

## Armchair Adventures: A Join-in Story Podcast For Kids

### A Shakespeare Adventure!

Connie: Welcome to the Armchair Adventures Travel Agency, journeys of the imagination. I'm Head Travel Agent and Host, Connie!

*Music: {Armchair Adventure's theme}*

Connie: Bore da!, afternoon!, or good evening wherever you're listening from adventurers! The voices of this episode's special guest Adventurers are...

George

Lola

Evie

Freddie

Alexis

Alex

Lacum

Jackson

***Adventurers: Saying their names***

Connie: Hi Everyone!

***Adventurers: Hi Connie!***

Connie: You too can star in an episode of Armchair Adventures as one of our special guest adventurers. All you need to do is ask your grown up if you can join the Armchair Adventures fanclub on patreon. For more info, simply head to the Armchair Adventures website, that's www dot armchair dash adventures dot co dot uk, and click on the Adventurer fan club page!

### Scene 1

*Music: {Short Armchair Adventure's theme underscoring to transition}*

*SFX Scribbling on paper and then scrunching it up and throwing it away.*

Connie: Hello Adventurers, I'm having a spot of trouble with my homework here...I've got to write a big essay on William Shakespeare- one of the

most famous playwrights of all time! There's so much information about him I don't know where to start, it's definitely a job for my Uncle Chris and his community theatre company! I wonder if he could give me a hand...

*SFX phone ringing*

Unc. Chris: Hello, Uncle Chris drama man and thesssspian at your service, how can I help?

Connie: (Buttering him up) Hello Uncle Chris it's your favourite niece Connie here... I'm having trouble writing this essay about Shakespeare, and I was wondering if you and your community theatre company could lend me hand...

Unc. Chris: (very theatrical) Shakespeare you say! Ole William of Shakespearean England-uth! It would be an honour fair Connie-nielus! Just leave it to this fellow bard (breaking character) - that means poet! My community theatre company and I will get you everything you need! Not forgetting you too Adventurers!

Connie: Thanks so much Uncle Chris!

Unc. Chris: My pleasure Connie!

*SFX phone hanging up*

Now I better get my theatre company on the line, or gather them by Town Crier if we are exploring the past! Because with an Armchair Adventure Adventurers, we can go anywhere we like from the comfort of where we are right now, so they're perfect for everyone, no matter what age you are. Start. Call. Now.

*Music: Armchair Adventures theme tune*

*SFX clanging of a town crier bell.*

Unc. Chris: Hear ye, hear ye! Calling the Community theatre com-pan-y! Were needed for a very-th, important-th, adventure! Hello everyone!

*Com. theatre company say hello.*

Chris: This sounds exciting, but why are you talking like that-uth!

Unc. Chris: Well, our Connie needs some help with an essay about William Shakespeare himself! So, I'm just getting into character you know...

Chris: Ah you're in role...

Unc. Chris: Indeed-uth Chris, thou fellow actor!

*Unc. Chris and chris laughing in Shakespearean style.*

John: Now Uncle Chris that's not really Shakespearian language...

Unc. Chris: How now brown-ed cow!?

John: That's not Shakespearean either!

Mike: Forsooth - I'm afraid he's right Uncle Chris.

Unc. Chris: Forsooth?

Habib: It means 'in truth' Uncle Chris.

Mike: I didn't like Shakespeare at first, I found the language a bit difficult, but then I realised it's not too different from ours once you get going! I love it now.

Dan: Once you start to get into the stories, you're hooked.

Louise: The dark and bloody tragedies

*SFX a battle field*

Julia: With witches!

*SFX a bubbling cauldren*

*Com. Theatre company and uncle chris as witches-" Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble."*

John: The love stories.

*SFX a flourish of the harp*

Julia: 'O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?'

Habib: Magical comedies.

John: With fairies and tricks a plenty.

*SFX magical wand sounds and fairy's laughing.*

Habib: I like the cases of mistaken identity.

Dan: But it's been such a long time since I studied him at school I've forgotten a lot of the facts that could help Connie.

*Com. Theatre company and Uncle Chris general agreements.*

Unc. Chris: Perhaps I am a little rusty too – it's been forever and forever and forever since I trod the boards in Macbeth! Time has crept along in its petty pace...

John: Now this is sounding a little more Shakespearean, Uncle Chris.

Unc. Chris: Thanks John I knew it was in there somewhere! This has given me an idea, seeing as we'll need a little help ourselves, why don't we use our

imaginations to adventure back in time to the 16<sup>th</sup> century! That way we can gather up the facts as they were happening!

*Com. Theatre company loads of excitement for an adventure.*

Mike: Are you with us Adventurers?

*SFX Ding*

Adventurer: Can't wait!

Adventurer: Yes please!

Adventurer: I've always wanted to visit Tudor England.

Adventurer: I hope it doesn't smell.

Unc. Chris: A journey of the imagination here we come.

*Music: Armchair Adventures theme tune*

## **Scene 2**

*SFX medieval court sounds, and music*

Julia: Oooh, where are we?

Dan: It looks very grand.

John: Lots of people in fine clothes, made of silk

Chris: Blooming heck, Everyone's in bloomers!

Unc. Chris: It feels quite royal in here, almost like we are at the Tudor court...

Queen Liz: EXCUSE ME!

*SFX glorious fanfare*

Queen Liz: Precisely, how dare you walk into my court unannounced, make yourselves known or my guards shall make mincemeat of you...

*SFX growling soldiers crossing pikes or drawing swords.*

Unc. Chris: Pray forgive us your majesty, we are but a humble troupe of actors...

Gary: Ever so humble your majesty.

*Com. Theatre mumbling humble apologies.*

Queen Liz: Ah, William Shakespeare has sent you while he is away, has he? For this afternoons show?

Chris: (quickly lying) Eerm yes, yes, that's right your highness...

Louise: Chris! That's not true...

Chris: Just go with it Louise, she looks scary!

Queen Liz: Well, I must have a word with him upon his return, what a load of country bumpkins he has sent...not even aware that they need to be announced at court hahahaha.

*SFX the court joining her in mild laughter.*

Queen Liz: Almost ordered my guards to swipe their heads clean off! HAHAHAHAH

*SFX the court joining her in more robust laughter.*

Queen Liz: Who would entertain us then? A load of headless chickens  
AHAHAHAHAH

*SFX the court are hysterical.*

Unc. Chris: (Coming in over the laughing) And might I say your queen-ness, what an honour it is to be here at Shakespearean court.

Queen Liz: What...did...you...just...say...

Chris: (not reading the room) he said 'it's an honour to be here at Shakespearean court...

Queen Liz: ELIZABTEHAN, THIS IS THE ELIZABETHAN COURT! MINE, THOU GREAT CLOTS! William Shakespeare is just a silly little playwright, and I am the Queen of ENGLAND, the time we live in is named after me...

*Com. Theatre desperately apologising.*

Queen Liz: Guards, seize them! Off with their heads!

*SFX Guards trumpets*

Unc. Chris: Oh no, come on gang let's get out of here - RUN!

Chris: You too adventurers, waaahhhh

*SFX Ding*

Adventurer: I like my head where it is.

Adventurer: Get me out of here.

Adventurer: No, no, don't kill us!

Adventurer: Run like the wind!

*SFX running and splashing on cobbles*

Mike: (as if running) Where shall we go?

Louise: Where can we hide?

Dan: and where will we get all the facts we need for Connie?

Julia: The guards are getting closer.

*SFX jeering guards and heavy trampling boots in the distance*

Unc. Chris: Quick there's a market up ahead, let's hide in the stalls and see what we can find out while we're there.

John: Good plan Uncle Chris, let's hide.

*SFX a medieval market, hooves and wheel on cobbles, distant music from a busker to underscore the scene.*

Gary: Poooo-weeee. It smells like horse poo.

Mike: It's not just the horses, the people are a bit whiffy too...

John: Well Queen Elizabeth only bathed twice a year, so I'm not surprised.

Chris: No wonder she's grumpy!

Habib: There's loads of wonky veg on these stalls

Julia: The meat doesn't look too fresh either...

Mike: But the pigs in that pen look pretty fresh...

*SFX Pigs snorting*

John: Ooh but look at that fancy woman over there, she's selling beautiful cloth to the rich people.

Unc. Chris: What can you see, hear or smell at the Tudor market, adventurers?

*SFX Ding*

Adventurer: I can hear people fighting over prices.

Adventurer: I can see loads of barrels of beer.

Adventurer: There're animals in pens for sale.

Adventurer: The pigs absolutely stink!

Adventurer: There's chickens but no chicken nuggets.

Adventurer: Awww!

Unc. Chris: Right let's spread out and see if we can find anything out about Shakespeare, but watch out for the guards...

*Com. Theatre saying they will and then trapping off.*

*SFX footsteps walking away.*

*\*Promo swap\**

Unc. Chris: While we gather some facts for Connie, Let's pause our journey of the imagination. There's something I'd like you to listen to. It's another podcast I think you'd enjoy...

*Advert plays*

Unc. Chris: Welcome back adventurers. I hope the theatre company have found out some interesting facts!

*\*Promo swap ends\**

*SFX guards trumpet and their footsteps rushing in*

Head Guard: HALT!

*SFX screeching of the guards footsteps, then them crashing into each other cartoonishly*

*Guards hurt by the above 'ow , watch out, get off me leg!'*

Head Guard: Stop messing about you lot, they must be in this market somewhere, spread out...

*SFX guards marching away*

Unc. Chris: Psst everyone, get back together the guards are here, what did you all find out?

Louise: I heard he was born in 1564, in a place called Stratford-Upon-Avon

Habib: The veg seller said, before he was a playwright he taught Latin.

Unc. Chris: Latin was an old language from Rome, and many people had to learn it in Shakespeare's day in order to do business.

John: The lady selling the cloth said he is always asking around about what it's like in other parts of the world for his plays, because he never leaves England.

Gary: He's not just a playwright he's a poet too.

Unc. Chris: I heard loads of people in the market are excited about his latest play this afternoon. They say he writes for everyone and that professors from the universities make fun of him and his plays. Calling him an 'upstart crow'.

*Com. Theatre saying how bad this is, how rude etc.*

Gary: And he's good friends with the Queen...

Chris: The Queen? Where? ARRRGH!

Unc. Chris: Chris shhhh, the guards will hear you!

Head Guard: There they are, seize them!

*SFX roaring guards on the charge*

Julia: Oh no what will we do?

Chris: Quick let the pigs out to cause a commotion!

*SFX a gate opening, pig sounds as they stampede out*

Head Guard: Who let these pigs out - arrrgh!

*SFX the guards knocked over by the pigs and loads of commotion from the market.*

Unc. Chris: Come on gang, leg it!

Julia: (panicking) Where to Uncle Chris?

Mike: There's a tavern down the road.

Unc. Chris: Perfect lets go.

*SFX the gang running on the cobbles then a big old door opening and closing. Then general tavern ambience to underscore.*

Julia: Wow, look at it in here, it's very gloomy.

Dan: Everyone is getting rowdy on long wooden tables.

*SFX-men grumbling about a sports game.*

Chris: These men are grumbling about their football team loosing.

Mike: I can't believe it! He just said fair play, and we didn't fight fire with fire!

Gary: And that they need to send the referee packing!

Habib: No way, we still say those things in our time.

John: Yes, that's right Habib. Shakespeare invented lots of the language we still use today.

Unc. Chris: How interesting! Let's see what else we can hear to take back to Connie everyone.

Julia: There's a man here who's 'not slept a wink.'

*SFX long yawn*

Dan: And this fella's dog 'vanished into thin air' last night.

*SFX dog whimpering*

Mike: Someone over here is saying their shoes have 'seen better days.'

Gary: And smelt them too – pooo wee

Unc. Chris: Incredible! What phrases that we still use today can you hear Adventurers?

*SFX Ding*

Adventurer: A heart of gold.

Adventurer: This man's business is in a pickle.

Adventurer: This person's friend has had too much of a good thing.

Adventurer: Dead as a doornail.

Unc. Chris: Thanks adventurers!

Landlady: 'For goodness's sake' where have you lot come from?

Chris: We say that too! He he

Landlady: You do 'look a sorry sight.'

Chris: And that!

Unc. Chris: We seem to have offended the Queen, so we are being chased by her guards!

Landlady: Oh dear, well you can 'lay low' here my darlings.

Chris: Lay low! That too! We say that too!

Landlady: 'Ere, what are you on about? Have some of my perpetual stew that ought to keep you quiet...

Chris: Ooooh 'perpetual stew', ay? That sounds delicious.

Landlady: It's not for the 'faint hearted', let me tell ya.

*SFX stew slopping into a bowl and Chris eating it.*

Julia: It doesn't look delicious to me...

Louise: what's in it?

*SFX Chris doing a big burp.*

Chris: Mmm all finished, I'd love the recipe too!

Landlady: Well, I'm not entirely sure what's in it to be honest! That pot was started years ago, we just keep it boiling and chuck in whatever comes

in day to day, could be some chicken, a bit of old veg, who knows!  
This stews older than me- that's why it's called a perpetual stew,  
darlin'.

*SFX Loud gurgling belly*

Chris: I don't feel so good after hearing all that...

*SFX The door being kicked open.*

*SFX the guards trumpet*

Head Guard: Stop this 'wild goose chase' at once.

Gary: Hey Chris, 'Wild goose chase' we say that too!

*SFX Even louder gurgling belly*

Chris: Not now Gary I feel terrible...

Head Guard: Surrender!

Chris: Look out every one...Gassy bum warning!

*SFX a really, really long fart*

*Guards screaming and shouting as they get blasted.*

Landlady: There she blows! He he he!

Head Guard: (horrified) This smells worse than the pigs! I can't see anything for this green gas cloud!

Unc. Chris: Now that's what I call a perpetual fart! Well done Chris!

*SFX Guards reacting to the stink.*

Unc. Chris: Right gang, while the soldiers are dealing with Chris's bottom burp we better get out of here! Join us next time adventurers and see if we manage to hold on to our heads...

*Music: Armchair Adventures theme tune*