

# RINGO RATTLESNAKE AND THE VIPERS



**DEAN CHARLTON**



**Many moons ago, in a far-away place called Slitherpool, a tiny snake hatched from his egg. His mummy and daddy smiled with joy. They named him Ringo Rattlesnake.**

**Every night, Mummy and Daddy sang him a lullaby. Little Ringo shook his baby rattle right along, and drifted into happy dreams.**



**As Ringo grew, so did his rhythm!**

**Whenever he heard music on the radio, his tail rattled with the beat.**

**Mummy laughed. "He's got music in his scales!" Daddy nodded proudly. "Our little rocker!"**



**When Ringo started school, the teachers quickly noticed something. During lessons, while everyone else was quiet... Ringo's tail went tap-tap-tap!**

**“Ringo,” said his teacher kindly, “you’ve got talent. Go see Mr Constrictor in the Music Rooms.”**



**Mr Constrictor introduced Ringo to the school band.**

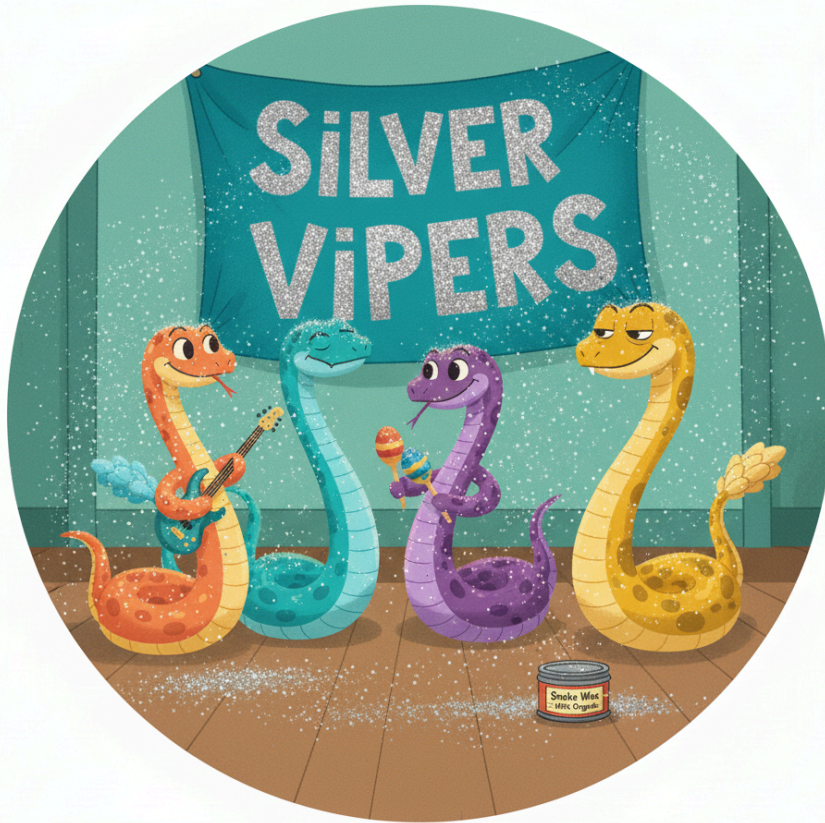
**“On bass, we have Paul McAdder. On rhythm guitar, John Lemon Snake. On lead guitar, Harrison Grass Snake. And you, young Ringo – what instrument do you play?”**

**Ringo blushed. “I don’t play any, sir. I just... rattle.” “Ah!” said Mr Constrictor. “A bit of snake, rattle, and roll, then?”  
The other snakes chuckled.**



**The band began to play – and oh, what a sound! Ringo couldn't help himself. He closed his eyes and rattled along perfectly to the beat.**

**When the music stopped, everyone stared. “Sorry,” said Ringo. “Did I put you off?” “Put us off?!” said Paul. “You made us sound amazing!” “Welcome to the band!” said John and Harrison.**



**“We’re called The Silver Vipers,” said Harrison proudly. Ringo laughed. “But none of you are silver... or vipers!” Mr Constrictor grinned. “Every band needs a name that ssslithers off the tongue!”**

**From that day, Ringo Rattlesnake practiced every day – Shake-shake-shake! Soon, the school hall echoed with their songs.**



**The Silver Vipers played at the school assembly. All the students clapped and hissed with joy!**

**Headteacher Mr Housemartin puffed out his chest. “These young musicians will start a revolution!” he said. He phoned his old friend Brian Boa at Toffee Apple Records and arranged a meeting.**



**When Brian heard them play their new song “Yessterday” he signed them up immediately. “You’ll be bigger than The Dung Beetles!” he said. “But let’s drop the ‘Silver.’ Just The Vipers – short, snappy, sssimple.”**

**Ringo grinned at Mr Constrictor, who shrugged.**



**The Vipers' first concert sold out, and they became an overnight success. Then came their first album – and soon The Vipers were everywhere!**

**They slithered across stages from the London to the Los Angeles. The world was gripped with Vipermania!**



**Fame brought friendship and love.**

**Paul met Lindy Lancehead, a clever photographer and Snake Rights campaigner. John met Ana Conda, an artist who painted with her tail. Harrison met Olive Python, a record label manager who loved spicy crickets. And Ringo met Mo Tigersnake, a hairdresser and stylist, who gave The Vipers their famous matching haircuts.**



**The Vipers became the biggest band in the world. But after many songs and many smiles, they decided it was time to let some other bands shine.**

**They recorded one last album, played one last world tour. The farewell concert was a sell-out! The crowd danced and cheered until the stars twinkled above.**



**After The Vipers split, everyone found new dreams. Paul started a new band called The Flying Snakes. John and Ana went into hibernation for peace. George and Olive slithered to India, where George learned sitar and transscendental meditation.**

**And Ringo? He and Mo went home to Slitherpool and started their own family.**




**Ringo and Mo sang bedtime songs to their little baby, Zachery Rattlesnake, who giggled and rattled his tiny tail along. Ringo smiled. “He’s got rhythm in his scales.” Mo whispered, “Just like his dad.”**

**And somewhere, far away, the sound of a soft rattle joined the stars above Slitherpool – keeping time with the heartbeat of the world**

Keep on rattlin'!





**Discover the story of Ringo Rattlesnake, a tiny egg with a giant rhythm. Ringo's natural tail-rattling leads him to form 'The Vipers' band and become a global rock sensation! This is a magical tale of music, friendship, and family, always keeping the beat alive with Ringo's little rattle and the heartbeat of the world.**