

The curious case of Rhymmer McGuigan

This play is free to download and perform. The only condition is that you must email Alex at abroun@bigpond.net.au and let him know **where and when you produced his script**, listing the **director, cast and theatre**. If you have any production photos send them along as well and they may just end up on this website.

a short play

By

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May 2008

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Cast

RHYMER McGUIGAN

ESTELLE

SIREN 1

SIREN 2

SIREN 3

SIREN 4

The curious case of Rhymer McGuigan

SIREN 1: Losing love

SIREN 3: is a little like

SIREN 4: death.

SIREN 2: A little

SIREN 1: It is also just as

SIREN 3: unexpected.

SIREN 1: If you knew that

SIREN 2: was the last

SIREN 3: time

SIREN 1: The last moments

SIREN 3: you would share

SIREN 1: with your

SIREN 2: Loved one.

SIREN 1: You would savour it

SIREN 4: More

SIREN 2: Enjoy it

SIREN 4: more.

SIREN 1: Allow it to

SIREN 3: Linger

SIREN 1: On your

SIREN 2: lips

SIREN 3: Your skin

SIREN 4: Your finger

SIREN 2: tips.

SIREN 1: But you remain

SIREN 3: Unaware

SIREN 1: This is the

SIREN 2: last

SIREN 4: time.

SIREN 1: No special care is

SIREN 3: taken.

SIREN 1: It's another day

SIREN 3: Another time

SIREN 2: And then

SIREN 4: It's gone.

LIGHTS CHANGE.

SIREN 1: This is a story

SIREN 2: of the sea

SIREN 3: A story set

SIREN 4: by the sea

SIREN 2: The sea side

SIREN 3: Beaches

SIREN 1: Boats

SIREN 2: Waiting for

SIREN 4: the sirens' call

LIGHTS UP ON **RHYMER**. HE SITS.

SIREN 1: His name is Rhymer.

SIREN 2: Why Rhymer ?

SIREN 4: That was never explained.

SIREN 3: To him ?

SIREN 4: Anyone.

SIREN 1: For all his life he has simply been known as –

SIREN 3: Rhymer

SIREN 2: Rhymer McGuigan

SIREN 1: He had no great affection for his name

SIREN 4: Or desire to live up to it.

SIREN 3: If Rhymer wrote verse

SIREN 2: Which he did not

SIREN 4: It would've been long,

SIREN 1: Unambiguous

SIREN 3: and definitely

SIREN 2: Without rhyme.

SIREN 1: He lived a

SIREN 2: Neat

SIREN 4: Ordered

SIREN 3: Structured

SIREN 1: life
A place for

SIREN 2: Everything

SIREN 3: And everything

SIREN 4: in it's

SIREN 1: Place

SIREN 4: We see him

SIREN 2: everyday

SIREN 3: On the Ferry.

SIREN 1: As he makes his way
SIREN 2: Across the waves
SIREN 4: Home.
SIREN 1: Every morning
SIREN 4: and afternoon
SIREN 2: He sits in the same
SIREN 1: spot
SIREN 3: By the window
SIREN 2: Looking East.
SIREN 1: In the morning
SIREN 3: Starboard
SIREN 1: In the evening
SIREN 3: Port.
SIREN 2: As he passes he lists the Bays
SIREN 4: In his mind
SIREN 1: Like the hands
SIREN 3: Of a clock
SIREN 2: Winding slowly
SIREN 4: Through the
SIREN 3: Hours.
SIREN 1: In the morning
SIREN 2: Watsons
SIREN 1: Rose
SIREN 3: Double
SIREN 4: Elizabeth

SIREN 2: Circular Quay.

SIREN 1: In the evening

SIREN 4: Elizabeth

SIREN 3: Double

SIREN 1: Rose

SIREN 2: Watsons

ALL: Home

SIREN 1: And alone
Always

SIREN 4: alone

SIREN 3: For many years

SIREN 2: Now.

SIREN 3: But it wasn't always

SIREN 1: the case.

SIREN 2: Rhymer McGuigan

SIREN 1: did not always

SIREN 3: travel

SIREN 4: alone.

LIGHTS UP ON **ESTELLE**

SIREN 2: Her name was

SIREN 4: Estelle.

SIREN 1: And they met at the

SIEN 2: beach.

SIREN 3: Bondi ?

SIREN 1: Balmoral.

SIREN 2: It was winter

SIREN 4: Cold
SIREN 2: Chill
SIREN 3: Wind.
SIREN 1: The only time
SIREN 2: Rhymer
SIREN 4: Actually liked going
SIREN 1: to the
SIREN 3: beach.

RHYMER STANDS AND BEGINS TO WALK.

SIREN 2: Rhymer was
SIREN 4: walking
SIREN 1: Strolling
SIREN 3: As he liked to do on
SIREN 2: Chilly winter days
SIREN 1: The icy wind
SIREN 4: on his face
SIREN 2: Stinging his
SIREN 3: cheeks
SIREN 1: Reddening his
SIREN 3: Nose
SIREN 4: Drying his
SIREN 3: Lips
SIREN 2: Reminding him
SIREN 1: He was
SIREN 4: alive.

ESTELLE UNFURLS AN UMBRELLA. RHYMER STOPS.

SIREN 2: It was the colour that

SIREN 3: Stopped him.

SIREN 1: Drew him

SIREN 4: Closer.

SIREN 1: Nearer.

SIREN 2: In.

SIREN 3: So bright

SIREN 4: Vibrant

SIREN 1: Out of

SIREN 2: Place.

SIREN 3: On such a

SIREN 4: Cold

SIREN 2: Grey

SIREN 1: Day.

SIREN 3: He

SIREN 4: approached.

RHYMER APPROACHES ESTELLE.

RHYMER: That's a lovely ...

ESTELLE: What ?

RHYMER: Umbrella.

ESTELLE LAUGHS.

ESTELLE: Is that it ?

RHYMER: It ?

ESTELLE: The best you have. How ...

RYMER: Yes ?

ESTELLE: Funny.

BEAT.

SIREN 1: (TO **RHYMER**) Go on.

SIREN 2: Speak again.

SIREN 3: Say

SIREN 4: more.

SIREN 3: The fish

SIREN 2: Is hooked.

SIREN 1: She dances

SIREN 4: On your line.

SIREN 3: Reel her

SIREN 2: In.

RHYMER: Would you ... ?

ESTELLE: Would I what ?

RHYMER: Care to ... ?

RHYMER HOLDS OUT HIS ARM.

ESTELLE: A walk.
In the rain.
How ...

SIREN 1: Wild ?

SIREN 2: Crazy ?

SIREN 3: Mad ?

SIREN 4: Foolish ?

ESTELLE: Romantic.

ESTELLE TAKES **RHYMER**'S ARM. THEY STROLL ACROSS
STAGE. **ESTELLE** TWIRLS HER UMBRELLA.

SIREN 1: So began the
SIREN 3: Passion
SIREN 4: Romance
SIREN 3: Courtship
SIREN 1: of
SIREN 2: Estelle
SIREN 1: and
SIREN 4: Rhymer.
SIREN 3: And for a time
SIREN 1: There was
SIREN 2: Happiness ?
SIREN 3: Colour
SIREN 4: In his life
SIREN 1: But underneath
SIREN 4: There was
SIREN 2: always
SIREN 3: A hinting
SIREN 2: Foreboding
SIREN 1: Of something to
SIREN 4: come
SIREN 3: Opposites
SIREN 2: attract
SIREN 1: For awhile.
SIREN 4: Rhymer
SIREN 3: Was a man of

RHYMER: Culture.

SIREN 1: There was –

ESTELLE: Museums.
Galleries.
Concerts.

RHYMER: Classical.

SIREN 1: Of course.

ESTELLE: So much to see

RHYMER: And learn.

SIREN 4: Rhymer opened Estelle's mind

SIREN 2: To wonders she

SIREN 1: Never

SIREN 3: Knew.

SIREN 2: The fish

SIREN 3: was dancing

SIREN 1: on the hook

SIREN 2: Or was that

SIREN 4: Struggling.

SIREN 2: Estelle

SIREN 3: Was full of

SIREN 2: Life

ESTELLE: Colour

SIREN 2: She was

SIREN 3: Free

SIREN 4: She liked to

SIREN 2: Rhyme

SIREN 1: Ryhmer
 SIREN 3: Despite his name
 SIREN 4: Did not.
 SIREN 1: Rhymer liked
 SIREN 2: Order.
 SIREN 3: Precision
 SIREN 4: Time
 SIREN 1: to be properly
 RHYMER: Used.

LIGHTS CHANGE

ESTELLE: What shall we do today ?
 RHYMER: The day has all been planned.
 We have lunch
 Then the exhibition
 Followed by the concert
 And a late supper
 ESTELLE: Why must everything always be planned ?
 RHYMER: I thought you liked the concerts, exhibitions.
 ESTELLE: I do.
 But it's always so ...
 SIREN 1: Regimented.
 SIREN 4: Structured.
 ESTELLE: Organised.
 Why can't we just make up our mind –
 SIREN 2: Spontaneously
 SIREN 3: Suddenly.
 ESTELLE: On the spur of the moment.
 Let the wind take us.
 RHYMER: But lunch must be

SIREN 1: booked.

RHYMER: Opening times

SIREN 2: checked.

RHYMER: Concert tickets

SIREN 3: purchased.

RHYMER: The finer moments of life can not be left to chance.

SIREN 1: Does he not

SIREN 3: Hear himself ?

SIREN 2: Understand

SIREN 4: How ridiculous

SIREN 1: He sounds ?

ESTELLE: But sometimes some of the most wonderful moments in life
Happen by
Chance.

ESTELLE IS VERY CLOSE TO RHYMER. BEAT.

SIREN 2: Why doesn't he do

SIREN 1: Something

SIREN 3: Say

SIREN 4: Something

SIREN 1: Why doesn't he

SIREN 2: Grab her

SIREN 3: Hold her

SIREN 4: Kiss

SIREN 1: Her.

SIREN 2: Why does he just

SIREN 3: Stand there ?

SIREN 2: Like a
SIREN 4: Statue
SIREN 1: Frozen
SIREN 2: Cold.
SIREN 3: What is that
SIREN 1: Expression
SIREN 2: In his eyes ?

BEAT.

SIREN 3: Confusion ?
SIREN 1: Sadness ?
SIREN 4: Fear.
SIREN 1: And Estelle
SIREN 2: Knew
SIREN 3: In that moment
SIREN 2: The Romance
SIREN 1: The Passion
SIREN 3: The courtship was
SIREN 4: No more.

**ESTELLE MOVES AWAY. BEAT.
LIGHTS CHANGE.**

SIREN 1: Late that night
SIREN 2: They made their way
SIREN 3: Across the waves
SIREN 4: Home.
SIREN 2: Estelle stood
SIREN 1: At the prow

SIREN 3: Of the boat

SIREN 4: Alone

SIREN 2: Gazing

SIREN 1: Into

SIREN 4: the darkening waves.

SIREN 1: Rhymer

SIREN 3: approaches.

RHYMER COMES CLOSE TO ESTELLE. BEAT.

ESTELLE: There is a

SIREN 4: Heaviness

ESTELLE: Around you

SIREN 2: Inside

ESTELLE: You
It weighs me

SIREN 1: Down

ESTELLE: I want to be

SIREN 3: Free

ESTELLE: Of you.

SIREN 4: She turned to look at him then.

SIREN 2: What is that

SIREN 1: Expression

SIREN 2: In her eyes ?

SIREN 3: Confusion ?

SIREN 1: Sadness ?

SIREN 4: Disgust.

SIREN 3: Rhymer stands

SIREN 1: A little behind her

SIREN 3: To the left.

SIREN 2: He raises his arms

SIREN 1: And suddenly !

SIREN 3: He pushes her.

SIREN 2: And she

SIREN 3: Tumbles

SIREN 1: Over the side

SIREN 3: Into the

SIREN 4: Darkening waves.

LIGHTS FADE ON **ESTELLE**.

SIREN 1: And Rhymer

SIREN 3: Completes the journey.

SIREN 4: Alone.

BEAT. LIGHTS CHANGE.

SIREN 1: Time

SIREN 4: passes

SIREN 1: The hands

SIREN 3: Of the clock

SIREN 2: Wind slowly

SIREN 4: Through the

SIREN 3: Hours.

SIREN 2: Days.

SIREN 1: Years.

SIREN 4: Then one

SIREN 2: morning

THE RED UMBRELLA OPENS AND PASSES BY ON THE OPPOSITE
SIDE OF THE STAGE.

RHYMER WATCHES IT.

SIREN 1: On another

SIREN 4: Boat

SIREN 3: Passing

SIREN 2: by.

SIREN 4: A familiar

SIREN 1: Colour

SIREN 2: Catches his

SIREN 3: eye.

SIREN 1: He thought of what

SIREN 4: Was

SIREN 3: And what

SIREN 2: Could have been.

SIREN 1: There time

SIREN 3: together

SIREN 2: Began

SIREN 4: And ended

SIREN 2: By the water

SIREN 3: The waves

SIREN 2: The water

SIREN 1: The sea.

SIREN 3: There was a

SIREN 4: Symmetry

SIREN 1: About that

SIREN 3: That Rhymer

SIREN 2: Enjoyed.

SIREN 1: And if he had

SIREN 4: tears

SIREN 3: He would have

SIREN 2: Shed them

RHYMER: Then.

LIGHTS FADE ON **SIRENS**.

LIGHTS FADE ON **RHYMER** AND THE UMBRELLA.

END PLAY.