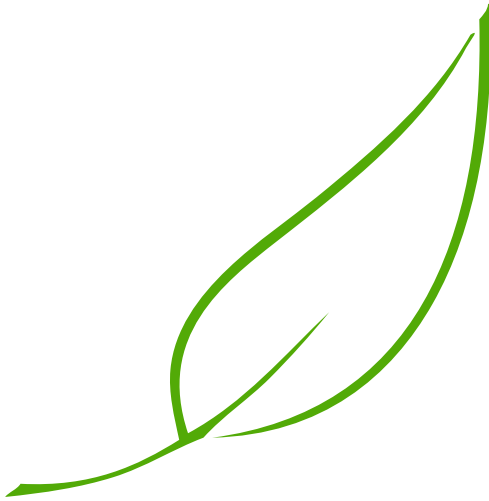


A VERY MELLOW DRAMA

by Ken Bradbury



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The characters: Cindy, Leroy, Harry, Mark

MARK: (*entering with the others*) Okay everybody, let's shoot this thing. Are we ready?

CINDY: I still don't understand this script.

MARK: It's melodrama, Cindy ... old time theatre. You know ... a villain, a hero, a poor helpless girl.

CINDY: I'm not helpless.

MARK: It doesn't matter. You're an actress. It's melodrama!

HARRY: I assume I'm the hero?

MARK: Yeah Harry, you're always the hero. That's in your contract. Harry must always be the hero.

HARRY: I mean ... I'm an obvious choice, right?

CINDY: You're kidding me. I could whip you in a minute.

MARK: Could we all just get along? Leroy, you're the villain ... the bad guy.

LEROY: Will I get hurt? I hate getting hurt. You know I bruise easily.

MARK: You won't get hurt, Leroy. It's all acting. Okay, you've all got your lines. The camera's ready. Let's get at it ... scene one. Places! (*They take their places.*) Poor Little Nell's cabin in the hills. Action!

CINDY: (*overly dramatic*) Oh woe is me! Woe is me! (*aside*) That's the dumbest line I've ever said.

MARK: Cut! Cindy, that's the way they talked in melodrama. Come on. Just do the lines.

CINDY: This is ridiculous. (*in character*) Woe is me! My dear daddy cannot pay the rent and now the evil banker, Simon Sneerliver has come to foreclose on our house! Oh whatever shall I do?

LEROY: (*entering, sneering*) Nyah, nyah, nyah! Aha! Poor helpless Nell is left alone! (*to Nell*) You must pay the rent!

CINDY: Oh, I cannot pay the rent!

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- LEROY:** You must pay the rent!
- CINDY:** I cannot pay the rent! (*aside*) Of course I can pay the rent. I have a debit card.
- MARK:** Cut! Stick to the script! Action!
- CINDY:** Oh woe is me! Whatever shall I do?
- LEROY:** Little Nell! Do you love your dear old daddy who's in the next room and can't get out of his bed?
- CINDY:** Oh yes! I love my daddy!
- LEROY:** Would you do anything to save his farm?
- CINDY:** Anything! Anything!
- LEROY:** Then marry me! Simon Sneerliver! And I shall tear up this mortgage!
- CINDY:** Marry you? Oh how horrible!
- LEROY:** (*aside*) Does she have to say that? I mean, I'm not that bad!
- MARK:** Cut! Do the lines, Leroy!
- LEROY:** My mother loves me. She told me so.
- MARK:** The lines!
- LEROY:** Then you will break your dear daddy's heart! Nyah, nyah, nyah!
- CINDY:** Oh, is there no hero who will save me? (*nothing ... a long pause*) I said, "Is there no hero who will save me?"
- MARK:** That's your cue, Harry.
- HARRY:** I was checking my hair.
- MARK:** Get in there!
- HARRY:** (*jumping into the scene*) I shall save you! I shall save you!
- LEROY:** Egads! It's Theodore Trueblood! The hero!
- HARRY:** (*aside*) How's the hair?
- LEROY:** (*aside*) It looks just fine.
- HARRY:** (*aside*) Thanks.
- MARK:** Stick to the script!
- CINDY:** Oh! My hero! You have come to save me! (*aside*) I can't believe I'm saying this. I can whip both of these guys.
- MARK:** Just say the lines!

- LEROY:** I'll come back tomorrow! You'd better have the money! (*He exits.*)
- HARRY:** Never fear, Little Nell. Theodore Trueblood will save you.
- CINDY:** How?
- HARRY:** The script doesn't say.
- MARK:** Stop that!
- HARRY:** I shall deliver you from the dastardly paws of Simon Sneerliver! Never fear! I must go!
- CINDY:** Please do. (*He exits.*) Poor little me! Poor, poor, poor little me! The villain says he will take my farm! I must tell Daddy! (*goes to the door and looks in*) There's nobody here. Someone has stolen Daddy!
- MARK:** It's the prop room. We couldn't afford a Daddy.
- CINDY:** Then I shall knit and sew and keep my dainty hands unsoiled, hoping and praying that my hero will save me! (*aside*) I think I'm going to get sick. This is the most ridiculous thing I've ever done.
- MARK:** Cut! Cut! Look Cindy, it's just a play.
- CINDY:** It's a dumb, sexist play.
- MARK:** And you're being paid to do it.
- CINDY:** Oh.
- MARK:** The final scene! At the railroad tracks! Action!
- LEROY:** (*dashing in*) Aha! Little Nell left all alone! Here is my chance! Nyah, nyah, nyah!
- CINDY:** That is the dumbest laugh I've ever heard in my life. Are you choking on something?
- MARK:** Cindy!
- CINDY:** Sorry. Oh whatever shall I do? All is lost! Lost! Lost!
- MARK:** One more.
- CINDY:** Lost!
- LEROY:** I shall tie you to the railroad tracks! Your hero cannot save you now! Agree to marry me or the train shall splatter you all over the county! (*grabs her*)
- CINDY:** Oh yuck.



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by Ken Bradbury.

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