

issue 17

streetcake



© sean burn



contents

front cover image – ‘softstare’ by sean burn

one nil at half-time – steven fowler

devil’s grip – howie good

cedar waxwings – katherine holmes

if you remember me - katerina kashchavtseva

boys can have diaries too – james stamford

bad translated bollocks – thomas wingfield

steven fowler

one nil at half-time

bring nothing new to the dinner table
yet toy
are the first to reap the upward guff of medicine
burn the school of gentlemanly conduct
burns
wipe in women's hair
puree of the tomato
fud to the form of the novel
two directions of the novel
by some cunt
enter in peace
and leave because it got too hot
in there and someone died in the last
bacon competition in Finland
Sauna dirt fill the form of the novel

Enter in peace
technology that serves a purpose
while molesting a lamb scandal
with mint and veterans
cunning crossed with prison
priest of poison
hex on whiny jews
hiss hoss
stepoutwardforemost
last leg
the turning cog
upper leg is right leg
full mobility for army Billy
the bloody bandage is loose

howie good

DEVIL'S GRIP

There were many empty chairs. There would be even more. The damned were being led through the memory of a garden, a sulfurous sun above glumly silent trees. Women with floating garments scattered in fright. The gendarmes drew their sabers. A little gentleman in a bowler hat searched his pockets for the paragraph he had torn from the newspaper. To name a thing is to suppress three-quarters of it. Or so the doctors of philosophy say. On a rainy evening, the murderer, face lit by the gas lamp on the wall, whispered, "There is so much left to do."

katherine holmes

Cedar waxwings

Was thinking
how tidings
of the city were shooed off
in a safe
isthmus
 when I saw
a pirate eyepatch
on a bough crooking its twigs.

Cedar waxwing
and another
 in shades
like a fender on its forehead
and a gang
of waxwings have landed
lurking
the yard

in the overcast
 of trees.

Still they are
doorknob-small
 softnesses
in uniform grayness
having the sinister
switchblade quicknesses of
keys at dusk.

In a second
the time of
a shriek
 or a shooing
they've sped
like passing suspicions
into newsprint on the
sallow sky.

katerina kashchavtseva

if you remember me,
blink twice
i think i've seen you
somewhere
(everything happens so
quickly in this world)
you stood by the black
chevrolet like ellie
carried away by a hurricane
and i thought that if i could
ever fall in love with a
woman that would be you
only once in a thousand
years this snake crawls
into me and sinks its only
tooth in my only heart
i search for happiness
like a trained pig looks
for truffles but instead
i find a needle in the
hay - a girl by the black
chevrolet; but she doesn't
want to play with me and
tells me to remain silent

james stamford

Boys Can Have Diaries Too

Tuesday February 1st

I got quite angry with my English teacher today. She asked everyone to speak about their first memory. The others seemed to remember things from the age of four or five but I clearly had the best memory as I can remember being a bit of sperm. Mrs Fletcher said that it is impossible to remember anything like that and then I argued with her for ages and said that I can even remember swimming to the egg with the other bits of sperm. I got sent out of the class for being aggressive.

My mum sent me to my room early to tidy it up. She said it looks like a pig sty. I don't think it does.

Wednesday February 2nd

I fell asleep instead of doing my room last night so my mum shouted at me and said I have to do it tonight because her friends are coming round in a few days. Don't see why that matters though because they shouldn't go in my room.

A new girl started at school today, she is called Alice Knobble. She isn't very nice looking and she is quite fat. She started crying when Lewis called her "small knob". He called her small knob because that's what a knobble is in the dictionary.

Thursday February 3rd

Lewis made David feel sick today when he farted on his head. It was really funny.

I sat next to Sarah in Geography today. I don't think I fancy her but I got a hard on when she was talking to me. I had to tuck it in the waistband of my boxer shorts.

I still haven't done my room, think my mum has given up now.

Friday February 4th

I went red when I saw Sarah today, my heart started beating fast and I got nervous. I think I like her a bit.

It was really funny at school again today. We did Chinese whispers in English because half the class hadn't played it before. We sat in a circle and the Mrs Fletcher started it off. I was near the middle and it was something to do with rabbits running across a field. Lewis was sat three from the end and after it got to him it slowed down. Mrs Fletcher asked Sophie to say what it was. She

said she thought it had been changed but Mrs Fletcher said that that was always going to happen and told her to say it aloud. Sophie looked real nervous and looked at Alice Small Knob. Then she said Alice Knobble is fat and stinks. Alice started crying and it was dead funny. Mrs Fletcher got cross but she didn't know who it was. It was Lewis.

My Grandparents came over tonight. I got sent to bed early because I farted on my Grandma's head.

Saturday February 5th

My mum got really annoyed with me for not tidying my room so she did it. She found my dad's dirty magazines under my bed and said that she doesn't mind me reading them but I have to ask my dad when I want to borrow them.

Also watched the 'Dodgeball' film with Lewis, he didn't know it was a true story until I showed him that the front cover said "a true underdog story"

Sunday February 6th

I had a dream about Sarah last night, we went for a bike ride and then found out we could fly, we then decided to fly to Denmark but she turned into a Dinosaur and tried to eat me. I think this means I like her though.

Watched the 'Look who's talking' film. Turns out that I don't remember being sperm but I do remember watching that film before. Not going to tell Mrs Fletcher though.

Monday February 7th

Had a really shit day today. Everyone was really moody with me. If I could run away I would but I would probably get lost.

Tuesday February 8th

I got up really early this morning because I wanted to have a bath. I also had coco pops for breakfast and think it is really strange how they all join together when you're nearly finished.

I sat next to Sarah in Maths again today. She smells really nice. She smells a bit like the sixth form girls. Think I might ask her out soon.

Also I forgot we had P.E at school today, I was wearing my apple catchers so I said I had forgotten my kit.

Wednesday February 9th

Me and Lewis have fallen out. We were eating our packed lunch at dinner and he didn't believe that I invented the crisp sandwich when I was about seven.

It's my Auntie Julie's birthday in a few days and I don't know what to get her.

Thursday February 10th

Overheard my Auntie tell my mum she wanted a rampant rabbit. I will go ask for one at the pet shop on Saturday.

We watched a film called war of the worlds at school today. It was only an age 12 but it was quite scary. It was about aliens and they were well weird. Not as scary as the exorcist though. I remember watching that with dad, he asked me if I was gay when I started crying.

I'm best friends with Lewis again now.

Friday February 11th

I know where I want to run away to. I want to go to Bourg De Thizy in France. I saw a sign that says it is twinned with our town. I will definitely know my way around. I wonder who lives at my house in Bourg De Thizy.

Think I'm going to get Sarah something for Valentines Day, or I might just ask Lewis to ask her if she will get off with me.

Saturday February 12th

I went to the pet shop today and asked for the present that my Auntie would like. The woman just looked at me and asked me if I thought I was funny. I said that I am sometimes, and then she said that I had to leave. I think she could be an alien. She was well weird.

I think I know what to give Sarah for Valentines Day. I asked my nana what women want and she said TLC. I didn't know women liked wrestling! I might give her my wrestling DVD that has a tables, ladders and chairs match on it.

Sunday February 13th

Lewis has just got a PS3 and Call of Duty the game. I am real jealous because my dad said that the tooth fairy might bring me one. He knows I haven't got any baby teeth left.

My mum called Worcester Sauce crisps "wuster sauce". She can't read properly.

I'm really nervous about tomorrow

Monday February 14th

I didn't give her the DVD, I was too scared. I got her number off Gemma though. It cost me my lunch money and two pieces of chewing gum.

Tuesday February 15th

I had a crap day. My phone broke so I couldn't text Sarah. My mum gave me sausages for my tea and I have told her I won't eat sausages because I like cows as an animal. I licked a 2p coin by accident and it was disgusting and then just as I was about to go to bed I sat on the toilet and there was wee on the seat.

Lewis told me that Alice Small Knob thinks I'm good looking. My mum said that people are attracted to people that are on the same level of good lookingness. Does that mean I am ugly?

Wednesday February 16th

Apparently I'm not getting my phone back for a week. I have decided that tomorrow I will steal some of my Dad's beer and drink some before I go to school. I have been told that drunk people are really confident and say what's on their mind. I will then be able to tell Sarah how I feel.

We had a test in maths at school. I don't think I did that well. I wish I had Bernard's watch.

Thursday February 17th

I didn't get drunk because I only had a sip of the beer. It tastes horrible. I still tried to say something to Sarah though. It all went wrong. As she turned around to face me I kicked a slab of pavement which was slightly uneven to the others, I tripped, but as I had my hands in my pockets I couldn't gain my balance so fell onto my knees. My hands were still in my pockets so I rolled on to my shoulder, then my face because I couldn't get them out as they had tightened when I fell. Alice Knobble saw it as well, both of them just walked away from me. I don't think she will ever know how much I love her.

Friday February 18th

I feel great. Lewis told me that Alice Knobble told him that she doesn't fancy me anymore. I'm really pleased. Also I have decided that I don't love Sarah any more because I think I like Jenny Thackerson from the year above now.

A once-where time of clear.

once had Days been often so
wiped clean from of those
little "PC LOAD LETTER" characters
that in up clog our (never ending)
minds (spirals).

hasn't Now (of) words become
just traps of ?bad? translated
bollocks that leaked www.in from
a nowhen (goosetrails)
that got. fed up

Well I For i
am@edge of tether,
leaving freeviagra
for beige pages
and soft arms
and

talking.