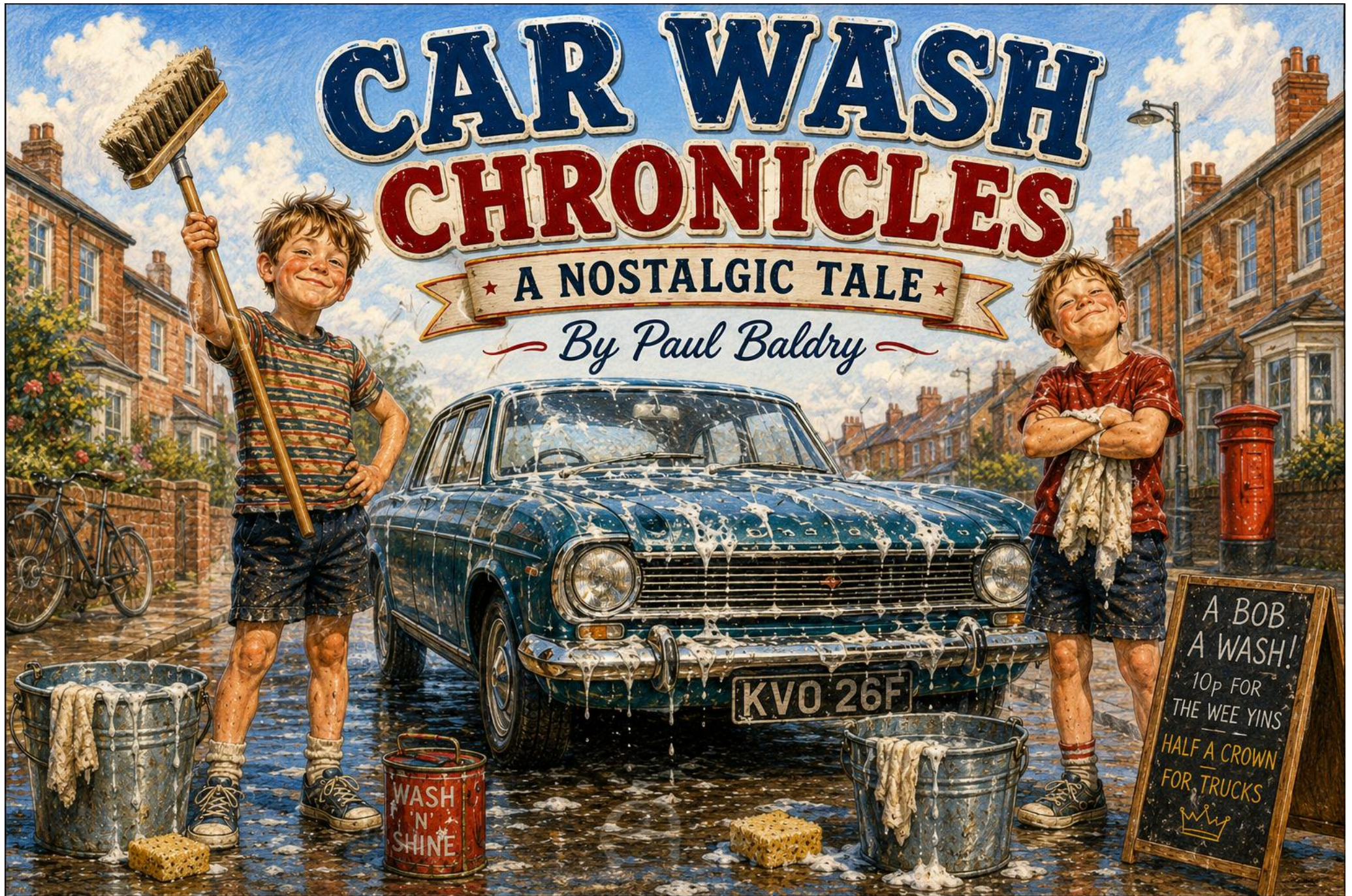


CAR WASH CHRONICLES

★ A NOSTALGIC TALE ★

By Paul Baldry



A BOB
A WASH!

10p FOR
THE WEE YINS

HALF A CROWN
FOR TRUCKS



Introduction

Car Wash Chronicles began with a simple visit to a modern car wash and a smile that carried me straight back to childhood.

Those memories inspired this tale of brothers Wayne and Mark, two boys armed with buckets, rags, a sweeping brush and enough determination to build their own little empire.

A bob a wash, half a crown for a truck—and plenty of mischief along the way.

But beneath the soap suds and laughter is something more: a story of brotherhood, honest work, independence and two boys beginning to find their way in life.

Sometimes we don't realise the lessons childhood is teaching us until many years later.

Paul Baldry



The Memory Returns

It only took a smile. Watching the young lad washing my car, the years suddenly slipped away—

and I was back on our old street, where two brothers were about to build an empire.



Wayne and Mark

Wayne and Mark were brothers, partners, rivals and occasionally sworn enemies.

*They argued about almost everything—
but when there was money to be made, they made a
formidable team.*



The Big Idea

*It started with one dirty car and one bright idea.
Why wait for pocket money when there were
perfectly good cars just waiting to be washed?*



Building the Empire

Their business equipment was simple: a bucket, some old rags, a sweeping brush and washing-up liquid quietly liberated from Mam's kitchen cupboard.

Wayne and Mark were officially in business.



A Bob a Wash!

“A bob a wash!” they called. There weren't many cars around in those days, so customers had to be found.

A smile, a bit of cheek and plenty of determination usually did the trick.



Hard at Work

Soon the street became their workplace. Water flew, soap bubbled and dirty cars slowly began to shine. They weren't afraid of hard graft—

although deciding who had the easiest job caused the occasional argument.



More Water on Us

Somehow, more water landed on Wayne and Mark than on the cars. Occasionally an innocent passer-by received a soaking too.

“Sorry!” they shouted—while desperately trying not to laugh.



The Sweeping-Brush Knight

The sweeping brush was excellent for cleaning wheels. It was also a sword, rifle, spear and jousting lance whenever business became a little slow.

Work and adventure were never very far apart.



The Truck

Then came the ultimate customer—a truck.

Cars were a bob, but this monster was worth half a crown. Two shillings and sixpence!

Wayne and Mark had just hit the big time.



37
CAVENDISH
ROAD

**MISSION
IMPOSSIBLE!**

SMITH & SONS
WHOLESALE
PROVISIONS
NOTTINGHAM

CAR WASH
A BOB
A WASH!
TRUCKS
2/6
(HALF A CROWN)

KHE 482

WASH
'N'
SHINE

Mission Impossible

Cleaning a truck required ladders, mops, teamwork and considerably more courage than common sense.

They climbed, stretched, slipped and laughed their way from one end to the other.



The Luxury Polish

For customers wanting the luxury treatment, there was polish. Proper car wax?

Not likely!!!

They had Pledge from Mam's cupboard.

If it made the furniture shine, surely it could make a Ford shine.



SMITH & SONS
→ WHOLESALE ←
→ PROVISIONS ←
NOTTINGHAM

CAR WASH
A BOB
A WASH!
TRUCKS
2/6
(HALF A CROWN)

KHE 482

WASH
'N'
SHINE

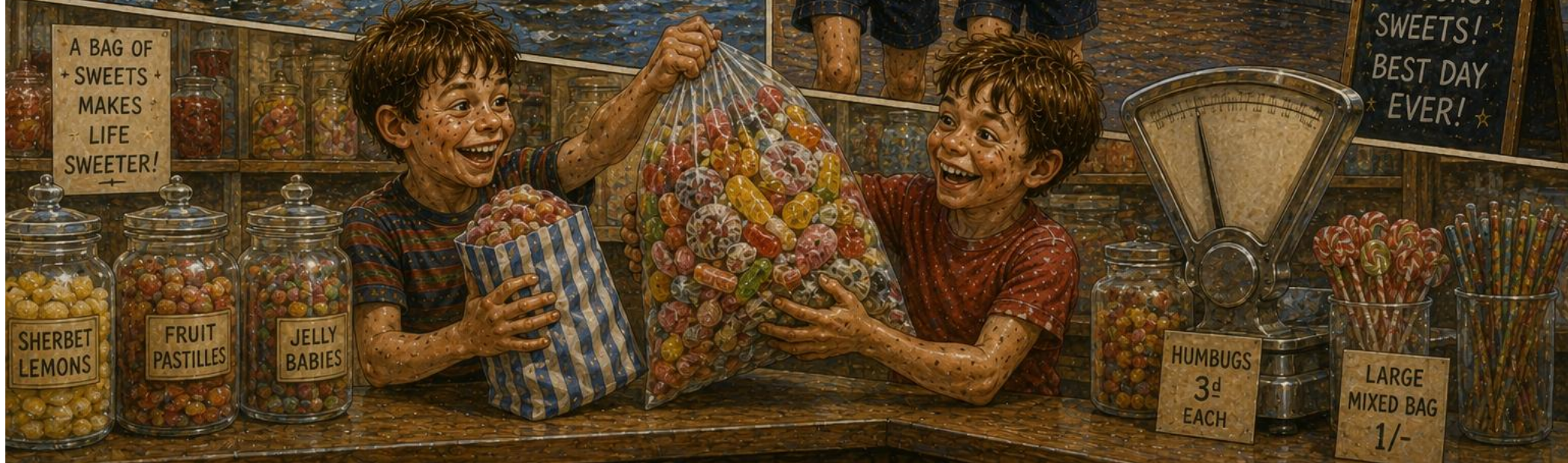
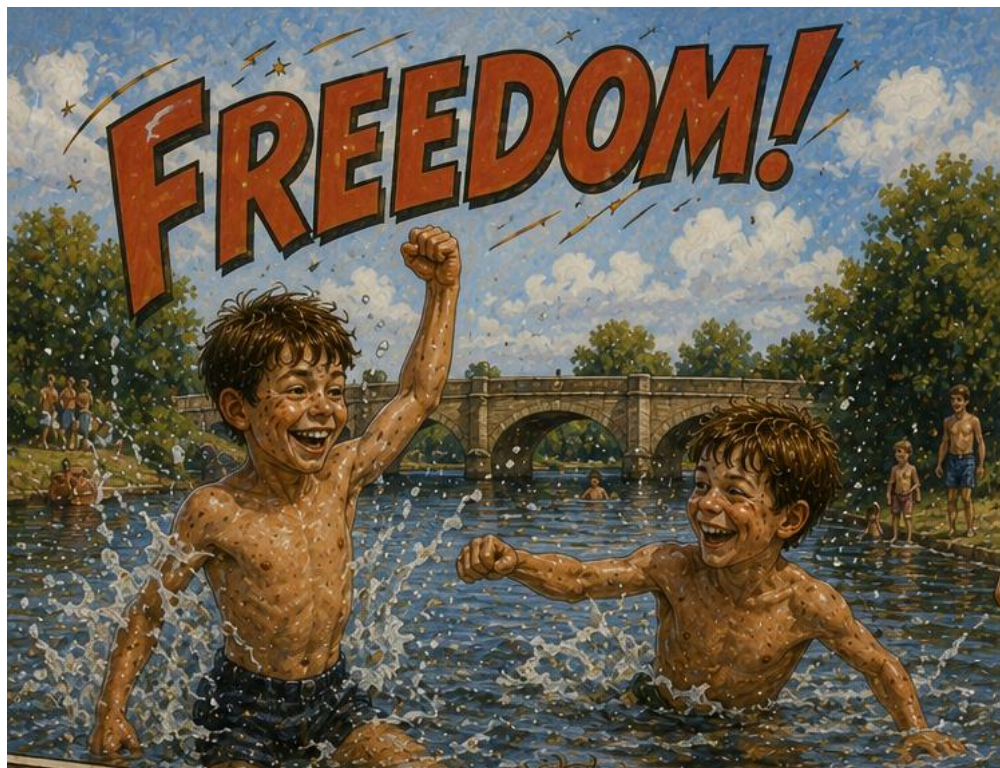
TODAY'S TAKINGS
BOB 13/-
TRUCKS 6/-
TOTAL 19/-
(NINETEEN SHILLINGS)
NOT BAD!

Counting the Takings

*At day's end, two tired brothers sat on the kerb
counting their takings.*

To grown-ups it was only a handful of coins.

To Wayne and Mark, it was a fortune.



Freedom

Those coins bought freedom: swimming, the pictures, pop and sweets that seemed enormous.

Better still, every penny had been earned by their own hands.



Lessons They Couldn't See

They thought they were only washing cars.

They didn't know they were learning about work, friendship, responsibility and picking yourself up when things went wrong.

DIFFERENT ROADS



Different Roads

Eventually the buckets were put away and childhood moved on.

Wayne and Mark grew up, and life carried the brothers along roads neither could have imagined from that little street.



Back to the Car Wash

Today there are pressure washers, specialist sprays and enough chemicals to stock a laboratory. Car washing has become a skill—even a science. But watching that young lad brought everything back.



Finding Our Way

There we were again—two brothers, soaking wet, a few coins rattling in our pockets and the whole of life still ahead of us.

*We thought we were building a car-washing empire.
We didn't realise we were finding our way in life.*

Back then, it wasn't science. It was magic.

*Some of the best days
start with a bucket,
a brush and a plan.*

Wayne and Mark didn't have much—
just two buckets, a sweeping brush
and a whole lot of determination.

From door to door they went,
learning, laughing and working
hard in the summer sun.

They didn't know it then,
but those simple days were
teaching them lessons
that would last a lifetime.

*Hard work. Honest pay.
Best day ever!*

A nostalgic tale of brotherhood,
big dreams and finding our way
one wash at a time.



Written by Paul Baldry