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Opening extract from

The Highway Rat

Written by

Julia Donaldson

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The Highway Rat was a baddie.
The Highway Rat was a beast.
He took what he wanted and ate what he took.
His life was one long feast.
His teeth were sharp and yellow,
his manners were rough and rude,
And the Highway Rat went riding –
Riding – riding –
Riding along the highway
and stealing the travellers' food.

A rabbit came hopping along the road,
then stopped with her paws in the air,
For blocking her way was the Highway Rat,
who cried out, "Who goes there?

"Give me your pastries and puddings!
Give me your chocolate and cake!
For I am the Rat of the Highway,
The Highway – the Highway –
Yes I am the Rat of the Highway,
and whatever I want I take."

"I have no cakes," the rabbit replied.
"I just have a bunch of clover."
The Highway Rat gave a scornful look
but he ordered, "Hand it over.

"This clover is bound to be tasteless.
This clover is dull as can be,
But I am the Rat of the Highway,
and this clover belongs to *me!*"