Henry roared to The Fat Controller. The Fat Controller apologized and he went to see the signalman and the signalman was sorry and he told him that the points were jammed and that the signal was broken. When the signal and points were inspected and they were jammed. The Fat Controller had to close the line down while it was maintained . The trains took even more care when coming down the line from the hills and mountain village.

11 - Trucks will be trucks

Rosie is a small USA tank engine on the Fat Controller's Railway and loves taking trucks and coaches. Sometimes other engines tease her about her size. Joy and Nazz are two tender engines from Japan. One day, at the yards Gordon, Joy, Nazz, Henry, James and Spencer made fun of her size and strength. Donald and Douglas cruised up one on each side. "Ye woudnae be makkin fun ov her noo woud ye." All six engines jumped and glanced around and at each other. "N-n-n-n-n-n-n-n-n-n-n-no," they stuttered. "That's fine, noo juist keep that wey." and that was the way they kept it!

The next day, Rosie was shunting the express for Bear, who was an express diesel that had befriended Rosie along with BoCo, Salty, Mavis and The Works Diesel. "Thank you, Rosie," Bear called as he pulled out of the station. "You're welcome and goodbye, Bear," Rosie called and set to work shunting trucks in the yards. She arranged James' coal trucks and Gordon's express of eighteen coaches and sixty trucks. She was the middle engine of both trains put the coaches on platform no. two and the trucks on platform no. one. She left to shunt pipe trucks for the Scottish twins to take to the airport and lumber for Henry to take to the barber shop to repair the wall from when Duck had crashed through it. She had everything right on time. The Fat Controller was pleased with her work in the yards.

"Rosie, I want you to take some trucks to the quarry, load them up and take them to the airport and once there, collect the empty trucks and take them to the Docks."

"Yes, sir"

She steamed away and gently buffered up to Scruffey. "Such nice manners," he thought. He tried to think of something to tell her but he asked "What is your name, mine is Scruffey." "Mines Rosie," she replied and set off. At the quarry, the hopper loaded her trucks, and she set off to the airport with the stone, and once there she collected the empty trucks and headed back to the yard. On the way she was flagged down by a signalman. "Joy and Nazz have derailed coming down the hill with loaded coal trucks," he called to her driver. "Those engines had it coming. They were full of arrogance," Rosie called to her driver and he agreed. The signalman called down to the station and told the stationmaster to reroute all trains. Rosie raced to the yards, collected Rocky and four low loaders, raced back to the accident and left Rock there to put the engines on the low loaders whilst she took the long line of hundred trucks to the dockyards.

After that little accident, the engines learned that sometimes in spite of size, engines all have strength.

A tribute to the Awdry family