

TOO MANY HANDS SPOIL THE STORY

by Joan Black

Just so you understand that this is not a TRUE story, we have to start with the sentence ‘Once Upon A Time’ – and upon that time there was a Frigate named “Hands Across The Sea” – aptly named because it was the very ship that carried Hans Christian Andersen, the author of so many great fairy tales, across the sea on one of his many voyages. Now this good ship ran afoul of a Nor’easter and the Captain ordered “All Hands on deck!” Immediately the hatches opened up and out scrambled 100 or so Hands – mostly in pairs but there were quite a few singles. Some of the Left Hands had lost their partners to Allstate who had recruited them as a safe haven for careless drivers. Some Right Hands had been abandoned by their mates who had gone off to Never-Never Land with Peter Pan to clap for Tinkerbell and support their belief in fairies. These industrious sea-going Hands knew that many of them, working together, made light work, so they started in bailing the bilges, scouring the scuppers and running up the rigging so as not to be guilty of idleness and become prey to Satan. The Captain waved his hand at the Hand climbing hand over hand and ordered him to carry down the Crow from the nest because a bird in the hand was worth two up the pole.

Suddenly a loud voice commanded “Hands UP!” and Captain and Crew realized that they had been boarded by a handful of skanky Pirates in a hands down easy takeover. Handy Dandy Dan, the Pirate Chief, had gained the upper hand shortly after things got out of hand when it became obvious that the right Hands did not know what the left Hands were doing. The Captain sadly admitted that he had let victory slip right through his hands and he was now a prisoner of Handy Dandy. Rather than bite the hand that would feed him the Captain offered his Captor the hand of his beautiful daughter in marriage, but Dandy insisted on the whole and complete girl, not just one of her extremities.

And so the erstwhile enemies shook hands and Pirate and Beautiful girl danced hand in hand while the ship’s band played and everyone joined hands and sang “I wanna hold your hand.” And they all lived happily ever after.

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