

A RYDE THROUGH THE COUNTRY

WILLIAM YOUNG
Arlington, Virginia

The following story has at least one British place name in every sentence.

Once upon a time, there was an innocent young woman who called herself the MAIDEN BRADLEY, but everyone knew her as Nancy. Nancy lived out in the country at the end of a LONG STREET in a small house next to many GREAT ELM trees. She loved the huge trees, and told her friends that she could sit and watch ELMS FOR Days without getting bored. She was especially fascinated by a large NEST ON top of one of the trees which was occupied by two ferocious hawks. She sensed the power and brutality of nature as she would WATCH FIELD mice being captured in the hawks' unforgiving talons; then she would see the hawks gorge themselves until they had ETON their fill; and finally, she would watch the HAWKES BURY the remains of their victims. Seeing such violence could be HARROWing. The hawks, which did genuinely look EVIL, had never caused Nancy trouble, but whenever she walked past the trees, she did so very CAERPHILLY.

One morning, Nancy felt bored while READING the newspaper, so she thought she would go into town. She doubted she would be able to get a SEAT ON the bus. Instead, she opted for walking to the main road and HITCHING a RYDE. So after locking the BOLT ON her front door, the MAIDEN HEADED toward the highway under the watchful eye of the two hawks.

Nancy walked down the SANDY LANE which led to the main road, her blond hair flowing in the breeze. When she reached the highway and stuck out her thumb, she saw a FLEET red PLYMOUTH convertible approaching FROME a distance. The RED CAR that was HEDDING TO Nancy was occupied by two hawk-eyed chaps named RODNEY STOKE and PERRY GREEN.

"HEY, WOOD you look at that bLOND ON the side of the road," said Rodney as he spied Nancy. "Has she got a great CHEST ER what!!"

"Picking her up would certainly BRIGHTON our trip, so why don't you pull over?" replied Perry, as he tilted his DERBY forward to shade his eyes from the sun.

AND OVER they pulled.

Being very innocent, Nancy never thought that the men who picked her up might moLEICEST ER. Instead, she simply said, "YOR Kindness is appreciated."

Nancy enjoyed riding in the back seat of the convertible with the AYR blowing into her face. As they drove over A BRIDGE and past a few BARNES, Nancy said dreamily, "This is such a lovely car and the weather is so lovely, I could sit back here all day, but I really should try to get BACK FOR Dinner."

"We'll have you BACK WELL before then," said Perry in a brogue, because he was A SCOT. He tried to get a look at her left hand, ITCHING TO Notice if she was wearing a wedding ring. He began to fantasize about inviting his entire CLAN DOWN to attend his marriage to this beautiful woman.

After riding for an hour, Rodney asked Nancy: "Do you mind if we stop for a quick drink at POTTERS BAR? We won't be IN VERARAY long."

Nancy had a GREAT WISH FOR Driving on, but she did not protest. The three of them went in and sat down at a table next to a big POOLE of ale on the floor. There were STAINES on the tablecloth. She noticed a full plate of biscuits with NUN EATON. Nearby was a snooker table, where a huge ursine fellow was attempting a difficult POUL SHOT.

Rodney then said to Nancy, "The owner of the pub is Irish and SELLS GREEN beer if you would like to buy you one."

Perry, not wishing to see his companion steal the initiative, said, "I will buy you a full dinner if my company you wouldn't mind SHERING TONight."

Nancy, feeling her hot blood RUSH ALL through her body, indignantly stood up and said, "Do you think I would go home with you for the MERE WORTH of a dinner?"

Perry, seeing that he had offended her, replied, "No need to gNASH your teeth and cause a HULLaballoo. What LEEDS you to believe that I want you to come home with me?"

"Neither one of you is a BEAU WORTHY of me!" Nancy sneered. "I have vowed never to let a man touch me until I HAVE RING on my finger!"

Realizing that luring her into BED WAS out of the question, Perry PREST ON and began TAUNTON Nancy, saying, "I bet a part of me would fit into your WOMB WELL."

Nancy couldn't DEAL with this insult. "I'm not going to listen to your FAL MOUTH any more," she screamed. She then reached for a nearby pint and flung it at Perry as onlookers watched the GLAS GOW by his

left ear and smash against a wall. She hurriedly reached for her COAT and began to leave.

Perry called after her, "If you feel like stopping being a SHREW TONight, let me know. I'll give you my CARD IFF you want to call me." However, the BATTLE was lost.

Nancy never turned around and did not begin to regain her composure until she had caught a BUS BY the train station to take her home.

Meanwhile, disconsolate at having LOUCEST ER, Rodney and Perry were still HEALING their wounds in the bar. Rodney said, "Sometimes when you're around women like that, it's hard to enDURH AM."

Perry replied, "Yeah, she was like a witch from some awful COVEN TRYing to make fools out of us. But I guess, as Tennyson once wrote, 'Ours is not to ROSS-ON WYE, ours is but to do or die,' or something like that."

Rodney asked Perry, " Are you WORKING TONight?"

Perry said, "No, I had planned to go to a BAR TONight, but now I think I may well just stay home and take a hot BATH."

The two got up from the table, put some LUT ON the table to pay for the drinks, and walked back to their car.