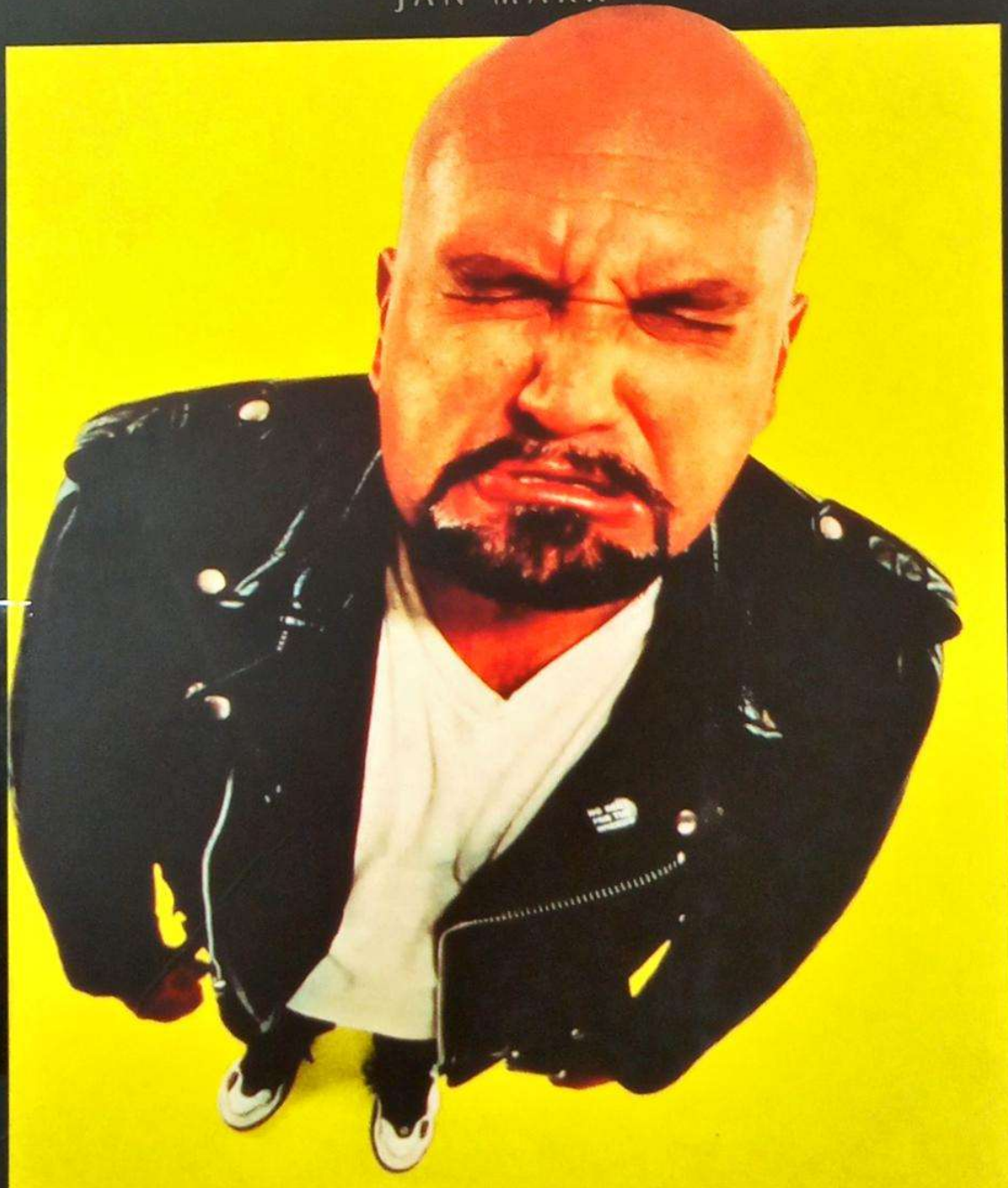


OXFORD BOOKWORMS LIBRARY
2

TOO OLD TO ROCK AND ROLL

AND OTHER STORIES

JAN MARK



TOO OLD TO ROCK AND ROLL and Other Stories

Do you understand your parents? Do your parents understand you? It's not always easy to be a teenager – as these three stories show.

Greg plays in a rock band, is good at cooking, and tries to help his father after his mother's death. What poor old Dad needs, Greg thinks, is a nice, kind, sensible friend – like Valerie. But Greg's Dad has other plans . . .

Then we meet a girl who goes to have tea with a schoolfriend. But it's not a visit that she could ever tell her mother about . . .

And last, there's Daniel, who listens through the wall to the four students in the house next door. He never sees them, but he learns a lot about them . . .



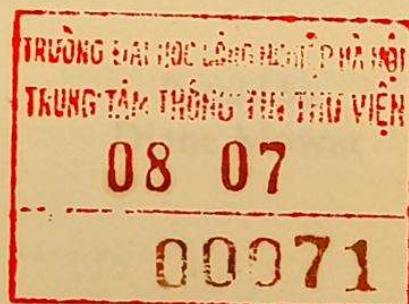
OXFORD BOOKWORMS LIBRARY

Human Interest

Too Old to Rock and Roll

and Other Stories

Stage 2 (700 headwords)



Series Editor: Jennifer Bassett

Founder Editor: Tricia Hedge

Activities Editors: Jennifer Bassett and Alison Baxter

JAN MARK

Too Old to Rock and Roll

and Other Stories

Retold by
Diane Mowat



OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oxford University Press
Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford New York

Athens Auckland Bangkok Bogotá Buenos Aires Cape Town
Chennai Dar es Salaam Delhi Florence Hong Kong Istanbul Karachi Kolkata
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Mumbai Nairobi
Paris São Paulo Shanghai Singapore Taipei Tokyo Toronto Warsaw
with associated companies in
Berlin Ibadan

OXFORD and OXFORD ENGLISH
are trade marks of Oxford University Press

ISBN 0 19 422988 2

Original edition © Jan Mark 1990

First published by The Bodley Head 1990

This simplified edition © Oxford University Press 2000

Third impression 2001

First published in Oxford Bookworms 1994

This second edition published in the Oxford Bookworms Library 2000

No unauthorized photocopying

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Oxford University Press.

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

Illustrated by Elizabeth Sawyer

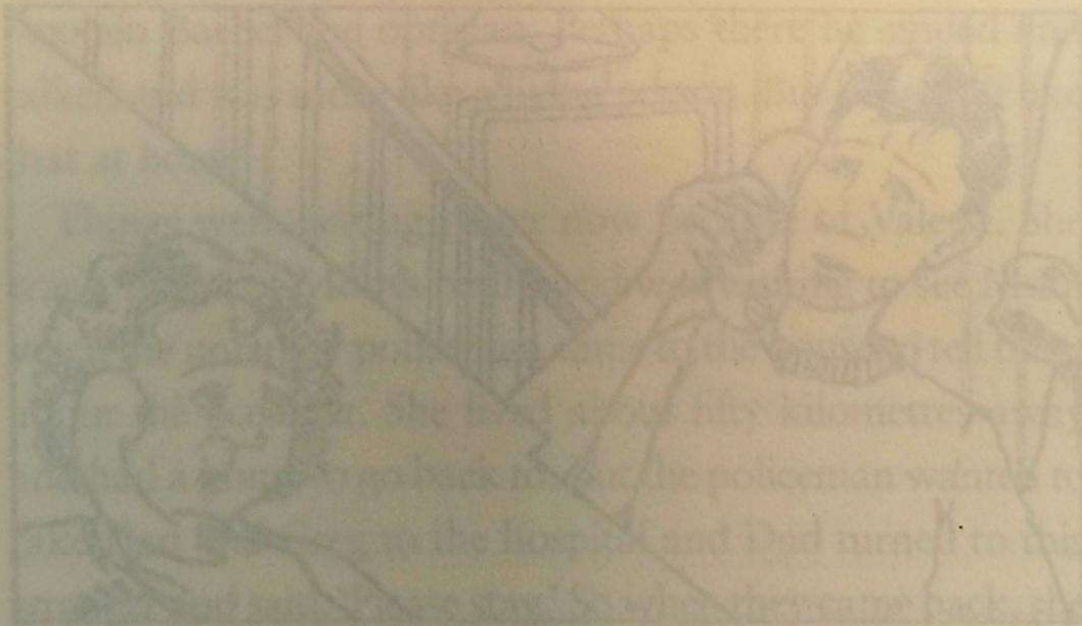
The story 'Invitation to Tea' was originally published as 'Front' in the volume *A Can of Worms and other stories* by Jan Mark.

Typeset by Wyvern Typesetting Ltd, Bristol

Printed in Spain by Unigraf s.l.

CONTENTS

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| INTRODUCTION | i |
| Too Old to Rock and Roll | 2 |
| Invitation to Tea | 18 |
| Party Wall | 30 |
| GLOSSARY | 42 |
| ACTIVITIES: Before Reading | 44 |
| ACTIVITIES: While Reading | 46 |
| ACTIVITIES: After Reading | 48 |
| ABOUT THE AUTHOR | 54 |
| ABOUT BOOKWORMS | 55 |



TOO OLD TO ROCK AND ROLL

'Why don't you both stop it?' Valerie's voice said on the phone.

'Well, Dad began it,' Greg answered. 'He called me a baby.'

'And you called him an old man. That wasn't nice.'

'I didn't really mean it. He isn't very old, is he?' Greg said. He remembered that Valerie was about forty herself.

'No. And what about that piece from the newspaper about older men losing their hair? You put that up on the kitchen wall! You've got to stop it,' Valerie said.



'Why don't you both stop it?' Valerie's voice said on the phone.

Stories from the Five Towns

ARNOLD BENNETT

Retold by Nick Bullard

Arnold Bennett is famous for his stories about the Five Towns and the people who live there. They look and sound just like other people, and, like all of us, sometimes they do some very strange things. There's Sir Jee, who is a rich businessman. So why is he making a plan with a burglar? Then there is Toby Hall. Why does he decide to visit Number 11 Child Row, and who does he find there? And then there are the Hessian brothers and Annie Emery – and the little problem of twelve thousand pounds.

'Who, Sir? Me, Sir?'

K. M. PEYTON

Retold by Diane Mowat

Sam Sylvester is a teacher who wants his class to have ambition, and to do great things in life. So he enters them for a sporting competition against the rich students of Greycoats School.

The team that he has chosen for the competition think Sam has gone crazy. 'Who, Sir? Me, Sir?' says little Hoomey, his eyes round with horror. 'We'll never beat Greycoats,' the others cry. 'Never in a million years!'

But you don't know what you can do – until you try . . .