

THE INFECTIOUS IMAGINATION OF HENRY BRAMBLE

Written by

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GEOFFREY

If you need to use the bathroom,
then please use the one at the end
of the landing on the left.

Henry notices a SLUG sliding across the wooden floor close to the bed. His eyes light up with excitement.

GEOFFREY

It is imperative that I am able to
concentrate. I have a very
important book to write and must
not have any...

Geoffrey notices SLIVER TRAILS on the window and follows them down the wall and across the wooden floor towards the bed.

Henry bends down to stroke the slug but Geoffrey's foot gets there first.

GEOFFREY

...distractions.

Henry jumps as the slug squelches under his foot. He stands up, his eyes and mouth wide open in shock.

GEOFFREY

You are to stay in your room at all
times, except for meals or to use
the lavatory. Do you understand?

Henry nods.

Geoffrey shuts the door firmly behind him, leaving the boy standing in the middle of the room. Henry sighs, already looking bored.

5 INT. LANDING/STAIRS, HOUSE - DAY

5

The door knob to Henry's bedroom turns slowly. The door creaks open a little, revealing Henry's wide-eyed face.

Henry creeps halfway down the grand staircase and peers through the banisters at the closed study door.

6 INT. STUDY, HOUSE - DAY

6

Geoffrey is sitting at his desk, just staring at the typewriter. His fingers hover over the keys. Eventually he hits the 'A' key but then stops, hesitating. He shakes his head with disapproval and yanks the PAPER out of the typewriter, crunching it up in his bony hands and throwing it into the WASTE PAPER BASKET beside him.

A floorboard creaks. Geoffrey looks up at the study door to see a shadow under it from a pair of small feet. He gets up and strides quickly towards the door.

GEOFFREY

I thought I told you to...

7 INT. HALLWAY, HOUSE - DAY

7

Geoffrey opens the door swiftly, but Henry has gone. His narrowing eyes pan across the hallway. He notices a PICTURE FRAME on the wall is wonky. In it is a PHOTOGRAPH of Geoffrey as a judge in his robe and long wig, shaking hands with the queen outside the high court in London.

Geoffrey steps over to it and straightens the frame. He looks suspiciously around the empty hallway again. Henry is frozen, hiding behind the grandfather clock with his eyes closed. Geoffrey returns to the study, closing the door behind him.

8 EXT. FOREST, MINOITANIGA - DAY

8

Henry opens his eyes hearing the distance sound of cracking and crunching tree branches followed by a frightening roar of some unknown creature. He peers around the tree trunk. Whatever it was, it is moving away.

Henry breathes a sigh of relief and steps back onto the trail just as a dozen little elf-like creatures with little parsnip noses and SPEARS come running across the path ahead. RAYGO RATTLEGUM catches a glimpse of something in the corner of his eye, stopping suddenly. He turns to face Henry, gob smacked.

Raygo is less than four foot tall and dressed in clothes made from animal skins. He is carrying an assortment of unusual equipment that dangle from his belt and a small RUCKSACK made from animal hide.

HENRY

What was that?

The elf doesn't answer. Henry steps forward holding out his hand.

HENRY

I'm Henry.

The elf takes a step back pointing his spear in defence.

HENRY

I'm not going to hurt you.

Raygo studies the boy with suspicion before tentatively shaking the boy's hand.

RAYGO
Raygo Rattlegum and what may I ask
are you?

Henry wipes a smear of dung from his palm that has
transferred from Raygo's grubby hands.

HENRY
What am I? I'm a boy.

RAYGO
Curious! I've never heard of a boy
before. Where on Minoitaniga are
you from?

HENRY
I'm not. I'm from Tunbridge Wells
...in England.

RAYGO
Where?

HENRY
My Uncle's lost his imagination. I
thought I might find some here.

RAYGO
Don't be ridiculous. You're no
match for the Voydarkatron!

HENRY
What's a Voydarkatron?

There is a roar in the distance. The little man freezes,
suddenly on guard.

RAYGO
That, is a Voydarkatron. It feeds
on imagination.

HENRY
That's silly, how can something eat
imagination?

RAYGO
Very easily in fact! You see the
Voydarkatron has a slobbering slimy
trunk, that stretches over your
face and sucks your brain out of
your eye sockets.

Raygo makes a sucking noise in Henry's ear trying to scare
him. Henry screws his face up in disgust.

HENRY
But if a Voydarkatron sucks out
your imagination, how do you get it
back?

RAYGO
 Voydarkatron blood! Just one drop
 on the victim's tongue and their
 imagination is instantly restored.

Henry thinks about this for a moment.

HENRY
 Do you think you could help me?

The little man bursts into laughter and starts to walk off,
 but he eventually stops and looks back astounded.

RAYGO
 You're serious?

9

EXT. FOREST, MINOITANIGA - DAY

9

Raygo and Henry approach a old wooden SIGN that is stuck in a
 muddy PUDDLE in the middle of a small clearing.

It reads: Warning - Hungry Voydarkatrons ahead. Raygo pulls
 out a large NET from his bag and hands it to Henry.

RAYGO
 Here take this.

He positions him behind a nearby tree.

RAYGO
 When I distract the Voydarkatron,
 throw the net over him and I'll
 collect a drop of blood.

HENRY
 But what if I miss?

RAYGO
 You mustn't.

Henry swallows nervously as Raygo pulls out a sculpted HORN
 and placing his lips carefully around the end, blows hard. A
 perfect imitation of a Voydarkatron echoes into the forest.

RAYGO
 That's their distress call, now get
 ready.

Within seconds Henry can hear a Voydarkatron bounding through
 the forest. He looks around the tree, trying to get a glimpse
 of it. Suddenly it appears. Henry is petrified by what he
 sees.

RAYGO
 Come on little fellow this way.

As it approaches Raygo, its short fat trunk expands and vibrates as the most frightening gurgling growling noise comes out, spraying him with saliva.

RAYGO
Wait for it Henry.

Raygo starts backing up. The Voydarkatron thumps forward so that its back is almost turned to Henry.

RAYGO
One more step now, that's it, okay
now Henry NOW!

Henry is about to throw the net when a human hand suddenly grabs his shoulder and pulls him around.

10

INT. STUDY, HOUSE - DAY

10

Geoffrey pulls Henry around to face him, snatching the knitted blanket out of the boy's hand.

GEOFFREY
I thought I told you to stay in
your room!

He places it back over the arm chair.

HENRY
You don't understand. I have to
save Raygo from the Voydarkatron.

Geoffrey spins around shaking his finger at Henry.

GEOFFREY
Stop this childish nonsense at
once! Can't you see I'm trying to
concentrate?

Henry peers around him to see a blank sheet of paper still in the typewriter and a pile of screwed up pieces of paper in and around the overflowing bin.

HENRY
But you haven't even written
anything!

Geoffrey is stuck for words, his face turning red with embarrassment and anger.

GEOFFREY
Get out, get out, GET OUT!

He pushes the boy out of the room and locks the study door behind him. He leans against the door, a nervous wreck.

11 EXT. FOREST, MINOITANIGA - DAY

11

Henry runs back to the clearing to find the warning sign has been knocked over and the puddle gone. In its place are giant muddy VOYDARKARTON FOOT PRINTS.

He looks down to see he is standing in one of the giant imprints. SLIME sticks to the bottom of his shoe.

A strange groaning sound echoes through the forest. Further ahead, through the MISTY trees, is the silhouette of Raygo, swaying slightly from side to side.

HENRY

Raygo?

Henry runs over to him. He is moving very oddly.

HENRY

Raygo what's wrong?

Henry pulls him around by his shoulder. Two hollow black voids have replaced Raygo's eyes. DRIBBLE runs out of his open mouth. Horrified, Henry stumbles back in shock.

12 INT. HALLWAY, HOUSE - DAY

12

Henry falls against the wall. The framed picture of Geoffrey shaking hands with the Queen falls off the wall and SMASHES onto the wooden floor. The study door bursts open. Geoffrey rushes over to see the picture has been ruined.

GEOFFREY

What have you done? You idiot!

Geoffrey hits Henry across the face with the back of his hand. Henry holds his burning cheek with shock. His eyes well up.

GEOFFREY

Henry I...

Geoffrey tries to touch Henry gently on the shoulder but he backs away and runs up the stairs slamming his bedroom door behind. Geoffrey is devastated.

12.1 INT. BEDROOM, HOUSE - EVENING

12.1

Henry is sitting in the middle of the bed clutching his knees up to his chest and his head dipped downwards. The door knocks.

GEOFFREY

Henry, I have some food for you.

GEOFFREY

What on earth ...I mean ...good
lord Henry!

He looks around the forest floor and picking up a large rock,
hurls it at the creature with all of his strength.

GEOFFREY

Leave him alone you beast!

It hits the back of its head. The creature drops Henry who
gasps for breath, rubbing his streaming red eyes.

GEOFFREY

Henry run!

Henry scrambles behind a large tree, as the Voydarkatron
turns to face Geoffrey, who gulps and backs into a tree.

The Voydarkatron sizes him up before sucking the rock up into
his trunk and then spitting it out at Geoffrey with an
incredible force.

Geoffrey flinches to the right as the rock embeds itself into
the tree trunk millimetres from his ear. Geoffrey faints.

The Voydarkatron turns back to find Henry has disappeared.

Henry waits nervously behind the large tree listening
intently as the Voydarkatron eventually moves away. Henry
cautiously peers round the tree to see his Uncle lying
unconscious on the ground.

HENRY

(whispering loudly)

Uncle Geoffrey are you alright?

Geoffrey starts to come round and sitting up, looks over at
his nephew as a large blob of saliva drops onto Henry's
shoulder. Geoffrey's face fills with terror.

GEOFFREY

Henry behind you!

Henry whips round in horror only to be blasted sideways by
the force of the Voydarkatron's roar. Henry tries desperately
to scramble away, but the creature stomps forward towering
over the boy.

Henry rolls onto his back, grabbing the edges of the
Voydarkatron's trunk before it can attach itself to his face.

HENRY

Uncle Geoffrey help me!

Geoffrey struggles to his feet and with all his strength,
snaps off a BRANCH from a fallen tree and charging at the
creature.

Henry's arms are quickly losing strength, as the creature's slimy inner trunk drops down to suck Henry's face.

At the very last moment, Geoffrey lances the splintered branch into the side of the Voydarkatron's head. Its body goes rigid, its face confused. Geoffrey pulls Henry clear.

The creature stumbles backwards. Its eyes dilate as the giant beast topples lifelessly to the ground with an almighty thud, letting out its final breath.

Henry and Geoffrey stare in amazement.

The silence is broken by a groan from behind. Geoffrey and Henry spin round to see Raygo still swaying like a zombie.

HENRY

The blood!

Henry pulls away from his Uncle and cautiously approaches the Voydarkatron's carcass. He collects a drop of BLOOD onto his finger from the tip of the lanced tree branch and hurries back to Raygo, dripping a drop into his mouth.

Henry watches in amazement as the black voids in Raygo's eye sockets start to shrink leaving normal closed eyelids.

HENRY

Raygo?

He is unresponsive. Henry touches him gently. Raygo's eyes jolt open with alarm.

RAYGO

Help, help, I'm being attacked!

HENRY

(grabbing Raygo)

It's okay Raygo, it's dead. Uncle Geoffrey saved us!

Henry points out the Voydarkatron slumped lifelessly on the ground behind them. Raygo looks confused.

RAYGO

But that's impossible. How could your Uncle have saved us if he has no imagination?

Confused Henry turns to face his uncle to find he has no eyes.

Henry comes running down the stairs with excitement also wearing a tea cosy on his head and waving a wooden ruler around as if it was a sword.

HENRY
Quick, the guardians of Minoitaniga
are going to...

Henry looks through the doorway.

HENRY
Mother!

He runs past Geoffrey and hugs her with a big grin.

GEOFFREY
Would you mind awfully if Henry
could visit again?

She is speechless. Geoffrey hands her Henry's suitcase with a warm smile and ruffles the boy's hair.

GEOFFREY
Have a think about it.

He watches fondly as Henry and his mother walk back up the driveway towards their car.

GEOFFREY (V.O.)
Over one remarkable evening with
one exceptional little boy, I
learned to imagine all over again.

As they reach the top of the driveway, Henry turns and waves a final goodbye to his Great Uncle. Geoffrey waves back before heading back inside.

THE END.