## **Hyde Park**

Tony White

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http://1001.net.au).

Campbell's 1001 Nights Cast (see

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

**Tait, Robert.** 'Iranian militants demand return of British diplomatic compound.' Guardian, London and Manchester, July 18 2007

Accessed 18 July 2007

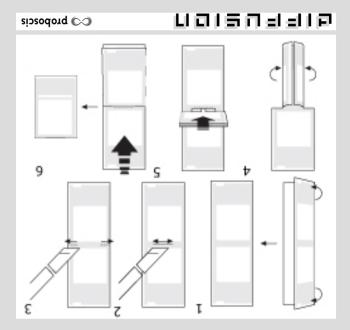
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http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate

Zeitung, 1855.)

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 Practical History.

Viziers, those kind of things. Lamentations. Gifts. don't know thoroughbred horses, costly robes and remember much about that, but it involved I touch with what's important in life and I can't some kind of parable about vanity and losing was some complication or a story-within-a-story something to cheer himself up. But then there poetry. Basically, I think he just needed to drown in a sea of thought and culture and depressed which was most of the time. He wanted read aloud to him whenever he was feeling a bit paper. The idea was that the book could then be throughout, and printed on really good quality produced, with gold lettering and full-colour the age. This book would be really lavishly all the wisdom of the great thinkers and poets of would list all of his deeds, and also would include or not. So he commissioned a great book that about whether people would remember him well confined to his room with nothing to do but worry King who was also old and sick. And he'd been it was a story about a venerable and majestic and 'grant ye' that. What I can remember is that A fairy story. Everyone was 'beseech thee' this must have been bored, because it was nonsense. I was reading a book I'd found, or borrowed. I



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Threats of suicide.

I'm sorry, I've started forgetting my own language. That was a difficult question. I don't know if I can tell you much you don't already know.

If I have trouble speaking can you ask me the question again?

I never did get to finish the story. There was a rebellion. Not in the book, in real life. I'd just been transferred from the 10th Sabotage Detachment to the Gendarmerie. A lot of us were. There had been a lot of new laws mainly to do with public order issues at that 'time of crisis'. Of course there was a big demonstration against all of this, and people gathered in the park. It's the same everywhere I think. You have your Hyde Park and your Bois de Boulogne. Every city has these great open spaces where armies can be mobilised to defend them. Normally these are just places of leisure any military presence would just be decorative. You'd go there to pick up a girl or to promenade. And High Society would go there, to see and be seen. It's the same everywhere, I think.

owned up to it. But whoever it was started a in disguise. I don't know who it was. No-one it about that the President was here already, but the idea came from. Someone decided to spread volatile the situation was. But I think that's where this wasn't at all likely to happen, given how the laws in question. That was another fairy story wonld make some announcement about reviewing himself would come to address the crowd. That he There was some rumour that the President

to be effective.

you want to secure. There were not enough of us you need one man for every yard of perimeter think of how big that park is, and knowing that It was too late for us to be of much use. If you

can ask yourself: who paid our wages? where the order came from beyond that. But you were losing control of the situation. I don't know The police who'd been there from the beginning instructed us to go and provide reinforcements. several days. It was Colonel Salapura who been posters and flyers appearing everywhere for thousands. And this was not a surprise. There had thousands of people gathered there. Tens of this up. By 3 o'clock that afternoon there were It's all in the news reports, anybody could look

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.

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Thousand Nights and a Night. Volume VII. Project Gutenberg e-text of The Book of the Seven Hundred and Fifty-eighth Night'. The Burton, Richard. 1885-1888. 'When it was the sources to create a completely new story: and re-narrativising fragments from the following 'Hyde Park' was created by cutting up, remixing

moral. Just for some reason it sticks in my mind. make-believe Presidents. There's no logic to it. No make-believe King to the fate of a dozen From a story about the vanity of some vivid, though. You know, to go from that to this. I think that's why my memory of the day is so