

A photograph of the character Mr. Bean, played by Rowan Atkinson, looking slightly to the side with a thoughtful expression. He is wearing a grey tweed jacket, a white shirt, and a red tie with white polka dots. The background shows a sunny street with palm trees and a clear blue sky.

MR BEAN

RICHARD CURTIS AND ROBIN DRISCOLL

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What's the book about?

Look at these pictures of Mr Bean and read the sentences about this story on the back of the book. Then read the sentences below. Are they right (✓)? What do you think?



- 1 Mr Bean is very clever.
- 2 Mr Bean is very stupid.
- 3 Mr Bean takes a famous picture, but it isn't his picture.
- 4 Mr Bean puts a face on a famous picture.
- 5 Mr Bean buys a famous picture.
- 6 Mr Bean stands on a famous picture.
- 7 Mr Bean has to talk about a famous picture.
- 8 Mr Bean hurts somebody and the person goes to hospital.



1.2 What happens first?

Read the first two sentences and the last two sentences of Chapters 1 and 2. Then look at the pictures in these chapters. Answer the questions. What do you think?

- 1 Why is everybody at the Grierson Art Gallery excited?

.....

- 2 Why is Mr Bean going to America?

.....

- 3 Why are the policemen using their guns?

.....

- 4 Why does Mr Bean have to get out of the airport fast?

.....

A Great Day!

It was a stupid idea! Or was it? Mr Bean in America!

Two long months without the man!

Everybody at the Grierson **Art Gallery** in Los Angeles was very excited.

George Grierson, the boss, stood outside the gallery and looked at the people in front of him. He smiled and turned to the cameras.

'This is a great day for the Grierson Gallery, and a great day for America,' he said. 'In two weeks, the most famous **painting** by an American artist is coming back home. Yes, everybody, America's most wonderful painting, *Whistler's Mother*, will be here in my gallery!'

At the National Gallery in London, everybody was very excited too.

The Grierson Gallery wanted somebody from London to go to America for two months. They wanted a top man from the National Gallery to talk to people about the artist, Whistler,* and his famous painting of his mother.

Who was the right person for the job? Dr Rosenblum? Or Dr Cutler? At a meeting in one of the rooms in the gallery, everybody wanted to go.

But first they had to discuss a more important problem: Mr Bean! Nobody in the room liked Mr Bean – they all wanted him to leave the gallery. Why? What was wrong with the man? He only had to sit in one

* James McNeill Whistler (1834–1903): A famous artist. He was American, but he lived in London.

art /ɑ:t/ (n) Beautiful or interesting pictures are *art*. Artists make pictures and other beautiful things.

gallery /'gæləri/ (n) A *gallery* is a building or a room with pictures and other beautiful or interesting things in it. People can go and look at them there.

painting /'peɪntɪŋ/ (n) A *painting* is a picture. When you do a *painting*, you use *paint* for the different colours. When you want to change the colour of a wall in your house, you can *paint* that too.

of the rooms in the gallery all day and watch the paintings. He wasn't very good at his job – he usually fell asleep. But why did they *all* hate him?

Suddenly, the National Gallery's boss, Mr Walton, came into the room and sat down at the table.

'We're talking about that strange man, Mr Bean, sir,' somebody said. 'We all think ...'

'Be quiet!' shouted Mr Walton angrily. 'There's nothing wrong with Mr Bean! He's a wonderful young man – one of the best men in the gallery.'

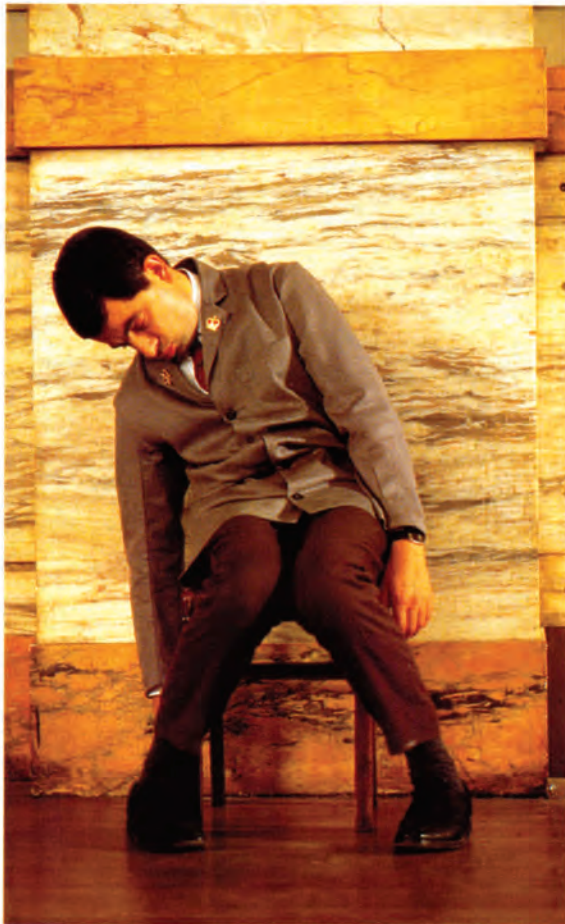
Nobody in the room said a word. They all looked very unhappy.

'Wait a minute!' somebody suddenly shouted. 'Of course! Why don't we send Mr Bean to the Grierson Gallery in America?'

Nobody spoke. It was a stupid idea! Or was it? Mr Bean in America! Two long months without the man!

'Yes, yes!' they all shouted. 'That's a great idea!'

Mr Walton looked very happy. 'Right. Don't sit there! Get Mr Bean! Quickly!'



Mr Bean sat and waited outside the room. Why did these important people want to see him? Suddenly, he **sneezed** loudly. He took out a paper **handkerchief** and **blew** his nose. Then he blew it again. Then again, more loudly – the noisiest nose-blow in the world!

Mr Walton called Mr Bean into the room. When he walked in, he smiled at everybody. They all looked at him ... and started laughing! Mr Bean looked *very* stupid!

‘Excuse me, Mr Bean,’ Mr Walton said, ‘um ... ah ... something’s coming out of your nose!’

It was some of his paper handkerchief! It looked very funny! Mr Bean’s face went red and he quickly pulled the paper out of his nose.

‘Now, Mr Bean. We want to ask you something. It’s important – and very exciting. Would you like to go to America?’



sneeze /sni:z/ (v) When you *sneeze*, air comes out of your nose and mouth suddenly and with a lot of noise.

handkerchief /'hæŋkətʃɪf/ (n) You use a *handkerchief* when your eyes or nose are wet.

blow /bləʊ/ (v/n) You *blow* your nose when you want to clean it. When something or somebody *blows*, air comes out quickly.

Mr Bean

Richard Curtis and Robin Driscoll

British English
Contemporary

A famous painting is going to the Grierson Gallery in LA and they want a top man to come to the United States. He can talk about the artist. The National Gallery in London send Mr Bean. But something is very wrong with Mr Bean! He's very, very strange. And dangerous! After he arrives accidents start to happen.

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Mr Bean

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