



Vale

Michelle Therese Hayes

Mawage... Mawage ... is wot bwings us ... togawah ... today...

Okay, so it's not actually why we're here today.

But it is just as momentous for me as that moment was 8379 days ago when, accompanied by the melodious theme from The Princess Bride, you ran down that aisle and we were made Husband and Wife.

And I refuse to have the celebration of your death be any less joyous than that happy occasion, or indeed the joy you brought when Therese and David first welcomed you into this world, the bookends of the tale of your life overflowing with Love.

This, is your tale, the tale of Michelle Therese Hayes nee Howes.

And just like The Princess Bride, yours is "A Classic Tale of True Love and High Adventure"

However, whilst it did feature a fair amount of kissing – this is not just a kissing book.

This tale has everything; fencing, fighting, torture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, true love, miracles... (and that's just the scenes inside the kindergarten classroom!)

Since the beginning, I've thought of Our Love as a Storybook story and that you were my Princess Buttercup and I, your Dread Pirate Roberts. And when you passed, I felt that I had failed you, that I'd lost you in the Fire-swamp, in the middle of our story...

But the longer I thought about it, the more I realised that our Love, True Love, isn't that of Wesley and Buttercup.

You were never Buttercup! Buttercup is too vain, shallow and helpless to be you – waiting around the castle all day to be rescued.

(continued overleaf)

Anglicare What's On ...

What's happening with playgroup?

Due to the vulnerability of our playgroup participants, we have made a decision not to restart playgroup until after the Easter school holidays.

In the meantime, Sarah and Jess are interacting online in our playgroup parents messenger group.

Don't forget - our COVID safe community art project too, outside the Anglicare office every Wednesday and Friday morning. Talk to Sarah or Jess for more detail.




BUMPS AND BUBS

Sarah will be available each Thursday from 10am for parents and bubs. Join our Bumps and Bubs messenger group to keep in touch with each other. Contact Sarah on 53720 to be added to the group

COVID safe Childbirth Education Groups



Are you interested in becoming an empowered, confident advocate in your birth and learning about breastfeeding, postpartum, newborns and early parenthood?

To find out more or to book your spot in our next group contact Anglicare's Support

Worker and Certified Childbirth Educator, Sarah on 53720

FREE Counselling

You can meet our counsellor online via Zoom, currently only available in the comfort of your own home.

Ring Karen on 51644 or email us for an appointment.



Norfolkisland@anglicare.org.au
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All Anglicare services are FREE. We also provide family support & access to food & financial assistance



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51644



Michelle Therese Hayes - continued

Even marrying someone who is not her True Love!
Nor was I ever Wesley – leaving you for years
whilst I spent my days plundering at sea.

No, Buttercup's and Wesley's relationship is far too
unequal to be ours.

Ours, ours is the true love story in *The Princess
Bride* – the one of genuine affection, sincere concern,
understanding and true companionship... That of
Inigo and Fezzik

Although I think the moustache should give it away,
Michelle, of course, is Inigo and I, Fezzik.

Theirs, like ours, is a relationship of True Love.
And let me tell you, true love is the greatest thing in
the world – except perhaps for a nice MLT, where the
tomatoes are just ripe. Or in your case Michelle - as
you will not never, ever eat a tomato, an exquisitely
golden Ham and Cheese Toastie.

And as with Inigo and Fezzik, we provide each other
with friendship, joy, warmth, humour. We understand
each other's Strengths, but more importantly, we
understand each other's Weaknesses and Fears and
ensure that we always use this insight to overcome any
of life's obstacles.

Whilst I would carry you up the cliffs of insanity
any day of the week, it's you who shouldered the
wheelbarrow whilst I stood atop aflame as we stormed
the castles of our life together.

Inigo and Fezzik, like us, are seasoned travellers
and have adventured around the world. I've never seen
you more alive than when we are travelling. Up for
anything – the more adventurous, the better! I think
often of that time in Romania – when we got stuck
away from the kids at the very top of the Transfer
Garrison Mountain Pass because the cable car wasn't
scheduled to return for hours and hours (and then
consequently left without us about 10 minutes later).
You, holding tightly to my hand, holding even more
tightly to your beloved Nikon in the other, descending
the snow covered landslides one tentative step at a
time, inches from certain death, yet laughing with wild
abandon, cheeks flushed with excitement.

For those that find it hard to picture – you've clearly
never either:

- a) skied with Michelle or
- b) been a passenger in her original red Mini Cooper!

Everywhere we travelled, you would desperately
wish that you could speak the language so that you
could hear the stories of the locals and find those hidden
gems - far from the touristy guidebook destinations.
Yet despite lacking the linguistical abilities, you
always found ways to not only connect with locals
but in many instances, foster lifelong friendships. The
messages I have received these past few weeks from
all over the globe – especially from your dearly loved
Norfolk Island - have been astonishing.

I, like Fezzik, can be socially inept,

Yet strangely adept...

with a rhyming couplet...

Ok, ok ... No more rhymes now – I mean it!

Yet you Michelle, have maintained a vast network
of social connections and friendships with almost
every person you have ever interacted with! Each

and every one feeling special because, regardless of
whether you've known them for four hours or forty
five years, you have a way of making them all feel as
if they are your closest confidant.

Amongst these friendships is the camaraderie
forged with your fellow staff members. Teaching is not
a job that can be done alone – it is a noble cause – and
collaboration and friendship are vital. You value these
friendships far more than gold. They helped shape you
into the extraordinary teacher you are today and in
turn, you have moulded the teachers of tomorrow. All
of the interactions you have with these allies can be
summed up in three words – As You Wish.

As you wish. Such a simple sentence to contain so
much meaning.

Let's put on a whole school musical performance -
As You Wish.

Let's regroup all the K-2 classes into this new and
exciting structure because I believe it is for the best -
As You Wish.

Let's get dressed up EVERY day for bookweek –
As You Wish.

Can you cover my class whilst I run to the bathroom?
- As You Wish.

The love, care and respect you show your colleagues
is reflected back a thousand fold and has enabled you
all to accomplish such incredible deeds – both in, and
out of the classroom.

Because one trait you most definitely share with
Inigo, is that you are both Masters of your Craft. Inigo,
like you, studied for years and became the best in his
field. Whilst Inigo was a wizard with the sword, I have
never seen your equal in the classroom. To those here
who never had the good fortune to observe you teach,
let me put it this way. Have you ever heard of Plato,
Aristotle, Socrates?

Morons.

To be become a teacher was always your childhood
ambition. It's a prestigious line of work, with a long
and glorious tradition. Since completing your degree,
I don't think a day's gone by where you haven't tried
to improve your practice further. Endless professional
Development, Countless hours spent pouring through
teaching blogs, bending the ear of every educator
- young or old - trying to find the next perfect idea.
And of course, each year you'd make the exact same
proclamation just before Christmas – “These are the
best kids I've ever taught” only to declare 12 months
later the exact same sentiment.

However, We are men (and women) of action. Lies
do not become us. Every teacher has a list of PTSD
inducing student names that will never be considered
for their future offspring and it's true - Somewhere
out there is a list of names never to be spoken in our
household again... Well, OK... That's my list.... But
being a jealous man those children were trying to
kidnap what I've rightfully stolen. Your Heart. The
countless hours you would spend preparing, cutting
out resources, finessing, cutting out more resources,
finding perfect individualised solutions...did I
mention cutting out resources?

(continued overleaf)

Michelle Therese Hayes - continued

I never really begrudged them... You always have enough love for all. I've always been amazed really that so much love can fit into such a petite package. With your school hat on, you would disappear amongst the infants in the playground.

Many a school Principal has Fallen victim to one of the classic blunders, the most famous of which is, 'Never get involved in a land war in Asia' — but only slightly less well-known is this: Never search amongst the children for Michelle until they're in their lines!

But there is nothing small about your love for family. Whilst you have never had to avenge your father, there is absolutely nothing you wouldn't do for any member of your family. For our beautiful children, that love is never more obvious than at bedtime - "Good night, Harry. Good night, Matilda. Good work. Sleep well. I'll most likely kill you in the morning". You are so proud of both of them and you have infused in them every ounce of goodness from yourself, and they will carry that in their hearts, forever.

To all of our family... adoring parents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, there is only one word – Inconceivable. And for once, I think it means what I think it means. It is inconceivable that this day is actually occurring... It is inconceivable to think of any family gathering without her. Life isn't fair, it's just fairer than death, that's all... So, remember her fair life and all those treasured memories and it is inconceivable that you will never not feel the warmth of her love. Let that love envelope you and delight in its intensity whenever you can.

So no, my passionate eco-warrior, my skilful shutterbug, my intrepid traveller, myse beautiful tintoela, our story didn't end in the fireswamp.... It didn't even end as we rode off into the sunset with Buttercup and Wesley on the Princes four white horses.

That was merely the first time we rode off into the sunset.

We rode off again in the sequel...

Then again in book 3... and four... and five...

and then, always pushing ahead, you've ridden off into the sunset again – this time without me – and I'm sure as always, it will be to stake out the best location for capturing the moment when the rest of us finally catch up.

I do not envy you all the heartache you will have when you awake each day. But for now, rest well and dream of large-hearted women."

As for me, My Shell, I told you, I would always come for you.

Death cannot stop true love. - All it can do is delay it for a while.

You and I are joined by the bonds of love. And you cannot break that, not with a thousand swords.

I would search through a thousand lifetimes if needed to find you again – but I'm sure – you'll already be waiting for me with these words:

"Hello

My name is Michelle Therese Hayes

I am your lover

Prepare to fly"



Thank You

It has been in our absolute darkest of days, that Norfolk has shone the brightest it ever has for us.

The outpouring of love we have received these past few weeks has been overwhelming, and we have never felt more honoured to be considered a part of such a wonderful community.

Thank you all for everything that you have done and continue to do for us.

For those who have already gifted us money, we have now set up a GoFundMe account and will be donating all monies received to build Playground Equipment in memory of Mrs Hayes. You can find the donation page at:

<https://gofund.me/9df1ab76>

Thanks for us,

Ben, Harrison and Matilda Hayes

Sudoku Number 323 - Medium

		5				7		
			4		1			
2	1			6			9	4
	4		1		8		6	
3	7						2	1
	6		9		3		4	
1	3			8			5	9
			5		9			
		9				4		