

Jackie M.'s Writing Samples

Last updated: November 14, 2019

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Sample #1 - Historical Fantasy

** This script is formatted for use in Ren'Py.*

“My ears strain against the wind, listening for the slightest indication of movement.”

Think “Now.”

“I swiftly draw back the bowstring and aim the arrow forward. In a split second, the projectile is flying straight through the air.”

“With a crackling sound, the rabbit goes down and ceases all movement.”

“I stand with a sigh before making my way over to the carcass, hunting knife now in hand.”

Cypress “Excellent work as always, milord.”

Arwynn “Excellent in what way? I’ve become rusty; my hand nearly slipped in the draw.”

Cypress “Is that so? I did not notice.”

Arwynn “Cypress, please. There is no need to lend me undue flattery.”

Cypress “Hehe.”

“I plop down next to the rabbit corpse, propping it onto my knee as I begin to skin it.”

Arwynn “I am glad it didn’t suffer.”

Cypress "..."

Arwynn "I know what you're thinking, but I do not wish to hear it."

Cypress "My, you seem to be in quite the odd mood this evening, Lord Arwynn. I am most glad I thought to beg the advisors to allow you an outing today."

Arwynn "As am I. Perhaps the stress of the coronation has been getting to me as of late."

Cypress "From my perspective, I have no doubts."

Cypress "Hehe. I still recall the morning you nearly attended your lessons without one of your boots. How you managed to walk so far on uneven footing without realizing, I cannot fathom."

Arwynn "My sweet maiden, if you wish to survive 'til the morrow, I would sincerely recommend against reminding me of such a thing."

Cypress "Milord, you should know better than to threaten a lady."

"As I slice a chunk of fur off the rabbit carcass, I gaze straight into Cypress' eyes, smirking."

Arwynn "Are you not the one who claims I've been acting strangely as of late?"

Cypress "Oh no. I do believe a shiver just ran down my spine. Lord Arwynn, you are taking your joke too far."

"I wipe my hunting knife off and then store it in my bag along with the fresh meat. Then, leveraging myself against the ground, I jump back into a standing position."

Arwynn “Ha. I fear the damage your acting skills might do to a more naive man.”

Sample #2 - Fantasy Light Novel

The war began and ended so quickly that I forget it even happened sometimes. Three years ago, Demon Lord Astaroth declared war upon the human nation—within six months, it was clear whose victory it would be. So, the human kingdoms united and called for negotiations with their enemy. Everyone was relieved when the temporary ceasefire was declared.

After one week, the king of each human country met Lord Astaroth at the demilitarized zone to discuss the terms for ending the war. The demands were as expected: the demon nation required the total submission of the human nation, without exception, so that the demon lord could redivide the land amongst her subordinates however she wished. Of course, there was some initial opposition, but what other choice did the kings have but to accept the conditions and pray they weren't sentenced to death afterward?

With the agreement signed by each party, Demon Lord Astaroth became ruler of the entire world. She quickly jumped into action and enacted change, starting by dissolving the royalty system as we all knew it. Then, as her subordinates took over the kingdoms, many of the laws were slowly but surely changed. A new tax system whereby the rich paid more and the poor less was introduced; although there was outrage from the nobles, the overall quality of life swiftly improved, and the affected economies were stimulated. Children could no longer be treated as the property of their parents, regardless of their class, and their written consent was required before any marriages could be considered legal. Spouses who forced themselves upon or injured their partners would even be treated as criminals.

Beyond that, those who were known to have committed crimes but

escaped scot-free because of their money or connections were now being punished. For a time, I believed each of us worried we'd also be punished and enslaved, if only because the demons saw us as nothing but cattle. However, nothing undeserved ever happened. On the contrary, slaves were freed from their owners. Many were even offered proper jobs by the new government. Even the previous kings, queens, and their children walked away unscathed so long as they hadn't committed any atrocities.

The fears we humans held about our supposed captors were being assuaged. The changes many of us had silently prayed for from the depths of our hearts—yet never expected to come to fruition—were being enacted by a power we'd once cowered at the mere mention of. To many of us, this was an unexpected miracle.

My family, being the previous royalty of the kingdom of Anya, had started anew as nobility, but I didn't mind. Each of us adapted to this simpler way of life before long. My parents, with their newfound free time, were even able to pick up new hobbies. I was happy for them. My sisters' engagements were called off, and they were now free to marry for love if they so wished. Myself included, too, of course.

... Or so I thought.

Sample #3 - Comic

** Page formatting edited to avoid confusion.*

(Page 1)

Panel 1. We have a close-up, bust-up view of Lily. She's smiling with her eyes closed, and she's holding one fist up triumphantly near her face. In the background, we see a dirt road and forest; the location is clearly set in the countryside. The sun is high in the sky, which is a clear, bright blue.

1 LILY: DON'T WORRY, MISTER.

Panel 2. There's a frontal view of Lily's new home, the farm.

2 LILY: I'M GONNA MAKE SOMETHING OUTTA THIS PLACE. JUST YOU WAIT.

Panel 3. Both Lily and the old farmer man are seen. The focus is on Lily, who's facing the camera, while we only see the old farmer from behind, with the camera almost sitting on his shoulder. Lily is engaging with the old man, so she's most likely making some sort of gesture to him as she speaks. Her expression is mostly serious but perhaps also a little cheerful.

3 LILY: ... D'YOU KNOW WHY I DECIDED TO BUY THIS FARM?

(Page 2)

Panel 4. Perhaps represented in a faux crayon, childlike art style or even chibi style, we see two literal genderless blobs (with humanlike faces) each kicking a third, smaller genderless blob onto the ground. The larger blobs are smiling happily, while the third blob seems shocked and horrified.

4 LILY: WELL, I'M AT THAT AGE WHERE PARENTS KICK THEIR OFFSPRING OUT AND TELL 'EM TO GO FACE THE DANGERS OF THE BIG, OL' WORLD BEYOND. TO CHASE THEIR WILDEST DREAMS.

Panel 5. There's a rear view of a figure in a heroic-looking outfit, and their hairstyle and color are identical to Lily's. They're also holding some sort of weapon (a sword and shield?).

5 LILY: THE PROBLEM WAS THAT I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT. I HAD TO MAKE A DECISION REAL QUICK OR RISK GETTING ENLISTED AS A HERO.

Panel 6. The heroic figure slowly begins to turn around, and we can see a partial side view of them, their hair still covering their visage.

Panel 7. We can see a close-up of the heroic figure's smile and collarbone as they turn to fully face us, but we still can't see the rest of their face.

Sample #4 - Slice of Life + Branching Choices

** This script is formatted for use in Ren'Py.*

Kira "Ah, [MC]. Come in."

"As Kira steps backward to let me through, she nearly trips over her own other foot."

"I laugh it off at first, but then I realize that her cheeks and the tips of her ears are bright red. Steam is practically coming off of them."

menu:

"Are you feeling okay?"

MC "Are you feeling okay, Kira?"

Kira "I... I'm fine."

MC "You don't look fine to me."

MC "It's just the two of us here, alright? If you're sick, it's fine. We can reschedule our meeting for another time."

"(Feel her forehead)."

"I firmly place both of my ends on Kira's cheeks and begin to lean forward. She struggles against my grip--although I don't have a particularly strong hold on her, she's so weak that she can't shake me off."

Kira "D-don't you dare ki--"

Kira "...!"

“The moment my forehead touches Kira’s, she shuts her eyelids so tightly that it almost looks painful.”

“It’s difficult to ignore the slightly sweet scent wafting from her, but I do my best to remain ‘professional’.”

MC “Haha! I’m only checking your temperature. Don’t tell me you had your mind in the gutter?”

“By the time the dark-haired girl gathers the strength to swat me away, a burning heat is stuck to my skin.”

Kira “I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

Kira “It’s common sense not to touch women without permission, isn’t it? If you don’t want to be misunderstood, use your brain.”

MC “You have a fever. We can study another time; you should rest for now.”

“You look awful.”

MC “You look awful, Kira.”

Kira “... You come into my house and insult me straight away? How *gentlemanly* of you, [MC].”

MC “No, I mean you’re clearly sick. Let’s reschedule this for another day.”

Kira “No!”

“The girl’s voice seems to come out louder than she intends--she swiftly raises a hand in front of her mouth and turns her gaze towards the floor.”

Kira "I want to get this out of the way right now."

Kira "We have to take care of those investigations tonight and tomorrow, so there isn't enough time to work on the project another day."

"As soon as I open my mouth to make a retort, Kira loses her balance, plummeting towards the floor."

"I manage to catch her in the nick of time, nearly putting out my back from the weird J*j*'s B*zarre Adv*nture's-like pose I end up in."

"The dark-haired girl tries to stand on her own but nearly topples over once more, so I pull one of her arms over my shoulders to stabilize her."

Kira "I can walk on my own. Let me go."

MC "Nope. You can stop with that brave face anytime now; it's not very convincing."

Kira "What are you--"

"Kira practically trips over herself as she speaks."

MC "If you're trying to convince me you're healthy, you're not doing a very good job of it."

Kira "Ngh..."

MC "C'mon. Let's get you to the couch."

Kira "..."

"The girl silently allows me to support her all the way across the room. I help her lay down on the couch, although she quickly strains to sit up."

MC "What are you doing? You clearly don't have the energy to move around like that."

Kira "I think I know my own body better than you do."

Kira "In any case, if you're so concerned about me, why don't you push the table this way?"

MC "Err, what for?"

Kira "So we can get the project done."

menu:

"You're not well enough.":

MC "Kira, you aren't well enough for that. Now isn't the time to be stubborn."

Kira "What do you even know about me?"

MC "Quite frankly, I don't need to know a single thing about you to be able to tell that you need to take it easy."

MC "Your face is so red that it's pretty much a giant tomato."

Kira "Th-that's... not true..."

MC "*sigh* Do you want me to take a picture of your face and show you?"

Kira "No."

MC "Lie back down, then."

"Or we could *do* something else.":

MC "I have a better idea. Why don't we... study each other's anatomies?"

Kira "Wh-wh-what are you saying, [MC]?!"

"The dark-haired girl struggles to grab the nearest pillow and then whips it at me."

"Pain flashes through the tip of my nose, but when the fluffy object lamely falls onto the floor, I manage to play it off with a chuckle."

Kira "G-get out of my house immediately, you pervert!"

MC "It was a joke! A joke!"

MC "Look... I was only trying to point out how ridiculous you sound. But, well, I guess it came off the wrong way."

Kira "*sigh* That's an understatement."

Kira "Although, I suppose a strange creature such as yourself may indeed be worth studying. {w}Behind a thick wall of glass in a laboratory."

MC "Haha! Hey, that was a good one!"

"The lack of shine in Kira's eyes tell me that she isn't trying to joke around, however."

MC "Err... Anyway, why don't you lay back down already?"

Kira "So you can take advantage of me?!"

MC "No! I swear I'd never do anything like that to anyone!"

Kira "Hmph. I honestly hope not."

"Not happening.":

MC "Not happening."

Kira "Honestly... Did you only come here to boss me around?"

MC "*sigh* That's not what I mean."

MC "I'm not blind. You're shaking just from sitting up. Do you seriously think you'll be able to focus on getting anything done while you're like that?"

Kira "I-I... I'm fine!"

MC "No, you aren't. Stop being stubborn and lay down already."

Kira "I..."

"With a slight pout, Kira lets herself drop against the cushions of the couch. As cute as it is, I don't want to irritate her by commenting on it, so I settle for a chuckle."

MC "Where do you keep your blankets?"

Kira "Huh?"

MC "You may have a fever but you should still keep the rest of your body warm."

Kira "... I don't want to trouble you any further."

MC "You aren't."

MC "I'm not going to leave you alone like this, Kira. Do you know how guilty I'd feel if you got hurt after I left?"

MC "Besides, if you don't tell me where they are, I'll have to check every inch of this place by myself. You don't want that, do you?"

Kira "Urgh... Fine."

Kira "They're in the closet by the hallway."

MC "Good girl."

Kira "I'm not your pet."

MC "You say that, but you're acting an awful lot like an injured animal."

Kira "..."

"I can feel Kira's icy glare against my back, but I ignore it. Instead, I silently slip open the closet door and retrieve a large blanket from the top shelf."

"Contrary to my expectations, the girl doesn't put up any sort of argument as I spread out the blanket and drape it across her."

MC "Have you eaten yet? If you have any leftovers or instant meals, I can prepare them for you."

Kira "You aren't my mother. I don't want you to dote on me."

MC "This isn't doting. It's common decency to take care of a sick person."

MC "Wouldn't you do the same for me if the roles were switched?"

Kira "I..."

MC "You're hungry, right?"

Kira “Yes, but that’s not important. We really need to get the project done...”

MC “Would you give up on that already, please? I promise we’ll be able to get it done before the deadline.”

Kira “But there’s no time...”

MC “There will be. And, anyway, are you seriously trying to tell me you’re in a state to get it done right now? I bet you’d drop the pencil before you could even write a single word.”

Kira “Well, we can put your theory to test, and if you’re wrong--”

MC “No!”

MC “Let your head cool down while I make you something to eat.”

Kira “[MC]--”

“I march straight out of the room and slam the door closed, even though I have no clue where the kitchen is.”

“After wandering through the labyrinth called Kira’s home for longer than I’d like to admit, I locate my destination and begin rifling through the refrigerator.”

“I’m appalled to find that there isn’t a single fresh fruit or vegetable in sight, much less any leftovers.”

“I manage to find a bag of frozen dumplings in the freezer. I prepare them as quickly as I can, but in truth, I’ve never been the best chef.”

back in the living room

MC “Here you go.”

“I help Kira sit up, propping her against one of the couch’s pillows.”

Kira “... Thank you.”

“She gives a wary glance at the plate of dumplings but slowly picks up her chopsticks and takes a small bite.”

MC “How is it?”

Kira “I can’t taste anything.”

MC “What?! I didn’t overcook them that badly, did I?!”

Kira “... Hehe.”

“The pleasant sound that escapes from Kira’s lips makes my heart skip a bit. I turn away, trying to conceal any embarrassment that might show on my face.”

Kira “I think it’s because I’m sick, actually.”

MC “Oh. Right.”

“The dark-haired girl, despite her relatively small bites, works her way through the dumplings astonishingly fast. I strongly suspect that this is her first meal of the day.”

“As I stand up to bring the plate back to the kitchen, I’m shocked to hear a gentle, quiet voice ring out.”

Kira “Umm... [MC], can you stay with me until I fall asleep?”

“Half in shock, I put the plate down on the nearby table.”

MC_think "She actually wants me to stay? Is she delirious from her fever?"

MC_think "Then again, I'm not complaining."

"I wordlessly sit down in front of the couch as Kira lays down, turning her back to me."

MC "Goodnight, Kira."