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# May Contain Nuts!

A very silly one act play  
by  
Barbara Hockley

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transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior consent of the publisher.

**Characters:**

The only 'real' character is Henry. Everyone else lives in his imagination. The ensemble should be used to play as much as possible (scenery, trees, airing cupboard, gates, additional characters etc). 'Nuts' is played out as Henry's imagination runs away with him .....

**Set:**

Anything really. You might want some sort of central 'bed' – but it isn't essential. Use loads of props and small amounts of costume to indicate character. Fake facial hair is always good, eyepatches and other piratey things almost essential.

**Henry** - a would-be writer of reasonably adventurous and romantic literature

**Jane** - His imagined heroine (or damsel in distress)

**Boris** - Jane's big brother

**Bill** - Jane's other big brother

**Brian de Bergerac** - a dashing French poet and swordsman of great renown with a large nose (apologies to Cyrano and Edmond Rostand)

**Juliet-1** (apologies to Shakespeare)

**Romeo-1**

**Juliet-2**

**Romeo-2**

**Mercutio**

**3 more Montagues**

**Black-hearted Lil** - a black-hearted pirate captain

**Smee** - another pirate

**Bootleg/Doris** – Doris is a tavern landlord's daughter disguised as a pirate

**3 more Pirates** (or as many as you like)

**Wise Old Woman**

**The 3 Screaming Furies** - 3 harmless looking old ladies

**Statues** – as many as you want

**Daisy**

**Poppy**

**Johnny**

} Characters from a completely different 'spiffing adventure'

**Dracula**

**Van Helsing**

**Jonathan Harker**

**Mina Harker**

**More Vampires**

## Part One: Henry's imagination runs away with him

*Henry is sitting on the end of his bed, pen poised over paper & ready for inspiration to strike. The ensemble are scattered all over the floor & furniture (if there is any) and wait to start acting out his story. At any moment they might leap up and start performing as his mind grinds into action. He starts to write (the audience know what he's writing because the ensemble act out his ideas) ..... sport scenes.. stops, starts .. romantic scenes ... stops ..starts .. action scenes ... stops ..starts (actually you can put in anything you like here – make it visually fun). When he stops writing the ensemble stop acting and wait for the next idea. He stands & walks away from bed. Puts his pen & paper down & speaks out loud instead of writing. As his ideas are acted out he watches them and quickly dismisses each idea. Eventually he participates in the action.*

### Henry

Jane sat on a park bench reading a magazine (*pause*) ....no .... Jane was at the zoo, watching the monkeys (*pause*) ...no .... Jane was at the beach (*sexy hunk of a man walks past & she's interested..*) ...definitely NOT .... Jane stood in the queue for lunch....(*Jane stands, a few other people stand either side*)... she was .. reasonably attractive ....(*she gives him a 'look'*) .... But then .. (*she looks interested waiting for the drama to unfold*) Jane realised she had forgotten her lunch money.... (*Jane responds as if this is high drama and people start to panic*) No, no, no! Let's start again ... ok ... a new approach .... ah, yes ... I'm the romantic hero and Jane is the girl of my dreams... (*Jane gets up*) .. Jane stands in the kitchen chopping root vegetables (*she mimes chopping veg*)

### Jane

I'm so tired of chopping root vegetables. There must be more to a story than this. I wish a handsome, romantic hero would come rushing through that door and rescue me from this domestic drudgery.

*Henry comes rushing through the door*

Who are you?

### Henry

I'm here to rescue you Jane!

### Jane

What? You come bursting in through my door without knocking and assume I need rescuing? What are you .. some kind of crazed romantic hero?

### Henry

No! I mean ... yes.... (*pleads*) Jane, darling, it's me ... your hero ... come to rescue you from root vegetables. You just said you wanted to be rescued!

### Jane

But I didn't mean it. YOU made me say it ... you fiend ... you monster!

*Boris and Bill appear (they look very much like gangsters)*

### Boris

Leave our sister alone or you'll get trouble

### Bill

Yeah, big trouble

**Henry**

But Jane, this is my story. This isn't fair. *(To Boris & Bill)* Go away, I was about to rescue her.

**Jane**

Keep him away from me!

**Boris**

This is a part of your imagination I would strongly suggest you don't stay in, my son...

**Bill**

Yeah, might be best if you LEAVE

**Boris**

Like, now

**Bill**

Yeah, now

**Boris**

You have 5 seconds to find a way out of this story

**Bill**

And don't come back

*They start to count*

**Henry**

Ok, ok .... errrrr ..... (desperate) Having trapped the romantic and innocent writer in her kitchen of evilness, Jane ripped off her mask and revealed her true nature. Henry gasped in horror as he saw the face of an alien life form resembling a .. a .. turnip! Faced with this terrifying and UGLY sight, Henry turned and ran bravely through the door, slamming it shut so the monster could never ever get out ...

*Henry is alone once more, he sits*

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. (*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 & 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' & 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. This is a great story my friend.

*Romeo-2 & Henry start to fight. Henry has no skill but just bashes away in a frenzy. At some point Henry thrusts at Romeo who steps out the way & Mercutio is hurt instead (sword under arm)*

**Mercutio**

I am hurt.

**Romeo-2**

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 bed 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.*

**B-H Lil**

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

**Brian**

I have an appetite for pirates, Madam.

**B-H 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?