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opening extract from

Horrid Henry's Evil Enemies

written by

Francesca Simon

published by

Orion Publishers

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'I'm Captain Hook!'

'No, I'm Captain Hook!'

'I'm Captain Hook,' said Horrid Henry.

'I'm Captain Hook,' said Moody Margaret.

They glared at each other.

'It's *my* hook,' said Moody Margaret.

Moody Margaret lived next door. She did not like Horrid Henry, and Horrid Henry did not like her. But when Rude Ralph was busy, Clever Clare had flu, and Sour Susan was her enemy, Margaret would jump over the wall to play with Henry.



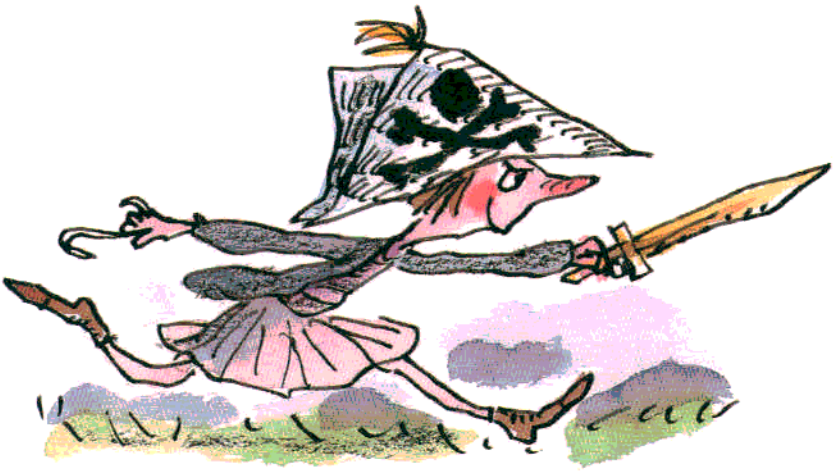
'Actually, it's my turn to be Hook now,' said Perfect Peter. 'I've been the prisoner for such a long time.'

'Prisoner, be quiet!' said Henry.

'Prisoner, walk the plank!' said Margaret.

'But I've walked it fourteen times already,' said Peter. 'Please can I be Hook now?'

'No, by thunder!' said Moody Margaret. 'Now out of my way, worm!' And she swashbuckled across the desk, waving her hook and clutching her sword and dagger.



Margaret had eyepatches and skulls and crossbones and plumed hats and cutlasses and sabres and snickersnees.

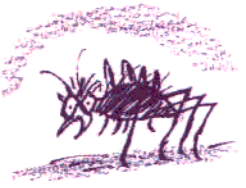
Henry had a stick.

This was why Henry played with Margaret.

But Henry had to do terrible things before playing with Margaret's swords. Sometimes he had to sit and wait while she read a book. Sometimes he had to play 'Mums and Dads' with her. Worst of all (please don't tell anyone), sometimes he had to be the baby.

Henry never knew what Margaret would do.

When he put a spider on her arm, Margaret laughed.



When he pulled her hair, Margaret pulled his harder.

When Henry screamed, Margaret would scream louder. Or she would sing. Or pretend not to hear.

Sometimes Margaret was fun. But most of the time she was a moody old grouch.

'I won't play if I can't be Hook,' said Horrid Henry.

Margaret thought for a moment.

'We can both be Captain Hook,' she said.

'But we only have one hook,' said Henry.



'Which I haven't played with yet,' said Peter.

'BE QUIET, prisoner!' shouted Margaret. 'Mr Smee, take him to jail.'

'No,' said Henry.

'You will get your reward, Mr Smee,' said the Captain, waving her hook.

Mr Smee dragged the prisoner to the jail.

'If you're very quiet, prisoner, then you will be freed and you can be a pirate, too,' said Captain Hook.