

Bear goes into lockdown



The diary of Bear: Book 1

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Hello. My name is Bear. I live in a house in the country with two humans.



I share a toybox with my best friend Alligator and an interesting collection of toys left behind when the small humans grew up and moved away.

One day my humans took me out of the toybox to tell me that they had a very important job for me.

Lots of children around the country have to stay inside and home from school, they said.

They have to keep together in their family bubble to stop a virus from spreading. Each day they can take a walk if they keep a safe distance from other humans.

We want you to join other bears from around the world in giving children something to make them smile on their walks.





I said goodbye to the toys.

Everyone has to go in to lockdown, I told them.

Stay safe in your bubble until I come back.

The humans shut the lid of the toybox and I started my new role.

Our house is down a long drive so my humans thought I should sit on the gate post instead of in a window.

It was a long day and I got very tired.





My humans let me come in
and rest on the sofa.

I can't go back in the toybox, I
said.

I'll cross-contaminate the
other toys.

I'm in your bubble now.



And I began life in a lockdown bubble with the humans.



It's raining today so I couldn't go out. Instead I sat and read in the window seat.

Today my humans gave me a chair so I wouldn't get so tired.

I took a break and wandered over to the local park to check that no-one was using the equipment. It was deserted.

Well done humans.





I felt sad at the children's playground but we are in Level 4 lockdown and must stay away.



Today I went to check on the neighbours. The cows were pleased to see me but I had to remind them about social distancing.

The sheep on the other hand were not interested.

They said COVID-19 was just a bovine conspiracy for cows to take over the world.

Sheep – where do they get their ideas from?





Today I thought I should get my humans outside for some exercise.

Let's play hide and seek, I suggested.

Somehow, I won every game. They couldn't seem to find me.





Can you find me?



Today I started
with a big
breakfast.

But then I saw
my humans
were sad.

Their lovely
aunty died.

When you are
in lockdown
you can't say
goodbye in
person or go
and buy
flowers.

It was a very quiet day in our house.

I didn't know what to do.

I sat outside to watch the sun go down and have a think.

When I came back inside, my Japanese friend had sent pictures of cherry blossom.

So, Aunty, wherever you are now these flowers are for you.

Love, Bear.







On March 25, 2020, New Zealand went into lockdown. This was the final step of a four-stage approach to fighting the COVID-19 virus. Bear's story was originally written to entertain family and friends and each day a new episode appeared on the author's Facebook page.

The story gained wider attention as it is not just a story about a toy bear. It contains many aspects of life under lockdown that readers will resonate with. It can also provide parents and teachers with an opportunity to discuss Bear's adventures with children and relate them to their own experiences.

In Book 1: Bear goes into lockdown, we meet Bear and follow his first week in lockdown as he begins to make sense of how his world and the world of his humans has changed.