

The Bizarre Imagination Of A Liverpool Bully

by  
Glenn Bresciani

FADE IN:

EXT. RODNEY'S HOUSE - DAY

RODNEY POCKET is a chunky, rough and ready ten year old boy. He sits on the front steps of his home, his arms crossed over his chest. A cranky expression scrunches up his face.

RODNEY (V.O.)  
That's me. Rodney Pocket.

INT. RODNEY'S HOUSE. LOUNGE ROOM - NIGHT

Mrs. POCKET (late 30's) sits on the edge of the sofa, yells and shakes her fist at the TV. She is dressed head to toe in Liverpool FC merchandizing clothes.

RODNEY (V.O.)  
That's my mum.

On the TV screen, Liverpool is one all with Manchester United.

EXT. STREET- DAY

KYLE, an eight year old dork whose mummy still dresses him.

Nervous as a rabbit, he clutches his school bag, looks every which way before he scurries off down the street.

RODNEY (V.O.)  
That's a boy I bully.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

MINDY, nine year old prissy violinist in training.

She stands at a bus stop, jittery and jumpy as she hugs her school work.

RODNEY (V.O.)  
Aye, I bully her too.

A car horn HONKS. Mindy squeals, jumps in fright. Her paper work is tossed into the air.

EXT. RED CURTAINS - DAY

A MAN in a flashy tuxedo stands in front of red curtains. A masquerade ball mask hides half his face, gives him an allure of mystery.

He, pulls the curtains back, inviting the viewer to enter.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
And this is my imagination.

INT. RODNEY'S HOUSE. LOUNGE ROOM - DAY

Against the far wall, Rodney slouches in a one seater sofa. He broods, his paper crown sits over his frown. A tartan blanket is draped around his shoulders.

Chunky black boots, a black tracksuit and eyeliner gives Rodney an aura of tragedy.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
Big King Roddy rules this land.

Four SOCK PUPPETS are huddled together in front of the TV. A cartoon holds them spellbound.

They are green sock creatures with yellow buttons for eyes and a mouthful of plastic fangs.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
He has sworn an oath to serve and protect all the goblins in his domain.

Mrs. Pocket enters the room, still wearing Liverpool FC colors.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
Life is tough for the goblins.  
Everyday they get bullied by the big bad troll.

Mrs. Pocket pats one of the sock puppets on the head.

MRS. POCKET  
C'mon luv, time for your football practice.

All the sock puppets shake their heads.

Mrs. Pocket puts her hands on her hips.

MRS. POCKET  
Now Rodney.

The sock puppets gnash their teeth at the woman.

Mrs. Pocket switches off the TV.

Rodney scowls, jumps up off his throne.

His tartan blanket cloak billows out around him.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
King Roddy leapt into battle to  
defend his goblin horde.

Rodney roars at his mother, stamps his feet.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
With a crash and a bash and a  
mighty roar.

Rodney grabs a vase, smashes it against the wall, roars  
some more.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
But the combat always ends the  
same way . . .

Mrs. Pocket puffs up with anger, backhands a sock puppet.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

The door swings open. Mrs. Pocket slaps the sock puppets,  
herds them through the doorway.

In a corner of the room, Rodney sits upon his sofa throne.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
With the king and the goblins  
banished to the dungeon for one  
day.

The sock puppets gather around a table in the middle of the  
room.

Rodney removes crayons and blank paper from his special  
hiding spot.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
But don't worry. It's all good.

The sock puppets tremble with excitement as Rodney places  
the paper and crayons on the table.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
Hidden away in the dungeon, King  
Roddy gives his goblins what they  
desire.

Rodney draws simplistic pictures of trolls and ogres,  
gnomes and pixies.

The sock puppets are enthralled by the art work.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
But it is never enough, the  
goblins want more.

EXT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

On the pavement, Rodney sits upon his throne. He is thoughtful yet sombre as he watches over the sock puppets.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
King Roddy has decreed: "NO  
goblin will ever go without their  
heart's desire."

The sock puppets line up in front of a shop window.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
But what the goblins desire the  
most is locked away behind a  
magical door.

They gaze with longing at the books displayed behind the glass. Dragons, wizards and magical adventure blaze across the covers of each book.

DVD copies of the Dark Crystal and Labyrinth are displayed amongst the books.

Mrs. Pocket walks up to the sock puppets, a shopping bag in each hand.

A glance at the books displayed in the window and she screws up her face in disgust.

MRS. POCKET  
You don't want that Luv. It's all  
rubbish.

Rodney scowls, clenches his teeth. His fingers dig into the arms of his sofa throne.

MRS. POCKET  
C'mon Luv. We're going home.

Mrs. Pocket herds the sock puppets away from the window.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
Only money is the key to open the  
door.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

Rodney strides down the street, fists clenched. His tartan cloak flutters behind him.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
 But that's no problem. If King  
 Roddy wants money, then he'll  
 just have to go to war.

Mindy waits at the bus stop.

She sees Rodney and panics. Her school work slips out of her hands.

Rodney halts, draws a toy sword from his belt. He holds the blade high as he roars a challenge.

Mindy screams, flees in terror.

Rodney charges after her, easily overtakes Mindy, cuts off her retreat.

Rodney shoves the frightened girl. Mindy bawls and cowers.

Rodney pushes her again, knocks her down onto the pavement.

The sock puppets appear, hover over Mindy's tear streaked face, hiss at her.

Rodney yanks the girl's hair. She screams.

Mindy quickly removes a few pound notes from her pocket.

A sock puppet bites the money, snatches it out of Mindy's hand.

Rodney beams with pride at the sock puppets.

EXT. STREET- DAY

Kyle slams into a fence, collapses onto the ground.

Rodney looms over Kyle, snarls at him.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
 To ensure a great victory, King  
 Roddy attacks the weak. Plunders  
 their wealth.

The sock puppets crowd around Kyle, snap their plastic fangs close to the boy's face.

Rodney grabs Kyle by the nose and twists.

Kyle howls in pain. His eyes water.

Rodney holds on tight to Kyle's nose until he flashes some money.

A sock puppet snatches the money from Kyle's hand.

EXT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

Rodney sits upon his throne that is parked in front of the shop window.

He smiles, watches the sock puppets press their sock noses against the glass.

The fantasy books entice the puppets.

RODNEY (V.O.)  
Soon the door will open. Soon  
they will have it all.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Mrs. Pocket throws a ball at the sock puppets.

The ball bounces off the side of a puppet's head.

The sock puppets are too spaced out on happiness to concern themselves with football.

MRS. POCKET  
Oh for fuck sake! Keep your eye  
on the ball.

Rodney lounges back in his throne, one leg thrown over the arm of the sofa. His expression is dreamy, his thoughts far away.

RODNEY (V.O.)  
Not even the big bad troll can  
take away their bliss.

Mrs. Pocket tosses the ball again. The sock puppets ignore it.

Mrs. Pocket smacks a puppet in the mouth.

MRS. POCKET  
You're a football player. Bloody  
act like one, right!

The sock puppets are oblivious to Mrs. Pocket's rage.

EXT. STREET- DAY

Rodney holds his banner high as he charges into another battle.

Just a tattered red sheet on a pole, the banner whips the air above Rodney's crown.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
King Roddy's war on the weak  
rages on.

Kyle stands tall, hands on his hips, chin up. A paper crown adorns his head, a puffy duvet-decorated with a flower pattern -hangs down from his shoulder.

Rodney stops mid-run. His banner goes limp as he gawks at Kyle's defiance in confusion.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
But just when victory was within  
reach, the goblin army hit a  
brick wall.

The sock puppets pop up around their king, unsure of what to do.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
The weak have a powerful new  
weapon to defend themselves with.  
It is called . . . The backbone.

Rodney lashes out, pushes Kyle.

Kyle stumbles back a step, regains his balance.

He pushes Rodney twice as hard. Rodney topples, his bum cheeks slap the pavement.

Rodney leaps to his feet, rushes Kyle again.

Kyle takes the impact, grabs a handful of Rodney's cloak, swings him around.

The bully slams into a fence.

Rodney's eyes are wide with fear and bewilderment.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

Rodney curls up tight in a foetal position as a black booted foot kicks him repeatedly in the ribs.

Mindy dishes out the violence, dressed in a fluffy bath robe three sizes too big for her and a tall crown upon her head.

Rodney scurries off like a coward dog.

The sock puppets remain, hiss at Mindy.

One stamp of her foot and they take off.

EXT. SHOP WINDOW - DAY

The fantasy books and DVDs are still the centre piece of the display.

RODNEY (V.O.)  
 Defeated and denied the spoils of war, King Roddy will never have enough money to open the magical door.

The sock puppets hang their heads low, mourn for the books they can never have for their own.

Behind them, Rodney sniffs, wipes tears from his red rimmed eyes.

RODNEY (V.O.)  
 Unable to keep his promise to the goblins breaks the king's heart.

Hatred and rage makes Rodney scowl.

RODNEY (V.O.)  
 And then it happened. Deep in the bowls of King Roddy's despair. The truth takes shape, makes the king understand.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Rodney sits on his throne, glares at his mother. His fingers dig claw like into the sofa's arms.

RODNEY  
 The troll must die.

The sock puppets cluster together, keep the ball in the air by hitting it with their heads.

Mrs. Pocket circles around the puppets, unimpressed by their ball skills.

MRS. POCKET  
 C'mon luv, kick it like you mean it.

A pathetic fumble from the sock puppets.

The ball rolls across the grass.

Mrs. Pocket slaps one of the sock puppets.

MRS. POCKET  
Stop stuffing about and do it  
properly.

Rodney snarls, leaps up off his throne.

He scoops up the ball, hurls it at his mum.

The ball slams into Mrs. Pocket's tummy, knocks the wind out of her.

RODNEY  
No football!

Mrs. Pocket winches from the pain, back hands a sock puppet.

The puppets quiver and cower as the angry woman towers over them.

MRS. POCKET  
Football!

Rodney's cloak swishes around him as he snatches up the ball, throws it hard.

He strikes Mrs. Pocket in the back.

RODNEY  
No football!

Mrs. Pocket slaps a sock puppet, slaps it good.

MRS. POCKET  
YOU WILL FOOTBALL!

Rodney holds the ball high over his head.

RODNEY  
NO FOOTBALL!

Rodney puts all his body behind the throw.

The ball smashes into the side of his mother's head.

She yelps in pain, collapses onto the grass.

Mrs. Pocket clutches the side of her head, she refuses to have her dream broken, screams in defiance.

MRS. POCKET  
FOOTBALL!

Rodney hurls the ball down with all his might, hits Mrs. Pocket in the face.

RODNEY  
NO FOOTBALL!

Mrs. Pocket clutches her nose, rolls onto her side. She is defeated.

Her sudden tears and wails are made potent by her grief.

Rodney drops down onto the grass next to his mum, panting and exhausted.

RODNEY  
Please mum, no more football.

The sock puppets gather around the sobbing woman, stroke her with their sock faces.

MRS. POCKET  
Why can't I have my own football  
star? Why?

Sobs rake Mrs. Pocket's body, her tears seem endless.

MRS. POCKET  
All I ever wanted was my own  
football star.

RODNEY  
There's other things in the world  
besides football mum.

EXT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

Mrs. Pocket follows the four sock puppets out of the shop.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
The death of the troll opens the  
magical door.

Each sock puppet has a book or DVD clamped between its teeth.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
King Roddy has fulfilled his  
promise. The goblins have  
received their hearts desire.

They stop, nod their heads with muppet enthusiasm.

With a big hearted smile, Mrs. Pocket waves at . . .

On the pavement stands Rodney, flanked on either side by Kyle and Mindy. They wave back, the three of them still dressed as kings and a queen.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
All is well in the kingdom once  
more.

Red curtains swing down in front of the three children.

The masked man in the tuxedo appears in front of the closed  
curtains.

He takes a bow.

EXT. RODNEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Rodney sits on the front steps of his home, his nose buried  
in a fantasy book.

He hangs onto every word, enthralled by the magic of the  
story he reads.

RODNEY (V. O.)  
And that's why I don't bully no  
more.

FADE OUT: