

## Unchained Malady 5

Precocious Percy Shelley had the intellectual hots for Bill Godwin, his perfectibitarian spiritual father, so he ditched his first wife, Harriet, and courted his mentor's daughter Mary in order to meld the titles son-in-law, son, protégé, thrall.

On the French Revolution, anarch Godwin gushed that his "heart beat high," so no wonder this wide-eyed, Bysshe-tailed boy (and his pocketbook) impressed him: utopian vim and Jacobin to the brim — versus that Byronic gloom.

While Shel and Mary toured hot spots and mused, pissed on theism with pagan abandon, reimagined mass revolution through *Hellas* and meatless Queen Mab, pregnant Harriet drowned in Hyde Park's Serpentine on the same day Godwin wrote "H.S. dies" — though her corpse was found a month later.

In an act of poetic just deserts, Percy drowned at sea: a volume of Aeschylus in one of his pockets and Keats in another.