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Marx, Karl. (Translator unknown). Newspaper article reproduced in 'The Battle for Hyde Park: Ruffians, Radicals and Ravers, 1850s-1990s', Practical History. (Originally published Neue Oder Zeitung, 1855.)
<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/7672/hyde.html>
Accessed 18 July 2007
Tait, Robert. 'Iranian militants demand return of British diplomatic compound.' Guardian, London and Manchester, July 18 2007
Author's note: The title is a quotation from Robert Tait supplied by the artist Barbara Campbell as a 'prompt' for the story, which was written for Campbell's 1001 Nights Cast (see <http://1001.net.au>).
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I was reading a book I'd found, or borrowed. I must have been bored, because it was nonsense. A fairy story. Everyone was 'beseech thee' this and 'grant ye' that. What I can remember is that it was a story about a venerable and majestic king who was also old and sick. And he'd been confined to his room with nothing to do but worry about whether people would remember him well or not. So he commissioned a great book that would list all of his deeds, and also would include all the wisdom of the great thinkers and poets of the age. This book would be really lavishly produced, with gold lettering and full-colour throughout, and printed on really good quality paper. The idea was that the book could then be read aloud to him whenever he was feeling a bit depressed which was most of the time. He wanted to drown in a sea of thought and culture and poetry. Basically, I think he just needed something to cheer himself up. But then there was some complication or a story-within-a-story some kind of parable about vanity and losing touch with what's important in life and I can't remember much about that, but it involved I don't know thoroughbred horses, costly robes and vizards, those kind of things. Lamentations. Gifts.

Hyde Park

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whisper that he was disguised as a protestor. Something about wanting to get closer to his people and hear their grievances for himself. This was clever, obviously. To turn the crowd against itself. To break it up in that way so they forget who the enemy is and make life easier for us.

It wasn't us. We didn't start the rumour and nor did we act upon it. Even if certain revisionists have started suggesting that we have blood on our hands. We were spectators at best. And none of this was anywhere near where I was standing, so I didn't really see it with my own eyes while it was happening, I just heard about it. And then later I had to help clear up the mess. But listen, when you have that atmosphere of suspicion the most ridiculous thing can seem believable, and people started turning to their neighbour and looking at them with a new eye everyone thinking they'd found the President. And by that time people were angry, and frustrated. Then... Well, you know what happened.

We didn't see the real President much after that. Not in the way that we used to before. They say it shook him up really badly, and I can believe it. He was only human.

I think that's why my memory of the day is so vivid, though. You know, to go from that to this. From a story about the vanity of some make-believe king to the fate of a dozen make-believe Presidents. There's no logic to it. No moral. Just for some reason it sticks in my mind. --
'Hyde Park' was created by cutting up, remixing and re-narrativising fragments from the following sources to create a completely new story:
Burton, Richard. 1885-1888. 'When it was the Seven Hundred and Fifty-eighth Night'. The Project Gutenberg e-text of The Book of the Thousand Nights and a Night. Volume VII. <http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext02/71001108.txt>
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ICTY. 2003. 'Page 25136-7, Milosevic (IT-02-54) Kosovo, Croatia and Bosnia'. International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. <http://www.un.org/cty/transes54/030825ED.htm>
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