



THE  
STORY  
REPUBLIC

# Thirteen Jollifs & Other Stories

Tales of Liskeard, Looe & Polperro

**BULLSTONE BRAVADO** by Jo Lumber

Dear Ladies,

I trust this letter find you well. I write to you, guardedly, about a matter I believe needs our attention. I recently witnessed, in the name of enquiry, a most abhorrent spectacle. Deemed entertainment by the unruly crowds, but in reality, a repugnant scene of shouting, depravity, and most despicably of cruelty. For those of you unaware of this supposedly sporting practice, please read on, with armour to your heart.

The act of 'bullbaiting' sees a chosen creature ornamented with ribbons and bows, then paraded through the streets to the place of performance. A most humiliating journey for the magnificent beast. The rope lead is then tied securely to the special stone, known as The Bull Stone. The bull is provoked with a blow of pepper into the nostrils. The mob places bets and then, one at a time, viciously trained dogs leap at the bull, taunting, snapping and biting. The congregation jeer as the dogs snarl and cheer when their teeth fasten tightly on the flesh. On and on it goes, like hell on earth.

So ladies, I ask you to join me, on a mission of disruption. Details to be discussed, confidentially, at our next needlework meeting.

Yours,  
Mrs Mary Polwin

Dear Sisters,

I write to you from my bed, recovering from my wounds. But I rejoice in high spirits and deep gratitude. What glorious commotion we caused! Who would have thought such women as us would dare infiltrate the scene. Such shock we caused by the raising of our petticoats! The sight of our ankles a distraction to our endeavour. With our skirts held aloft, catching the hostile hounds mid-air, we saved both the bull from further suffering and the dogs of their degraded behaviour. What cacophony of obscenities roared! And what a wonderful, unexpected vision to see the bull break free, charging the streets, leaving a trail of destruction, and ribbons, behind him. Let us have mercy for the dogs taught such vile behaviour and bring an end to this spectacle.

Our clothes may be stained and our skin battle-scarred, but we harnessed our own bull strength. We are wilful and brave. We must continue our efforts, with manners and morality. I have taken it upon myself to give a name to our cause.

Yours,  
MP, President of LADIES BAG  
(Liskeard and District Instruction of Etiquette Society, Ban Animal Gambling)

Liskeard



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