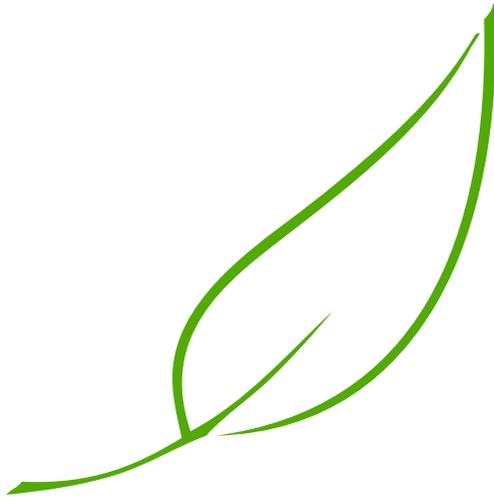


HANDSOME PRINCE SCHOOL

by Ken Bradbury



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Characters (4): Pat, the instructor; Bob, Henry, and Rupert, the students

Pat may be played by actors of either gender.

- PAT:** Come in! Come on in! This is the place. Just stand right here.
- BOB:** Hi. I'm Bob.
- PAT:** Good for you. Now just wait a minute while I see who we have today. Your name?
- BOB:** Bob.
- PAT:** I was talking to him.
- HENRY:** Henry. My name's Henry.
- PAT:** That's too bad. We can fix that. And you?
- RUPERT:** Rupert.
- PAT:** Tell me you're kidding.
- RUPERT:** No. That's my name. My mom's idea.
- PAT:** Okay. Whatever. And you must be Bob.
- BOB:** That's me! And I just want to tell you how excited I am to be here! This has always been my dream, you know! Ever since I was a little kid! I've always wanted to attend this school!
- PAT:** Easy, Bob. Just take it easy. So you guys all know about the Handsome Prince School?
- THE THREE:** We do!
- PAT:** Good. Good. That'll make things easier. Gentlemen, this is a school to turn ordinary, rather plain looking guys into handsome princes.
- BOB:** Oh, boy! Oh, boy! This is so exciting! I can just feel it down in my soul!
- PAT:** Right. Whatever, Bob. Guys, the world is short of handsome princes. Nearly every fairytale has a handsome prince but those guys get old, they start falling off their horses, their tights start sagging

and well ... before you know it they've got to retire. That's why we here at the Handsome Prince School have a job to keep turning out more handsome princes.

BOB: *(to the others)* I am so totally excited! Are you excited?

HENRY: Uh. Yeah. Excited.

PAT: Then let's get right to work, gentlemen! Okay, first. Your names are all wrong. Bob, Henry, Rupert. Sounds like Snow White's Dwarves. You'll need something manly ... something dashing and tough. You, Rupert ... You're Prince Lance.

RUPERT: I like it. Prince Lance! Yeah. Yeah.

PAT: Henry, you're Prince Dirk.

HENRY: That's so cool.

PAT: Bob ... let's see. You're Prince Rip.

BOB: Why?

PAT: Because I said so.

BOB: Oh.

PAT: Now. First lesson. Princess Kissing.

HENRY: What?

PAT: Princess Kissing. The handsome prince always has to kiss a princess at the end of the story.

HENRY: Can I call my mother?

PAT: No. Okay, boys. Let's see how well you can pucker.

RUPERT: Do what?

PAT: Pucker! Pucker! You can't go into a kiss with your mouth drooping! You've got to learn to pucker. Okay, let me have a look. On the count of three! One, two, three, pucker! *(They all give an exaggerated pucker. Pat stares at them a long moment, then)* Oh, my. My, my. You make me think I'm in a fish market.

RUPERT: *(as they un-pucker)* We gotta kiss a girl?

- PAT:** Don't you read your fairytales? Sleeping Beauty slept for a hundred years before the Prince came along and kissed her awake.
- HENRY:** A hundred years? Can you imagine her breath?
- PAT:** Hey, this is no easy job being a handsome prince. That's why you're here. Okay, let's see you slay a dragon.
- BOB:** Do a what?
- PAT:** Dragon. Slay. Kill. Slash-slash, roar, ouch, you're outa here. You know.
- BOB:** Look, maybe I should re-think this. I thought being a prince was all about wearing cool outfits and being cute.
- PAT:** That's part of it. Sure.
- BOB:** Great!
- PAT:** After you slay the dragon.
- HENRY:** But how can we ... you know ... practice?
- PAT:** Easy. I get a dragon and you slay it.
- RUPERT:** Where are you gonna get a dragon?
- PAT:** I keep one in the closet.
- BOB:** That's ridiculous.
- PAT:** (*opens an imaginary door*) Meet the dragon.
(*The three student princes jump on chairs, jump on each other, cower in the corner, scream, cry, wail, and generally become terrified.*)
- PAT:** (*after some time of this*) Okay! Okay! Maybe that was too much. (*shouting into the closet*) Easy, Roger. (*shuts the door*) Roger's hungry.
- HENRY:** (*whimpering*) I wanna go home! I wanna go home! I wanna call my mommy and I wanna go home! Anybody got a blanket? I need a blanket really, really bad. And warm milk? I gotta have some warm milk. Do you mind if I suck your thumb?
- PAT:** (*looking at the three cowering princes*) Okay! Okay! So maybe Roger the Dragon was starting out with too much.



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