

JANE AUSTEN'S MERRY MAY DAYS

As Jane arose early in May
She felt something special may happen today
Jane thought for a moment to see her friend Liz
So sent a note via scruffy errand boy John Hector Humphriz.

After meeting by the Abbey
Around the corner they walked
Swapping notes about ladies fashion
As they excitedly talked.

At their favourite tea house
They quietly squeezed in
The brasses and fire irons
Burnished with the glow of a new pin.

When they'd settled in their seats
The serving lady smiled at Jane
And said "how pleasant
To see you again."

Then the two ladies chatted to
The charming Sally Lunn
Who said "ladies we now offer customers
A beautiful bun".

"Yes please "said Liz
"And we would like tea with no milk
But who's that tall moustachiod man
With a cravat of shot silk ?"

"Tut tut Miss Windsor
To him pay no care
I believe he's a masher
With four children and a marriage in disrepair."

"His name's Ewan MacLucan but ladies
Still flutter a fan
At the sight of this
Handsome but despicable man."

Meanwhile the said villainous gent
Had smiled lightly at a flushing Jane
As through the open
exit door he went.

Liz looked at Jane
With a slight reprimand
And said "good heavens my dear
What else have you planned?"

"Listen dear Jane" said Liz" you may declare
There's no enjoyment like reading
But yours and Cassandra's sheltered lives
Can narrow your experiences and activities of meaning."

"You are correct Lizzie, but I play the piano, I write
and am wild for dancing
And although I never married Tom Leroy I've done
A little courting with gents who are entrancing."

"On Saturday dear Liz we'll hear Mr Mozart's Nachtmusick

And Mr Pachebel's Canon

All to be played by Mr Haydn's string quartet

Plus some other favourites later on."

" Also Mr John Elton sings a heartbreaking song

on his Bechstein piano

Accompanied by Miss Dekiki the well known

Italian soprano."

On Saturday night the girls met and enjoyed a

glass of Harvey Wallbanger punch

So Lizzie found some seats whilst Jane arranged

With another lady friend a future meeting for lunch.

A tall handsome man approached

Liz saying " may I

Sit on this seat although

Close to you by and by?"

"Well sir" said Liz " can you please tell

Me your intentions

But I do advise you courteously
That I have the very highest Royal connections."

At this point Jane returned with a
Look bright and fair
Saying " my dear Lizzie this is tonight's
Guest of honour Mr Robin Adair"

Mr Adair said "you ladies are both
Beautiful and bright,
May I enjoy your company
For the rest of the night?"

I think that would be acceptable"
Said Liz quietly to Jane
Although her chaperone had headed
Off for a cheap holiday in Spain.

Jane and Liz moved with style and elegance
Through Quadrille Playford and the Lancers
And as the evening ended they had proved

Themselves excellent partners and dancers.

Quietly Jane said to Liz "It may
Come as no surprise
But Pachebel's Canon earlier
Brought tears to my eyes"

"Oh my days " said Liz with a
Furious fan wave

"I may be a quiet shy girl but talking to Mr Adair
I felt quite brave."

As the evening ended Jane guided Lizzie
To a pre booked barouche driver's car
"Come on my dear " she said "I'll drop you
Off first as you don't live very far."

Dropping Lizzie off in Edward Street

A short time later

Jane rode home to Sydney Place ready for
Questions by her nosey mater.

At home Mother tried to ask her about
The people they had met
But Jane went off to bed only saying how
Useful was the carriage keeping them out of the wet.

Jane thought it's fine for mother to want me
Married with blessings from above
But I feel the world doesn't need more
Children, it needs more love.

Michael Curran

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Mr Michael's Potboiler Poetry.

