

BELLA AND THE BEAUTIFUL KNIGHT

by Oliver Emanuel

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1. About the play

Once upon a time, Bella was waiting for a knight to rescue her ...

Brought close together by the sudden death of their parents fifteen years earlier, Bella and her brother share a seductive, private world. Perhaps they have become too close, but when Edward arrives for dinner, their world begins to unravel.

While Bella all of a sudden realises that life does not only consist of an isolated ivory tower and that her knight might come along without a sword and a horse, Donny senses that his unusual relationship to his sister might come to an end.

Edward is determined to rescue Bella and thereby finds out shocking details about Donny's as well as Bella's past.

Fantasy and reality collide with heart-stopping effect in this mesmerising drama about love, deception, sex and death. The concept of family is explored as a haven for tales of beauty and darkness, and family history and the multi-layered, disturbing relationship between a brother and his sister unfold when all of a sudden a third person steps into their lives. Memory is disclosed as a powerful weapon, shutting out the dark shades which love paints into an apartment, a night sky, the moon...

2. About the author

Oliver Emanuel trained at the Workshop Theatre, Leeds, and on the creative writing MA at UEA and recently finished working as an assistant director at the King's Head Theatre, London.

He has written and directed PORCELAINLIVING, THE GAMBLER and GEMINI, written THE SACRIFICE and IZ (which vtp produced in 2005) and directed THE FIRE PLAY (summer 2004) for *silver tongue theatre*. He also co-manages the company. Other writing includes: *The Visions* (in which he also appeared) and *Rhapsody*. Other directing includes: *Baal*, *Parade*, and *Le Bouef sur le Toit*. As a freelance writer and dramaturge he has worked on many productions including *Warcrime* for The Wedding Collective and an original opera libretto for *The Girl in the Red Dress*.

3. Characters

Donny

Donny is an author of children's fantasy stories which he has been writing since his and Bella's childhood. While he keeps inventing a knight for Bella who rescues her from a dungeon in which she has been locked, Donny is, in fact, locking himself away from the outside world.

When Bella starts dating a man, Donny reacts extremely jealously and his seclusion and hidden insanity become more and more apparent and unravelled. Dark experiences in the past, the possible murder of his own parents as well as his unnatural relationship with Bella are exposed.

Bella

Bella is a twenty-seven-year-old woman who is extremely dependent on her brother Donny, who seems to have taken over the role of father, mother, brother, friend and possibly lover after their parents' mysterious deaths fifteen years earlier. Despite all adverse conditions Bella seems to have developed in an agreeable way. She has a good job in an office and cares about her social life. She starts dating Edward, whom she calls her first boyfriend, although she does not seem sexually inexperienced at all. Bella finds herself torn between her lover Edward and her jealous and increasingly insane brother Donny, who seems to have more influence on Bella than the audience would at first expect.

Edward

Edward is Bella's boyfriend. He quickly sees through the situation and the unnatural relationship between Bella and Donny. Although he is shocked, his love for Bella prevails and thus Edward is able to challenge Donny and hence he finally becomes the rescuing knight that Bella has always dreamt of.

4. Sibling sexual abuse

(based on the Family Services of Greater Vancouver Parents' Guide)
http://www.sasian.org/guide/aguide_en.htm

What is sibling sexual abuse?

Sibling sexual abuse, like all forms of sexual abuse, is an abuse of power. If a more powerful sibling, who may be older or stronger, bribes or threatens a weaker sibling into sexual activity, that is called sexual abuse. The abuser usually wins the trust of the victim first, and then violates that trust in order to commit the abuse. The abuser may use force, the threat of force, a bribe, the offer of special attention, or a gift to make the victim keep the abuse secret.

Sibling sexual abuse may include such situations as foster or step-siblings. Also, as in other forms of sexual abuse, sibling sexual abuse doesn't necessarily involve sexual touching. The abuser may force other children to engage in sexual activity with one another. The abuser may force the sibling(s) to watch sexual activity or pornographic videotapes. The abuser may also abuse by repeatedly watching the sibling(s) dress, shower or use the toilet when they don't want to be watched.

Trust is essential in families, but a sibling who has been given a lot of responsibility and power may abuse that trust. Sibling sexual abuse often takes place when parents fail to pay attention to the trust that they have placed in one of their children.

What are the effects of sibling sexual abuse?

Sibling sexual abuse is often very harmful for the following reasons:

- Because the siblings live together, **the victim may feel pressured** and trapped by the abuser over a long period of time. This pressure can break down the siblings' self confidence.
- The victim usually begins by trusting the abuser because they are siblings. When this trust is violated, **the victim feels betrayed** because someone they expect to love and care for them is hurting them. The victim may even believe that the parent thinks the abuse is all right.
- **The victims usually feel powerless** to stop the abuse. This feeling of being powerless can stay with them and affect their adult relationships.
- The victims may be made to feel responsible, bad or dirty, and they often **feel ashamed** as well. They may carry these feelings of shame into adulthood.

- Sibling sexual abuse **often causes more damage than abuse by a stranger** because children are dependent for years on their families and parents to keep them safe. The victims are more readily available, they are available for a longer period of time and **the offenders are protected by family secrecy**.

What is the relationship between sibling sexual abuse and other forms of abuse?

Sibling sexual abuse is a misuse of power and authority. Older children who sexually abuse their younger brothers and sisters frequently abuse them in other ways as well.

- Persistent putting down, teasing, or belittling younger children about their size, gender or other personal characteristics is called **emotional abuse**. Scaring younger children in dark rooms, telling them that no one loves them, or that terrible things are going to happen to them are also examples of emotional abuse.
- Much of the hitting, pinching and smothering of younger children is dismissed by bigger or older siblings, who tell their parents, 'We were only having fun' or 'We were just wrestling.' However, this isn't 'just fun' if it's forced on the younger child; it is actually **physical abuse**.

Which factors contribute to sibling sexual abuse?

- An older sibling, usually a boy, is given too much responsibility

It's an important part of family life for older children to learn to take responsibility for the care of younger children. It's just as important for children to understand that this responsibility has limits. Responsibility allows older children to make decisions while taking care of younger children. But it doesn't give them the right to boss them, put them down or threaten them.

- Children who have witnessed or experienced sexual abuse

Children who have been sexually abused, either by family members or by adults or older children, sometimes react by coaxing, manipulating, or forcing younger children into the same kind of sexual behaviour. Brothers and sisters may become the victims of this 'second-hand' abuse. Sexually intrusive children who act out their own abuse

in this way are sometimes called 'sexually reactive'. Children who are being sexually victimized may become sexually intrusive.

- Access to pornography

Parents who leave pornographic videotapes or magazines where children can look at them run the risk of having their children imitate adult sexual behaviour.

- Neglect

If children are neglected, either physically or emotionally, they might engage in a full range of sexual activities. They might try sexual activities they have learned from other children, or they might experiment, on their own, to learn how to get sexual pleasure. Part of their behaviour might come from their need to give and receive comfort when they're getting none from their parents.

Sexual activity between siblings which begins in this way might, at first, appear experimental and mutual. However, because of the power differences between children, it rarely is. If the behaviour continues, it can become abusive, especially if one of the children wants to stop and the other doesn't.

- Lack of sex education

Children and teens who are not taught in an age-appropriate way about their physical and sexual development are more likely to engage in sexually intrusive behaviour.

- Inadequate socialization

Children who are not allowed to play with their peers, and teenagers who aren't allowed to date, dance or socialize outside the home, are more likely to sexually abuse younger siblings.

Why might it be difficult to recognize sibling sexual abuse?

There are several reasons why parents of sibling sexual abuse victims have difficulty recognizing that it's happening:

- While the abuse is happening, the victim might be too young to know it's abuse. The victim may believe that the abuse is something that happens in all families.
- The abuse might be happening when the abuser is in a position of authority; for example, when an older sibling is the baby-sitter.

- The abuser may be enforcing secrecy by threatening the victim with physical abuse if he or she tells.
- Victims blame themselves, especially if they experience pleasure while they're being abused, so they may not tell you about it.
- Children may want to tell, but not know how to talk about what's happening. Also, many children are afraid to upset their parents.

Suggested Reading:

Wiehe, Vernon. *Sibling Abuse: Hidden Physical, Emotional and Sexual Abuse* (2nd ed).

Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1997.

O' Brien, Michael. *Characteristics of Male Adolescent Sibling Incest Offenders: Preliminary Findings*. Brandon, Vermont: Safer Society Press, 1993.

Cunningham, Carolyn and Kee MacFarlane. *When Children Molest Children: Group Treatment Strategies for Young Sexual Abusers*. Brandon, Vermont: Safer Society Press, 1991.

Bank, Stephen and Michael Kahn. *The Sibling Bond*. United States: Basic Books, 1982.

Justice, Blair and Rita. *The Broken Taboo*. New York: Human Sciences Press, 1979.

Harper, James and Margaret Hoopes. *Uncovering Shame*. New York: Norton, 1990.

Napier-Hemy, John. *When Children Act Out Sexually: A Guide for Parents and Teachers*. Vancouver: Family Services of Greater Vancouver, 1991.

5. Assignments

Extract 1

Donny What do you want from me?

Bella The truth.

Donny Are you sure you wouldn't prefer a lollypop? I've got a strawberry one.

Bella Don't want a lollypop. Don't want anything. I just want you to tell me what happened, no bullshit. From beginning to end. The truth.

Donny ... I'm not sure I remember.

Questions and assignments

-) Why does Donny ask Bella whether she wants a lollypop?
-) What does the lollypop stand for?
-) Have you ever preferred a "lollypop" to knowing the truth?

Extract 2

Donny First memory. The day my sister was born. Mother and Father were at the hospital and I was with Gran at the river. I was almost five years old and we were feeding the ducks and it was... snowing. And I remember that I was surprised that we were feeding the ducks – why were we feeding the ducks? We never fed the ducks when it was cold. But today... today was different. I knew somehow that today was different. And so after a time, Gran pulled me in from the edge and we went to the hospital and Gran bought me an iced bun – a big iced bun with pink icing all along the top and I remember, that's when I knew, when I was told: 'You've got a little sister, now.' 'You've got a little sister.' I was just feeding the ducks, just eating my bun. I didn't know what it meant.

Questions and assignments

-) Why is it that we can sometimes remember such details as the icing on a bun?
-) What is your first memory?
-) Have you got a younger brother or sister? And how did you find out about his/her arrival? How did you take the news? Likewise, if you are the younger one, how did your sibling(s) react?
-) Write a diary entry of a kid who has just got a brother/sister.

Extract 3

- Donny** You were meant to be here an hour ago.
- Bella** I had to stay at the office to finish off a presentation for tomorrow.
- Donny** You work too hard.
- Bella** No, I don't. Just harder than you.
- Donny** What d'you get?
- Bella** A bottle of wine, pasta, melon, a newspaper, your magazine...
- Donny** A bottle of wine? What colour?
- Bella** Red.
- Donny** You know I don't like red. You know it gives me headaches. It sticks to your teeth and lips, makes them black like-
- Bella** What?
- Donny** You know I can't drink while I'm in the middle of a story.
- Bella** Never said it was for you.
- Donny** (*ironic*) Cheers...
- Bella** (*Glancing at his papers*) How's the story going?
- Donny** It's not. I'm stuck.
- Bella** I'm sure you'll find a way through.
- Donny** Who are the flowers for?
- Bella** No-one. They were the last ones in the can and I thought they looked lonely.
- Donny** Since when did you develop a sense of pity for flora? They're hideous.
- Bella** I like them.
- Donny** You're never late. I was worried.
- Bella** (*turning to him, irritated*) I'm sorry!
- Donny** (*Beat*) Kiss me.
- She goes to him and kisses him briefly on the mouth. He tries to pull her to him. She resists.*
- Donny** I missed you.
- Bella** Shut up, Donny.
- Donny** Gets lonely in my ivory tower. Without you.
- Bella** It's your tower.
- Donny** Spent most of the day looking out the window. I counted all the leaves on the oak tree.
- Bella** How many?
- Donny** Eight thousand and seventy-three.

- Bella** Such a useful occupation.
- Donny** You'd be surprised at the concentration it requires to count leaves.
- Bella** And then there's the wind...
- Donny** Exactly! Autumn can be so frustrating.
- Bella** Why don't you go out? You could go and write in the café.
- Donny** Don't start this again! I don't want to.
- Bella** Why not?
- Donny** I heard on the radio this morning that there are nine incidents of serious assault against men in this city in daylight every ten minutes.
- Bella** That can't be true, Donny. (*Beat.*)
- Donny** It's all right for you, you're a girl...

Questions and assignments

-) What is Donny's profession? How do you know?
-) Why was Donny worried? Was he really worried?
-) What does Donny really mean when he calls Bella "hideous"?
-) What is an ivory tower? Why do you think is Donny hiding in it? And why does he not go to write in a café?
-) Continue this dialogue, in which Bella wants to convince Donny to leave their flat more often.

Extract 4

Bella So?

Donny So what?

Bella So what do you think of him?

Donny What do you want me to think of him?

Bella I want you to like him.

Donny I do like him.

Bella No you don't.

Donny Yeah I do. I just said.

Bella Why do you like him?

Donny Why shouldn't I like him? What's not to like?

Bella You think he's stupid.

Donny Don't you?

Bella He's honest.

Donny That's one word for it...

Bella He's uncomplicated. I like it.

Donny He's a moron.

Bella Just because he doesn't read very much.

Donny You asked me a question.

Bella But why can't you make an effort? For me? Why can't you relax and reach out to someone a little different from you? Why should he be the same as you and me? He's different.

Donny *(smiling)* You can say that again. *(Slight pause)*

Bella Why are you smiling like that?

Donny I'm not smiling.

Bella I hate it when you smile like that. I want to punch your teeth out.

Donny No reason. Just that-

Bella What?

Donny When you said you'd invited someone to dinner I was a little afraid.

Bella Afraid of what?

Donny Don't know. That you might love him more than me perhaps.

Bella And now? *(Beat)*

Donny *(Slowly)* I'm not afraid.

Questions and assignments

-) Why does Bella ask her brother what he is thinking of Edward?
-) What is Donny's opinion of Edward?
-) What are Donny's feelings, knowing that Bella has a boyfriend?
-) Is it important for you to know your family's/friends' opinion about your boy/girlfriend or friends in general? Why, why not?
-) The night after Edward's visit Donny writes a diary entry.

Extract 5

Bella He said what?
Edward Is it true?
Bella I'm not sure I heard you right. Say it again. What did he say?
Edward Doesn't matter what he said. Just tell me. Is it true?
Bella What do you think?
Edward I think he's fucking mental. He's sick. I don't know how you can do it.
Bella Do what? (*Half-beat*)
Edward Live with him.
Bella He's my brother.
Edward Is that all?
Bella Fuck off.
Edward Bella, he's insane. You shouldn't let him near you. And now with that scar he looks like a fucking criminal.
Bella You don't know him.
Edward I don't need to know him. He's not safe. (*Beat*)
Bella I know. I know.
Edward So why don't you come and live with me?
Bella And are you safe? (*Beat*)
Edward Come and see. (*He offers his hand, half-smile*)

Questions and assignments

-) In this extract Edward asks Bella if Donny has told him the truth on a certain matter. We never really know what Donny confessed to Edward. What do you think he said? (Bear in mind that Bella and Donny's relationship is unusually close.)
-) Why does Edward want Bella to live with him?
-) Do you think Bella is safe living with Donny?
-) Why does Bella not leave Donny when she also thinks that "he's not safe"?
-) Continue Edward and Bella's dialogue, in which Edward keeps trying to get information from Bella on that mysterious matter.
-) That night Bella/Edward writes a diary entry.

Extract 6

Bella Dearest Donny. Arrived safely. Hotel nice but over-heated. Everything is painted gold. I thought this postcard of Ibsen's house might be interesting to you. Hope you are eating okay. Will write soon. Kiss kiss.

Questions and assignments

-) Why might the postcard of Ibsen's house be interesting to Donny?
-) Why does Bella ask Donny if he is eating properly?
-) Donny answers Bella's postcard in a letter.

Extract 7

Bella and Edward alone.

Edward You kill me.

Bella No, I don't.

Edward Yeah, you do. You absolutely kill me. I thought I'd lost you.

Bella You haven't lost me.

Edward Are you sure?

Bella I thought I could leave and be strong. But I began to unravel. Without this place, I became lost. I wanted to feel as if I could survive on my own. You were with me and I loved you, but then I realised it wasn't enough. I need here too.

Edward I understand.

Bella Do you? I didn't think you would.

Edward I do. I understand.

Bella I love you. *(They kiss)*

Edward What about Donny?

Bella I love him too.

Edward As a brother?

Bella He is my brother. He's my family. Who else is there?

Edward Sure...

Bella *(Smiling)* You look so gallant.

Edward Gallant? Is that a word?

Bella Yeah, it's a good word. My knight... Do you feel better?

Edward *(Nodding, laughing)* How can you be so beautiful? You kill me.

Bella I'm a mystery.

Edward But you love me?

Bella Hush now, I've said it already.

Edward So show me.

Questions and assignments

-) Judging from this extract, what does Bella feel?
-) Why does Edward think he has lost Bella? Has he lost her?
-) What is Edward afraid of when he asks "As a brother?"
-) Do you think Bella really loves Edward? Why, why not?
-) Bella calls Edward "my knight". What does that imply for her? Do you give them a chance?
-) That night Bella/Edward writes a diary entry.

Extract 8

- Donny** How do you love her?
- Edward** What?
- Donny** Bella. How do you love her?
- Edward** 'How do I love her'? What do you want? A list or something?
- Donny** Yeah. A list.
- Edward** I can't answer that.
- Donny** Okay. What's her date of birth?
- Edward** Easy. Same as mine. May 21.
- Donny** What's her favourite colour?
- Edward** Erm... red.
- Donny** Close. Maroon.
- Edward** Same thing, isn't it?
- Donny** Not at all. What colour were her eyes when she was a baby?
- Edward** Shit, I don't know. Purple?
- Donny** Black.
- Edward** Do I have to-?
- Donny** Yeah, you do. What part of her body did she break when she fell off the wall at Greenwich Palace?
- Edward** Her thumb?
- Donny** Her toe. What side of the bed does she like to sleep on?
- Edward** The left.
- Donny** Interesting...
- Edward** What? Why?
- Donny** What does it mean when she pushes her fingers on to her lips?
- Edward** Means she's worried.
- Donny** I was thinking 'concerned' but I'll accept worried.
- Edward** Are you keeping score?!
- Donny** Sure. Three-all. What feature of herself is she most proud of?
- Edward** Her nose?
- Donny** Her shadow.
- Edward** Bullshit.
- Donny** Ask her.
- Edward** This is stupid...

Donny Four-three. Game point. Last question.
What was her first word?

Edward Hang on – she told me this – hang on... ‘Princess’...?

Donny ... ‘knight’. With a ‘k’. Game, set, and match to me.

Slight pause. They watch each other.

Donny Whose move is it?

Edward Are you happy now?

Donny (*Smiling*) What? Me? Happy?

Edward Yeah, you. Are you happy now you've won your stupid little game?

Donny I think we both know it was more than a game.

Edward Really?

Donny Yeah...

Edward Okay. Well I have a question for you, then. Let's make it double or quits.

Donny I've won. I don't need to gamble.

Edward A gentleman's bet then? But I'll make it interesting for you. If you get the answer, I'll go and never come back. And I'll never see Bella again.

Donny Do you mean it?

Edward Why not? It's a pretty hard question.

Donny Try me.

Silence.

Edward How did your parents die, Donny? How did they die?

Slight pause. Bella enters.

Bella What's going on?

Silence.

Questions and assignments

-) Why is Donny asking Edward all those questions?
-) Is this really only a game they are playing?
-) Is Edward's "gentleman's bet" a clever move? Why, why not?
-) Why does Edward want to know how Donny's parents died? And why does he call it a pretty hard question?
-) The night Donny's parents died Donny is writing a diary entry.
-) The night their parents died Donny is telling Bella what has happened. Write down their dialogue.

6. Further assignments

a) Fill in the missing words:

Bella and Edward are holding hands. Donny is cutting coupons from a magazine.

Bella We're going _____ holiday.

Donny _____ holiday?

Bella Yes.

Donny Is this me and you, 'we'? Or-

Bella Me and Edward.

Donny Okay...

Bella _____ Oslo.

Donny Oslo?

Edward It's _____ Norway.

Donny I know _____ Oslo is.

Bella Edward was born _____. He wants to take me.

Donny When?

Bella At the end _____ the month.

Donny (*Holding out the scissors and magazine*) But I thought-

Bella You thought what?

Donny I thought *we* might _____ somewhere...

Bella You never said anything.

Donny ...I wanted it _____ a surprise.

Bella Surprise? It'd be a fucking miracle. (*Glancing down at the cuttings*) How many is it now?

Slight pause. The brother and sister eye each other. Edward glances at them.

Edward What's going _____, Bella?

Bella (*to Donny*) Do you want to tell him or shall I? I know you like to share things.

Donny What?

Bella Edward told me _____ your little conversation.

Donny Right... (*Beat*).

Bella Do you see what my brother's doing, Edward? Show him, Donny. He's cutting

_____ special coupons _____ a magazine. If he gets enough

coupons he can fly _____ the world _____ free.

Solution:

Bella and Edward are holding hands. Donny is cutting coupons from a magazine.

Bella We're going **on** holiday.

Donny **On** holiday?

Bella Yes.

Donny Is this me and you, 'we'? Or-

Bella Me and Edward.

Donny Okay...

Bella **To** Oslo.

Donny Oslo?

Edward It's **in** Norway.

Donny I know **where** Oslo is.

Bella Edward was born **there**. He wants to take me.

Donny When?

Bella At the end **of** the month.

Donny (*Holding out the scissors and magazine*) But I thought-

Bella You thought what?

Donny I thought *we* might **be going** somewhere...

Bella You never said anything.

Donny ...I wanted it **to be** a surprise.

Bella Surprise? It'd be a fucking miracle. (*Glancing down at the cuttings*) How many is it now?

Slight pause. The brother and sister eye each other. Edward glances at them.

Edward What's going **on**, Bella?

Bella (*to Donny*) Do you want to tell him or shall I? I know you like to share things.

Donny What?

Bella Edward told me **about** your little conversation.

Donny Right... (*Beat*).

Bella Do you see what my brother's doing, Edward? Show him, Donny. He's cutting **out** special coupons **from** a magazine. If he gets enough coupons he can fly **round** the world **for** free.

b) Put the following extract into reported speech:

Donny ...I'm not sure I remember. I was just home from school and Mother and Father are arguing in the kitchen. Don't know what about, it doesn't matter. I just want... peace. So I take the gun from my wardrobe and tell them that Bella has been hurt in the cemetery and that she needs help. They don't want to come at first but I manage to persuade them. When we get to the cemetery there's no sign of Bella and Father turns round and is about to smack me when I shoot him straight in the eye. Bang. Pellet right into his brain. Dead. Next thing I know and Mother is screaming and running and I'm running after her and all I want is quiet and so I beat her head with the butt until she isn't screaming anymore. Bang. Silence. And for a moment, everything is still. Peaceful. *(Beat, half-smile)* When the police ask me what happened, I say that Father did it – to mother, then to himself. It seems easier and somehow more believable. I was only fifteen. *(Beat)* I did love them, they had certain qualities, but my love for my parents and theirs for me, wasn't the kind of love you'd want. Love like lying. Love like a disease. A poison. Not a happy love. I just wanted peace. But I didn't know what it meant.

7. Vocabulary

icing	flavoured sugar topping used to coat and decorate cakes	Zuckerguss, Glasur
chastity	abstaining from sexual relations	Keuschheit
liquorice	black candy flavoured with the dried root of the licorice plant	Lakritze
to emerge	come out into view, as from concealment; become known or apparent	entstehen, auftauchen
vermin	an irritating or obnoxious person	Abschaum, Gesindel
pot shot	shot taken at an easy or casual target	Nahschuss
only child	Child without any brothers or sisters	Einzelkind
hideous	so extremely ugly as to be terrifying	abscheulich
ivory tower	a state of mind that is discussed as if it were a place	Elfenbeinturm
assault	threatened or attempted physical attack by someone who appears to be able to cause bodily harm if not stopped	Angriff, Körperverletzung
orphan	a child who has lost both parents	Waise
wig	hairpiece covering the head and made of real or synthetic hair	Perücke
to lay the table	prepare a table in such manner (plates, cutlery) as to have a meal	den Tisch decken
treachery	betrayal of trust	Verrat
budgie	small Australian bird usually light green with black and yellow markings in the wild but bred in many colours	Wellensittich
to ennoble	confer dignity or honour upon	veredeln, adeln
ambiguous	open to two or more interpretations; having more than one possible meaning	zweideutig
comradeship	the quality of affording easy familiarity and sociability	Kameradschaft
ghastly	shockingly repellent; inspiring horror	grässlich, grauenhaft
moron	a person of subnormal intelligence; idiot	Idiot
thigh	the part of the leg between the hip and the knee	Oberschenkel
reed	tall woody perennial grasses with hollow slender stems	Schilf
troglodyte	someone who dwells in a cave	Höhlenbewohner
sage	a mentor in spiritual and philosophical topics who is renowned for profound wisdom	der Weise
sludgy	damp and slimy	matschig
swamp	low land that is seasonally flooded; has more woody plants than a marsh and better drainage than a bog	Moor, Sumpf

cunt [vulg.]	obscene term for female genitals	Scheide
to slay (slew slain)	kill intentionally and with premeditation	erschlagen
dungeon	a dark cell (usually underground) where prisoners can be confined	Kerker
scum	worthless people	Abschaum
to unravel	become or cause to become undone, hence, to clear from complication or difficulty; to unfold; to solve	enträtseln, entwirren
gallant	having the qualities of gallantry attributed to an ideal knight	galant, ritterlich
maroon	dark brownish to purplish red	kastanienbraun