

MAY CONTAIN NUTS!

by Barbara Hockley

SAMPLE PAGES



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Henry's romantic story is not going according to plan as Jane turns on him

HENRY: That was terrible ... how did that happen? I'm not in control of my mind. She was supposed to leap into my manly arms ... what went wrong? I think I need help.

BRIAN DE BERGERAC bursts into the room in flamboyant manner.

BRIAN: *(strong French accent)* My friend, what you need is a little help from one who has travelled this path before. Allow me to introduce myself – Brian de Bergerac. I am a romantic poet of great renown, I am a passionate lover and a fearless fighter ... and ... I am French.

HENRY: I didn't imagine you - did I? Where did you come from?

BRIAN: I heard your cries of anguish as your tortured soul was stretched on the rack of confusion.

HENRY: Oh.

BRIAN: I will teach you how to master your mind, my friend. But first you need a hat.

HENRY: A hat?

BRIAN: Of course. A hat serves 2 purposes. Number one, it makes you look good; and two it helps to incubate all those tiny little thoughts you have. It will encourage them to grow into fat and fiery ideas that will burst out through the walls of your mind and live!

HENRY: Oh.

BRIAN: Try this one *(passes deeply un-cool hat to Henry)*.

HENRY: I feel silly.

BRIAN: That is of little consequence, my friend. Now, try again. This time let your thoughts grow BIG and BEAUTIFUL.

HENRY: Ok, *(shouts)* Jane was in the laundry room, folding up her newly washed apron.

BRIAN: No, no, no. That is an awful story. It has no passion, no magic – it is boring. No wonder your heroine is so, so ... crazy.

HENRY: But I was going to rescue her.

BRIAN: No. Watch this. This is a part of a story I've just this second created in my rich and fertile mind.

BRIAN thinks hard, JULIET-1 appears on the balcony.

JULIET-1: Ay, me.

ROMEO-1 appears from opposite side.

ROMEO-1 Oh, speak again bright angel.

JULIET-1: Oh Brian, Brian, wherefore art thou Brian?
Deny thy father and refuse thy name.
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

ROMEO-1: Shall I hear more, or shall I climb the balcony.

JULIET-1: Brian, climb the balcony.

ROMEO-1 climbs the balcony and they embrace passionately. As soon as HENRY speaks they leave.

HENRY: Crikey, he didn't mess about. Let me try that scene. Only this time, I'll play the hero and I think I'll call him 'Romeo'.

BRIAN: A strange choice of name, but it's your story.

HENRY strikes a 'thinking pose'.

JULIET-2 appears on the balcony.

JULIET-2: *(Sighs, a really, really long one).*

HENRY: Juliet, it's me, come to rescue you from domestic chores.

JULIET-2: Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny thy father and refuse thy name.
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

HENRY: Fair enough, I'm coming up *(starts to 'climb' and pricks his thumb on a pretend thorn).*

ROMEO-2: *(Appears from the other side)* But soft, what light through yonder window breaks?

JULIET-2: Ay, me.

HENRY: *(To Romeo)* Go away, this is my bit. You're not in it.

ROMEO-2: *(Ignoring him)* Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

JULIET-2: 'Tis but Henry that is your enemy.

ROMEO-2: You, are you Henry?

HENRY: No, I'm Romeo and you're not here.

ROMEO-2: You are mistaken.
I suggest you leave this story or I shall be forced to fight you.
You have insulted Juliet and stolen my name.

MERCUTIO enters brandishing a sword.

MERCUTIO: Romeo! Are you in need of my sharp wit and my fiery temper?

ROMEO-2: Well met, Mercutio. This villain would take my place, climb the balcony and seduce my girl. And, he refuses to leave my story.

MERCUTIO: Ah. I see the kind of villain he is. Do you bite your thumb at us sir?

HENRY: What? No, I just got a thorn in it from the climbing rose.

MERCUTIO: Do you bite your thumb at us sir.

HENRY: No sir, I do not bite my thumb at you sir, but I bite my thumb sir.

JULIET-2: Parting is such sweet sorrow,
That I shall say good night, till it be morrow.

ROMEO-2: Now look what you've done! That was supposed to be my line. And she's gone. Now I'm really fed up. Come sir, I am for you.

HENRY: But, I have no sword

BRIAN: Here, use my spare (*hands HENRY a sword*). This is a great story my friend.

ROMEO-2 and HENRY start to fight. HENRY has no skill but just bashes away in a frenzy. At some point HENRY thrusts at ROMEO-2 who steps out the way and MERCUTIO is hurt instead (sword under arm).

MERCUTIO: I am hurt.

ROMEO: Courage man, the hurt cannot be much.

MERCUTIO: It will serve (*he dies*).

ROMEO-2: Now I am really mad. And if you bite your thumb at me again I will cut it off at the neck!

HENRY: Brian, I'm feeling a little out of my depth here. I seem to be losing the plot a bit, any advice?

BRIAN: Your story is full of unbridled passion, anger and great love - just my sort of story. Step aside.

ROMEO-2: *(With great passion)* Perish the universe, provided I have my revenge.

BRIAN: You steal my best lines sir, I hope your sword has more wit than your brain.

They start to size each other up as 3 more MONTAGUES arrive on the scene

MONTAGUE-1: Look Romeo is outnumbered, one to one.

MONTAGUE-2: You fiend sir, you villain.

MONTAGUE-3: We are for you, sir.

ROMEO-2: Cousins, your entrance is timely. Let us fight.

BRIAN fights all four MONTAGUES, disposing of them one by one.

BRIAN: *(Stands on platform triumphantly)*
I-I am going to be a storm-a flame-
I need to fight whole armies alone;
I have ten hearts; I have a hundred arms;
I feel too strong to war with mortals-
BRING ME PIRATES!

HENRY: Yes, yes, a pirate story! Good idea. Can I be the hero? The one who wins the beautiful pirate girl?

BRIAN: BRING ME BLACK-HEARTED LIL!

BLACK-HEARTED LIL enters. She is a devastatingly evil, beautiful and sexy pirate with a black heart.

BH LIL: Gaaaarrhhhhh. I be a damn sexy pirate. What be you callin' on pirates for?

BRIAN: I have an appetite for pirates, Madam.

BH LIL: Where be the treasure then?

BRIAN: That, Madam, is for you to find. I know how much you pirates love a good treasure hunt.

HENRY: I rather like treasure hunts, maybe we could team up and find some treasure together?

BH LIL: And who be you?

HENRY: Errr, I'm erm Big-Headed Henry. No, no, that's wrong... I'm Big-Haired Henry, the fearless friend of pirates.

BH LIL: Smeeek, come 'ere.

SMEEK: Gaaaarrhhhhh, here I be Black-Hearted Lil.

BH LIL: This be Big-Haired Henry, fearless friend of pirates.

SMEEK: Gaaaarrhhhhh, I've heard tales of Big-Haired Henry. We can't trust him, he be in two minds, that's what they be sayin'.

BH LIL: We'll let the fool lead us to the treasure and then we'll make him walk the plank.

HENRY and BRIAN overhear this. BRIAN sneaks off.

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