



Here is the ode :-

SONIC BOOMS AND BURGERS

Vegas is a boulevard, it's long and oh so wide
The punters swarm across it, an ever shifting tide
The straub lights and the music, the burgers and the beer
The theme hotels that dazzle, no time for sleeping here

The chatter and the whine, as the slot machines wax bright
There's no hope here discerning, twixt daytime and the night
Many losers and scant winners, the bad guys and the good
The pale and struggling locals, might ship out if they could

The flap of chopper rotors, black sleek stretch limos long
And here's another shady bar, another old rock song
Four days of random cruising, the new strip and the shows
Its time to leave Las Vegas now, to where the real world slows

A rental car from Alamo and a Lincoln full of gas
We're out atop the highway, stark desert scenes we pass
Take the long haul to Death Valley, the ghost mines and the mules
A freedom trip that cleanses us, a November breeze that cools

The Ranch at Furnace Creek we spy, there's bunk beds to be had
An Oasis in the moonscape, for a daughter and her dad
Pink jeep tours and the stables, Scots Castle and there's more
We follow wild coyote tracks, cross Titus canyon's floor

And now we range out northbound, to a ghost town – Tonupah
Not much to see and do there, just a motel and a bar
But the local folks are friendly, we consider this a boon
And a night of drinking later, it's adios Last Chance Saloon.

Ola' the open road once more, past the Test Range we are gone
As we ride the ET highway, checking out 'Area 51'
To the trailer park at Rachel, and the 'little al'e'inn'
A sonic boom that makes us jump, at this old shack built from tin

Of Greys, Reptilians and the White's, are they really here?
Do craft from other galaxies, just prey upon our fear?
Or do we reach outside our world, because knowledge might be wealth?
Was that a UFO amidst the stars, or a silent streaking Stealth?

And now it's back to Vegas, that daughter and her dad
To laugh about those crazy roads, their great adventure had
Then fly back to the real world, a normal life resumes
They hope it's not long before, they hear more sonic booms !

We had a fabulous time in Vegas (so did the casino) and we also managed to make an astounding five day road trip across the Nevada Desert and through Death Valley. There were many highlights throughout, but, our drive along the ET Highway (alongside Area 51) and, our visit to the trailer park at nearby Rachel, have to be at the pinnacle.

I had been winding my daughter up all morning about UFO's and abductions as we rode the VERY long and VERY lonely ET Highway. Just as we pulled in for a burger at the 'Little a'le'Inn' in Rachel, as we stepped from the car, a HUGE and deafening Sonic Boom cracked overhead as a 'test' aircraft (not visible) breached the sound barrier. It frightened the life out of both of us !!! What a giggle. Hence the ode is entitled 'Sonic Booms and Burgers'.

As you know 'Area 51' is the legendary TOP SECRET US Military Air Base located in the Nevada desert a couple of hundred miles east of Vegas. Long denied by the US government, at least until the advent of Satellite technology, the base still serves as a test area for 'Stealth' and other 'black' military aircraft projects and has done for decades.

Area 51 gets much more interesting though when you mix in government conspiracy theories, allegations of downed or captured 'alien craft' being reverse engineered to enhance US defence capabilities (at the super secret 'hangar 11'), underground routes to the base from Vegas and a mysterious 'shadow workforce' from the nearby Ghost Town of Tonupah..."

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