

## Moody Margaret Moves In

*Characters:*

*Henry: A little boy, who always gets himself into trouble.*

*Henry's Mother: Henry's and Peter's mother, who always tells Henry off. She has blonde hair and wears glasses.*

*Peter: Wonderful little boy, Henry's brother who always listens and does well at school.*

*Margaret: Henry's neighbor and arch enemy, known as Moody Margaret, always getting Henry in trouble.*

*Magarets's father: A lovely man, who believes Margaret is the perfect child.*

*Magaret's mother: A lovely woman, who loves her daughter and believes she is lovely.*

*Henry's father: Henry ad Peter's father, who usually tells Henry off.*

### Act 1 Scene 1

*Peter is in a dustbin with Henry standing next to him, outside their home.*

**Peter:** *[in a dust bin]* It-it would be easy to find your twenty pence, Henry. There must be a billion chance in here. *[Henry bangs the lid on Peter's head]* Ouch!

**Henry:** Make that a billion and one.

**Henry's mother:** Henry! Have you seen Peter? *[walks towards him]*

**Henry:** Peter? Errmm... *[looked thoughtful]* Let me think.

**Henry's mother:** I need to talk to you both. Margaret's coming to stay.

**Henry:** *[shocked]* Moody Margaret? Coming to stay here?

**Henry's mother:** Yes. While her parents are on a holiday.

**Peter:** Ooh, goody! *[he popped out of the garbage can, much to his mother's surprise]* I love having guests!

**Henry's mother:** *[gasps]* Henry! How could you be... *[takes Peter out of the garbage can]* so horrid?

**Henry:** I was just tidying up.

**Henry's mother:** But... *[swept dust from Peter's clothes]* but... *[Peter took a banana peel and dropped it on the floor]* No pocket money for a month. And as you were so horrid to Peter, Margaret... *[pointed at Henry]* ...can have your room.

**Henry:** My room? **NOOOOOOOOOOO!**

## **Act 1 Scene 2**

*In the living room, Henry is sitting on the sofa sulking, while Peter is standing listening attentively to their father.*

**Henry's father:** Now, I expect both of you to make Margaret's stay a pleasant one. *[Henry scoffs]* Shall I run through the basics of hospitality again, Henry?

**Peter:** *[the doorbell rings]* Woo-hoo, woo-hoo, woo-hoo! *[stands up and runs to the door]* She's here! *[Their parents ran to the door but Henry stayed on the sofa]*

**Henry:** There should be a law about who gets to stay in your room. She's gonna spy my things! Play with my toys! *Read my comics!*

**Margaret's mother:** Thanks so much for having Margaret to stay. *[puts down Margaret's trumpet then her pillows]* She's such a little angel. *[looked dotingly at Margaret and rubbed her face]* Isn't that right, precious?

**Margaret:** Yes, Mum.

**Peter:** Welcome to our home! *[speaking to Margaret's father]* May I take those? *[Margaret's father handed the three cardboard boxes to Peter and Peter grunted]* *[speaking to Margaret]* You're sleeping in... Henry's room. *[as he walks out]* But don't worry... I've cleaned it.

**Margaret's father:** She'll be no trouble. *[walks towards Margaret]* Margaret's polite, eats everything and never complains. *[rubs Margaret's nose]* Good as gold, aren't you, precious? *[Margaret giggles]*

**Margaret's mother:** *[waves]* See you in a week's time! *[walks out, followed by Margaret's father]*

**Margaret:** *[looked triumphantly at Henry]* Henry.

**Henry:** *[glares at her and grits his teeth]* Margaret.

**Margaret:** *[haughtily]* I'm the guest. So you better be polite. *[drops her bags on Henry's feet]*

**Henry:** Ouch!

**Margaret:** Aaah! *[claps her hands together, then pick up her pillows]* Show me to my room.

**Henry:** *[angrily]* It's my room.

### **Act 1 Scene 3**

*Peter carrying the three boxes up the stairs. Margaret exits the living room, followed by Henry who was dragging her bags along.*

**Henry's mother:** *[as her husband shuts the door]* We hope that you will be very comfortable here, Margaret.

**Margaret:** *[with her eyes closed]* There's too much dust. I'm allergic to dust. A-choo.

**Henry's mother:** Oh, dear. But don't worry; we'll vacuum.

**Henry and his father:** *[in unison]* We will? *[looked at each other, then Henry continued heaving the bags up the stairs]*

**Margaret:** Er, I always eat at 6 o' clock at my house. *[looks at her watch]* It's 6 o' clock. I'm hungry.

**Henry's mother:** *[looked at her husband]* Fine. We'll eat early.

### **Act 1, Scene 4**

*Upstairs, Peter had finally finished carrying the heavy boxes. He leans on the banister and dried his sweat. Henry kicks the boxes back downstairs.*

**Peter:** Watch out!

**Henry:** Peter! Those things belong to our guest. You should be more careful. *[sniggers]*

**Margaret:** **AAAAAAUUUUUUUUUGGGHHHHHHHHH!!!!** *[Henry's parents look at each other, and his father shrugs]*

### **Act 1 Scene 5**

*In the dining room, Henry's family and Margaret are eating dinner.*

### **Act 2 Scene 1**

**Henry's father:** For you, Margaret. *[about to give Margaret a spoonful of sprouts]*

**Margaret:** I don't like sprouts. And I like my corn off the cob.

**Henry's mother:** Fine. Give it to me.

**Margaret:** And put the corn... *[passes the plate to Peter]* ... on a separate plate. I don't like vegetables touching my meat.

**Henry:** *[puts his fork down]* Yeah! *[pointed at Margaret]* Put Margaret in a separate room. I don't like looking at her.

**Margaret:** *[gasps]* Ouch! Henry kicked me! *[started fake crying]*

**Henry:** *[bangs on the table]* No, I didn't!

**Peter:** *[with his eyes closed]* This is so embarrassing.

**Henry's mother:** *[puts Margaret's plate on the table]* Oh, don't be horrid, Henry.

**Henry:** When I'm king, I'll...

## **Act 2 scene 2**

*Scene cuts to "King Henry" jumping on Margaret, who happens to be a trampoline ..show her who's... who's... King...*

## **Act 2 Scene 3**

*Scene fades back to show Henry bouncing a sprout on his spoon*

**Henry's mother:** Henry! Stop playing with your food!

*[Henry looked around, then spotted Margaret. He shot a sprout at her, but she held up her spoon and the sprout bounced back, hitting the flower vase on a shelf. The family gasped, thinking that it would drop but it just wobbled and stayed.]*

**Henry's mother:** Henry...

**Henry's father:** You've already lost your pocket money for one month already, Henry. We can make it two if you don't stop behaving now.

**Henry:** *[as Margaret blew off smoke on her spoon and twirled it]* Grrr!!  
*[Scene cuts to Peter's room, and it's night]*

## **Act 2 Scene 3**

*In Peter's room, it's night time, Henry and Peter are getting ready for bed.*

**Peter:** Good night, Bunny. *[kisses the soft toy]*

**Henry:** Augh! *[mimicking]* Good night, Bunny! Oh, yuck! *[He puts down his radio then pulled up the blanket. There, he saw a spider.]* **AAAAHHH!!**

*[Peter was startled and stared at Henry and Henry looked at the door. The door closed abruptly and Margaret's laughter was heard.]* Margaret!  
*[picked up the toy spider and dangled it in front of Peter]*

**Peter:** AAAAHHH!! Get it off! *[flailed his arms about]*

**Henry:** Margaret did this, Peter. Why don't you tell Mum and get Margaret into trouble for a change?

**Peter:** Tell on the guest? I-I couldn't. It's bad manners.

**Henry:** *Bad manners? You're a wormy worm. She's in there, snooping through all my stuff! [his 'Eureka' moment strikes] EUREKA! THAT'S IT! Yes! Margaret is our guest. If she wants to snoop, then it's my duty to make it easier for her. [took off his slippers and climbed into bed] Tomorrow is going to be The Return Of Henry. [snickers]*

### **Act 3 Scene 4**

*It was night. Fluffy the cat is sitting on the windowsill. She sees the remote control and presses a button. It becomes the day. Then, as she is still sitting there. Suddenly, trumpet music plays and Fluffy mews frightened and zipped under the sofa. Peter, Henry, and their parents wake up with a jolt. Suddenly, rock music plays.*

**Henry's father:** What?

**Henry's mother:** Stop it! Stop it at once! *[Henry switched off his radio, and Margaret stopped playing] Oh, for goodness sake! It's 6 o' clock in the morning!*

**Margaret:** I always wake up 6 o' clock. And I always practice before breakfast. *[Blew yet another chord]*

**Henry's mother:** Fine. Then let's go downstairs and make you breakfast right now.

**Henry:** All clear! Operation Bye-bye Margaret is a go! *[Somersaults towards 'now Margaret's room', then looked at the staircase for the last time. He walked into the room] Eww... Girl stuff! In my room! [From under his bed, Henry grabbed the black box with a skull marked on it and put it on his bed. He opened it, and then took out a red notebook. Meanwhile, Margaret had had her breakfast and about to go up. Then, Henry was scribbling away in the book. Margaret took a few more steps while Henry was almost finished. Margaret finally reached the second floor, and opened the door.]*

**Margaret:** Hey! What are you doing?

**Henry:** Nothing! Err... nothing. I'm err... just writing in my diary. *[Pointed at the book]*

**Margaret:** Diary? Ooh! *[Walked towards Henry] I didn't know you had a diary. [Started to read]*

**Henry:** *[closes the book] it's secret. My secret thoughts. Not to be written by the lights of you. [puts the diary in the box] Which is why I*

keep it in this box, *[holds the key up]* which I lock with this key. *[kicks the box under the bed]* And that's where it stays! Now, if you'd excuse me, I have teeth to clean. *[Intentionally misses the key and drops it on the floor and walks out. Margaret saw the key, then made sure that Henry closed the door before picking it up.]*

**Henry:** *[peeks through the keyhole]* once a snoop, always a snoop.  
*[Snickers]*

**Margaret:** *[having taken the diary out]* Dear Diary, I really really wonder that she's gonna put Peter into the rubbish bin. *[Emerges from under the bed]* Ooh! Peter will never tell on a guest! So I'll be blamed, and really, really punished! My life would be over, and it'd be all Margaret's fault!

*[Sniggers]*

*[The scene cuts to enables us to see Peter in a rubbish bin]*

### **Act 3 Scene 1**

**Peter:** When I said your wish is my command, this wasn't exactly what I have in mind.

**Margaret:** What are you going to do? Tell?

**Peter:** I would *never* tell on a guest!

**Margaret:** Ah! Good! Watch your fingers. *[Slams the lid on the bin]* Oh! *[To the garbage man]* Over here! Don't forget this one! *[Points to the bin]* *[The garbage men came down to get ready to empty the bin]* Na-na-na-na-na, Henry's gonna get it! *[chuckles]*

**Henry:** *[watching at the window. He snickered then went to the computer]* Operation Bye-bye Margaret: Phase 2! *[starts typing]* Email... send! *[taps on a button. Just then, his mother walked past.]*

**Henry's mother:** Henry? Have you seen Peter?

**Henry:** Yes! *[turns around]* He's gone to the dump, because he's rubbish.

**Henry's mother:** *[as her husband follows]* Peter! Peter! Peter!

### **Act 3 Scene 2**

*In Henry's bedroom, where Henry's things are on a cloth.*

**Henry:** *[claps his hands together, then took both sides of the cloth. He tied it, then dumped it on the table]* Operation Bye-bye Margaret:... *[pushes the cloth out the window]* ...Phase 3!

*[The scene cuts to the kitchen, where a very filthy Peter stood. Henry and Margaret were side by side beside him, and Henry's parents were in front of them.]*

**Henry's mother:** Henry. I warned you what would happen if you did this again.

**Henry:** I didn't do it! Ask Peter who did it!

**Henry's father:** Well?

**Peter:** Errmm...

**Margaret:** Remember: *Never tell on a guest!*

**Henry:** Remember: *Never tell a lie!*

**Peter:** *[faces Henry]* You were right. I have to tell the truth. It was... Margaret!

**Henry's mother:** *[shocked]* Margaret! How could you be so horrid?

**Margaret:** *[groans and points at Henry]* You set me up.

**Henry:** And why did you throw my stuff out the window?

**Margaret:** I did *what?*

**Henry's father:** You did *what?*

*[They ran to the window and saw the stuff on the floor or the deckchair]*

**Henry's mother:** This is disgraceful behavior, young lady. If your parents were here,... *[points to the door]* ...you would be on your way home. *[the doorbell rings]*

**Henry:** Hold that thought!

**Henry's father:** Oh, who can that be? *[Margaret hopped off the chair and her hosts walked towards the door]*

**Margaret's father:** We're so sorry Margaret's been causing trouble!

**Margaret's mother:** We came as soon as we got your email.

**Henry's father:** *[turns to his wife]* What email? *[they glanced at Henry who was whistling]*

**Margaret's father:** Don't think you wouldn't be punished, young lady!

**Margaret:** But...

**Margaret's mother:** You're coming home with us *right now!*

**Henry:** *[waves]* I'll have your stuff sent over. *[Margaret growls as the door closes]*

**Henry's father:** She's... gone!

**Henry's mother:** Yes!

**Henry's father:** *[to Henry]* You sent that email, didn't you?

**Henry:** You know what this means, don't you? No sweets for 10 years! No TV until I can drive! But it was worth it. Yes, I sent the email.

**Henry's mother:** *[clears her throat]* Well... that was... a really horrid thing to do Henry, so... erm... *[looks at her husband then back at Henry]* ... Go to your room.

**Henry:** Go to my room? That's it?

**Henry's father:** Yes. Go to your room.

**Henry:** My room! [*He ran up the stairs two at a time, and his parents chuckled*] Sweetest words are never spoken. [*He entered the room, then slams the door.*]

*End Scene*