

The Legend of Roy G. Biv

By Amy Haslett-Marroquin

Characters

- * Narrator: Friendly and a bit sassy
- * Kids at the Slumber party: Susan, Elise, Julie, Colleen. Played by teens in Legend scenes
- * Dad at the Slumber party: could also be played as a female character, double as Mr. Italist
- * Madam Mayor: Take charge, authoritarian voice, could also be played as Mr. Mayor
- * Security Guards 1 and 2: Not the sharpest tools in the shed
- * Alex: Teen guard in training, very devoted to the cause of Yellow, but a little unsure of herself
- * Quintas: A teenage boy who loves to ask questions and play video games
- * Samantha: A teenage girl who is an avid reader and not convinced the Yellow regime is good
- * Grandma Genevieve: Quintas's grandma. A bit rebellious, still has traces of an Irish accent.
- * Mr. Ben Italist: Quintas's father, devoted to his boss the Mayor, more "adult" than his mother.
- * Madam President: Cruel, commanding voice, could also be played as Mr. President
- * Book Burners 1 and 2: Surly. Played by the same actors as Security Guards
- * Shamus: Genevieve's lost husband, thinks he is a Leprechaun. Thick Irish accent.
- * Roy G. Biv: Dreamy gender-neutral character, the hero of the story but defeated in the end

Time and Place

Modern day, in the strange yellow land of Painesville.

Sound Effects

- **Commotion noise of items being moved**
- **Movie Intro music**
- **Bushes rustling**
- **Sound of cup being set down and spoon stirring tea**
- **Clanking of teacups**
- **Sound of footsteps running/ Opening and slamming a door**
- **Sound of heels clicking and door slamming**
- **Sound of crowd cheering**
- **Sounds of whispering**
- **TV show music**
- **Sound of static**
- **Doorbell**
- **Sound of door opening**

The Legend of Roy G. Biv

Scene 1

Narrator: Welcome to our story. It is the Legend of Roy G. Biv. If you are an artist, you'll probably recognize that those letters stand for each color of the rainbow. That will soon make sense as our story unfolds. As we begin, however, it might not make any sense at all. It is my task as narrator to explain these things as we go along--which I will do occasionally as we proceed. For the most part, though, I will simply be that fly on the wall describing the scene that you can't see through your radio. So, picture if you please, the start of our story. It was a festive scene, as 16th birthday parties often are...even after the party is over. Balloons scattered across the floor, popcorn spills on the table, half-eaten snacks everywhere. Most of Susan's guests had left, but her closest friends were spending the night. There are sleeping bags strewn around the room and although Susan's dad has already asked the group to settle in for the night, there was no sign of that happening.

Julie: Let's play one more round of charades before we head to bed.

Colleen: I've got one!

Other kids: (*starting to guess*) A cow! A cloud? The moon? A jumping cow?

Dad: All right, everybody. (*overly cheery*) It's bedtime! First rule of bedtime at the Smith household is "No talking." The second rule is "No talking." and the third rule is "No plaid pajamas." Find your sleeping bags in 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. Lights out!

Kids: (*complaining, voices over each other*)

Already?!

But we didn't get to watch a movie!

It's still early.

We were gonna play a game.

Come on!

Dad: You can watch a movie in the morning. It's past midnight and I need my beauty sleep. I'm going to try that again and I expect to see everyone horizontal in your bags. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

Elise: Fine. We're going, we're going, Mr. Smith.

Dad: Sweet dreams everyone. Don't let the bed bugs bite.

Susan: Dad! We're going to sleep. Just...go.

Dad: Okay, Goodnight!

(Quiet pause for a few moments)

Elise: *(whisper voice)* Movie time!

Colleen: No, Susan's dad said we could watch one in the morning.

Julie: It's almost 2am. That is morning.

Susan: The thing is, when my dad doesn't want me to use the TV, he hides the remote. So, we're out of luck, we can't turn the flat screen on without it.

Elise: Seriously? Parents!

Colleen: Oh, come on, it's gotta be here somewhere.

(FX: Commotion noise of items being moved)

Elise: Found it!

TV voice (Narrator): Stay tuned for "The Legend of Roy G. Biv"

Julie: Oh no! My mom said that movie will give me nightmares.

Colleen: I've heard it's a great story! It's got that great actress who plays the Grandma, Jane Fonda?

Elise: No, it's another one. Anyway, she's amazing. And the movie isn't scary, it's kind of funny really.

Susan: Yeah, I've been wanting to see this one. But, turn the volume down, or my dad will be right back down here.

TV Voice (Narrator): *(slightly less volume)* Roy G. Biv starring Valerie Harper, Josie Loren, and Keely Wilson.

Colleen: Valerie Harper! That's the one! *(FX: Movie Intro music)*

Scene 2

Narrator: The teens settle quickly in front of the screen. And the opening scene of the story pans the Mayor's Office, painted in an intensely bright shade of yellow. The mayor is standing in front of her guards and a young teenager by the name of Alex.

Mayor: Ode Yellow.

Guards: Ode Yellow.

Mayor: Welcome gentlemen and our future guard patrol, thank you for heeding our call for guard training. As you know, the President is due to our fine city tomorrow for her annual visit. I've called all of you today to train you so you are prepared for her visit. We've had some (*cough*) irregularities with our citizens lately... some even voicing questions... and this needs to be controlled. People are questioning Yellow and we just can't have that, especially while Madam President is in our midst. Guards!

Security Guard 1: Madam Mayor. What do we need to do?

Mayor: You must be ready if the President should choose to quiz you. What will you say if she asks "Why yellow?" Guard 1?

Security Guard 1: Ah...Yellow represents happiness. The sun, sunflowers, smiley faces. All yellow.

Mayor: Yes! Whereas Blue is sadness. Red is anger, pain, and fire. We do not want these in our society. Only placid happiness. What more, Guard 2?

Security Guard 2: And Green is Jealousy. No good. And Guilt, too, because we've just messed up nature. Best just not to think about that.

Security Guard 1: And Purple, that's the color of bravery. We don't want people showing too much courage, it might rock the boat.

Mayor: Yes, so if the President asks, or anybody questions, you know what to say about Yellow. Any questions my young friend? I am so happy to have you here as a guard in training!

Alex: Well actually, my friends have been kind of curious about the end of the rainbow. What did happen to all those other colors?

Mayor: You must discourage your friends from wondering. Acceptance of the color yellow is extremely important for your generation.

Alex: But we've heard that other colors are kind of pretty, you know. People just wonder.

Mayor: (*Ominously*) Yes, but yellow is **really** pretty, don't you agree? It's so much better to live in a one-color world. No confusion, no differences of opinion. It's so simple when we all think alike.

Alex: Yes, of course.

Security Guard 1: (*Hesitantly*) Maybe it would be helpful if Alex understood the history a bit.

Mayor: Like how it came to be? The history of the Yellow regime and why it's necessary? Suffice to say that the other colors weren't working out. Other ways of thinking, living, and loving just weren't working out. There's too much conflict with diversity, so there needed to be control. Yellow was the best color for that, because not only does it control people, but it keeps them happy--at least superficially happy, and that's all the people need. You see, Alex?

Alex: (*still not completely understanding*) I see.

Mayor: Good. One more thing. I need you to spend time with some of the more.... um.... suspicious.... members of our society. I want to know what they are up to and you are seemingly innocent enough that they won't suspect your motive.

Security Guard 2: If I might suggest, Madam Mayor, that you have her perhaps start with some of our elders.

Security Guard 1: Yes, Madam Mayor, the ones who still remember.

Mayor: Indeed.

Narrator: The movie shifts to a new scene at a park, which oddly still seems to shine yellow. A teenage boy named Quintus plays quietly with his yo-yo as a second teen approaches. It appears to be rather quiet in the town today. Nobody around. Although there are a couple of very suspicious-looking yellow bushes near the park entrance. They almost appear to have eyes.