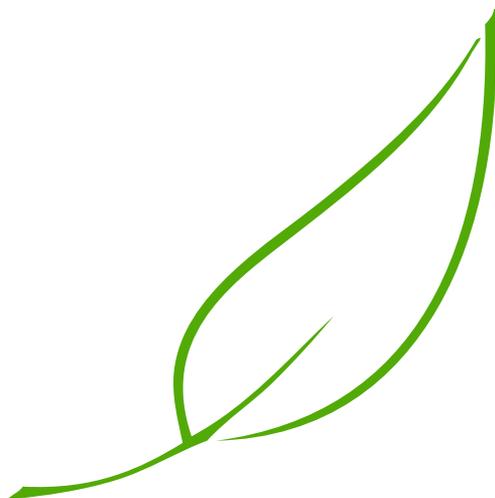


FRIES WITH THAT

by Ken Bradbury



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 - 17 characters)

Uta

Hagen

Jack

Jill

(Mommy)

Bad Jack

Good Jill

Slappy Jack

Snappy Jill

Chow Mein Jill

Egg Foo Jack

Slick Jack

Chilly Jill

Quick Jack

Witty Jill

Emotional Jill

Cool Jack

HAGEN: (entering) Whatta ya mean you're tired of the story?

UTA: You tell me the same story every night before bedtime and I'm sick of it.

HAGEN: Look, you want the truth? "Jack and Jill" is the only story I know.

UTA: It's boring. It's getting old and it's really boring. Come up with somethin' else or I'll ask Mommy to get a new babysitter.

HAGEN: Look kid, I need this job. It's this or McDonalds.

UTA: Go flip burgers.

HAGEN: Look, I'll make it a play, okay?

UTA: Wake me when it's over.

HAGEN: (as Hagen speaks, Jack and Jill enter hand-in-hand, skipping, in knee britches and frilly dress and act out everything that's spoken) Jack and Jill ... went up the hill (they do) ... to fetch a pail of water. (they do) Jack fell down ... (plop) ... and broke his crown ... (bang) ... and Jill came tumbling after.

(Hagen looks at the bruised pair in disgust, then)

UTA: That is some compelling plot!

JACK AND JILL: Hey!

UTA: The same old boring story.

JACK: (as he exits with Jill, disgusted) I broke my stupid crown for nothin'.

UTA: What you need is a twist.

HAGEN: Huh?

UTA: Jazz it up. Some variety ... Like a melodrama!

(melodramatic music comes in under) Jack- the-Evil-Landlord!

(a villainous "Jack" jumps onto the stage complete with cape, evil mustache, etc.) And poor innocent Jill! (A beautifully frilly and unusually naïve Jill enters, all a-flutter)

BAD JACK: Come here, my pretty! Climb the hill with me, my dear!

GOOD JILL: Oh, whatever could he want?

BAD JACK: You. The hill. Climb. Now!

GOOD JILL: He does seem to be a good sort. But what will I tell dear mummy?

BAD JACK: Tell her to get her own hill! Let's go!

GOOD JILL: Yes! Yes, I shall climb!

BAD JACK: We shall climb!

GOOD JILL: We shall climb!

BAD JACK: We shall climb!

UTA: So climb!

GOOD JILL: (they climb together ... then she stops) But why are we climbing?

BAD JACK: To fetch a pail of water!

GOOD JILL: But the water is always at the bottom of the hill!

BAD JACK: (imitating her in disbelief) "But the water is always at the ..." Climb sister, or I'll foreclose on your mortgage!

GOOD JILL: I think you mean to do me harm!

BAD JACK: Well, duh!

GOOD JILL: Oh, evil man! (she knocks him rolling down the hill)

UTA: (to Hagen) That's it? That's the best you can do?

BAD JACK: (responds to Uta) Look, he only gave us a few minutes. If this'd been a longer presentation ... (the two melodramaticans exit)

UTA: This is really stupid..

HAGEN: Look kid ...!

UTA: I want somethin' funny! Tell me a funny story or I'm gonna tell mommy!

HAGEN: All right! All right! Look, you want funny ... how about Vaudeville!

(Vaudeville music begins as Slappy Jack and Snappy Jill enter)

SLAPPY JACK: Whoa! I mean the traffic comin' up the hill was really awful today!

SNAPPY JILL: The traffic was awful!

SLAPPY JACK: Yeh! Bumper to bumper!

SNAPPY JILL: Bumper to bumper!

SLAPPY JACK: Yeh! We were going so slow ...

SNAPPY JILL: You were going so slow ...

SLAPPY JACK: We were passed by an abandoned car!

Say Jill, whatta you say we climb that hill?

SNAPPY JILL: Wait! Jack, do you know that no one ever says a bad word about you.

SLAPPY JACK: Really Never a bad word?

SNAPPY JILL: Nope. It usually takes a couple of paragraphs!

SLAPPY JACK: You know Jill, at work they call you the One-Minute manager?

SNAPPY JILL: Really? I didn't know that!

SLAPPY JACK: It's because one minute of work is about all you can manage.

SNAPPY JILL: Your teachers told me there is some good news and bad news. You were the worst behaved boy in class ... but you had a perfect attendance record.

SLAPPY JACK: Hey, be nice! I had a rough childhood!

SNAPPY JILL: You got off to a rough start, huh?

SLAPPY JACK: Yeh. When I was born, two of the nurses jumped on chairs.

SNAPPY JILL: Wow!

SLAPPY JACK: Then, when I was missing, my mom tried to get my face OFF the milk cartons.

SNAPPY JILL: That's bad.

SLAPPY JACK: When I was born my father went around showing people the kid's picture that came with the billfold!

SNAPPY JILL: Let's go up the hill! (and they dance off to the music)

UTA: Let's just forget about it!

HAGEN: No! We need to get more exotic! Like ... like Kabuki Theatre! (and a loud gong is sounded)

CHOW MEIN JILL: (enters in a Japanese kimono, with small, mincing steps, head bowed) Radies and Gentlemen. Da honorable story of young wovers and deir tewwible fall! (another gong)

EGG FOO JACK: (leaping onto the stage in one mighty karate-type jump) AaeooWah! Ah-ha! Chow Mein Jill!

CHOW MEIN JILL: Oh! Egg Foo Jack!

EGG FOO JACK: Oh, my wittle wotus fwower! Come! Let us climb Mount Fuji-yama!



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