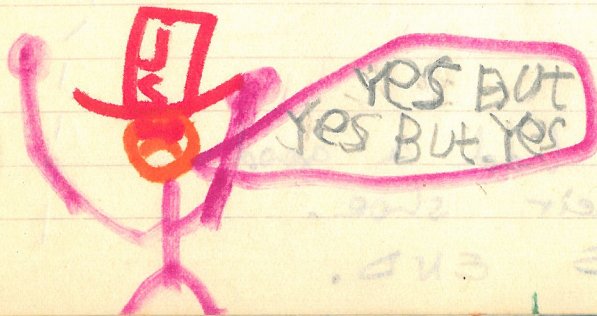


Mr. Yes-But

23.9.81

Mr. Yes-But (some people call him Mr. Yeah-But) was the most yes-buty person in the world. If anybody said anything whatsoever to him, he would start his answer with "yeah, but...". This got on many people's nerves and he slowly lost all his friends. The last of his friends said to him one day, "you'll just have to think about not saying "yes-but" all the time. Mr. Yes-But answered "yeah but I!" and so he lost his last friend.

Mr. Yes-But lived in a house that looked rather like himself. (First you have to know what he looked like himself:





The house looks a bit patchy because when the men were building it, Mr. Yes-But kept on saying "yes but..." to them so that they started several times in different ways from what they had planned.

One day, Mr. Yes-But thought he would go for a walk. Then he said to himself "yes but what if it rains?" and then "yes but it might not" and then "yes but yes but yes but YES BUT..." - and he would have gone on and on, if there had not been a very loud knock on his

front door. He went to see who
it might be and found a tall
old man with a bushy beard,
thick bushy eyebrows and a stick.
The old man said "hello!" and
Mr. Yes-But answered "yes, but -"
and the old man said to him
in a very stern voice "But we
no yeah-buts!". He sounded angry.



He pushed his way into the house past Mr. Yes-But, waving his stick. Mr. Yes-But was so surprised he forgot, for once, to say "yes but".

The old man sat down at the table, thumped his stick on the floor between his knees and commanded "you sit down; you and I are going to have a talk!". Mr. Yes-But went over and sat down in another chair and said softly, "yes but who are you?". The old man shouted (thumping his stick as he did) "BUT ME NO BUTS! And never mind who I am". Mr. Yes-But weakly said "would you like a cup of Nikoline?" and the old man shouted "But me no - oops, you didn't! No, never mind the Nikoline, I have come to talk, not to drink. Now listen: you have lost all your friends and you will never make new ones, as long as you keep on

saying "yes but" all the time."
Mr. Yes - But sighed and said very quietly "yes but I don't know how to stop". "BUT HE NO YES-BUTS!" shouted the old man and went on for a long time explaining how Mr. Yes - But could stop saying "yes - but". When at last he finished, he lifted himself to his feet on his sticks and tramped out of the door again.

And do you know, to this day, Mr. Yes - But has not said "yes but" to anybody again, but he has never told anyone (not even me) what the old man told him.

THE END - BUT -
