

***Mountain Bike Mania* by Angie Belcher**

The next morning, on the way to school, Joel and Ocean stopped outside Gravities Edge – the local bike shop. There in the window, gleaming under a dazzle of display lights, was a brand-new mountain bike.

“Wow, Ocean, check it out! I’d give anything to have a cool bike like that with front and back suspension, chrome-coated bars, and rocket sockets!”

“Just looks like a bike to me,” she replied.

“If I had one of those, I could leave that Blake “The Brake” Bonnington in my dust. He wouldn’t know what hit him!”

For the rest of the week, all Joel could think about was mountain bikes.

Every afternoon, he stopped outside the bike shop and looked longingly in the window.

“Joel, you’ve got to stop dreaming about that bike and actually do something,” Ocean coaxed. “I’ve got an idea. Why don’t we set up a bike-cleaning stand at the track? You can clean off the muddy bikes, and I’ll sell juice and cups of coffee. I could use Mom’s thermos.”

“But it would take months to get enough money,” Joel sighed. “By that time, it will be gone.”

“Well, you think of a better idea then!” Ocean replied.

The next weekend, complete with buckets of soapy water, rags, juice, and coffee, Joel and Ocean set themselves up near the end of the track. Ocean had made a big sign that read: “Treat yourselves – have a drink while we clean your bike!”

Amused by the colorful sign, some of the older riders took advantage of the offer. By the end of the day, the children had cleaned ten bikes.

“Look at all this money, Joel. I guess that’s a pretty good start to your bike fund,” chirped Ocean brightly.

“Great,” grumbled Joel. “I’ll only need to clean about a hundred more bikes!”