

Bin Chicken by Madelaine Nunn

(/) means an interruption.

NB: Gender of Luke can be changed.

Names can be changed to suit the diversity of the cast.

Friday night. 10pm. Large cubes of compressed plastic bottles are stacked high around the outskirts of a tall mound of recyclable rubbish. Timber, tyres and discarded bric-a-brac line the surface, hiding years of rubbish underneath. Next to the tip is a recycle shop that doubles as a house out the back. This is Katy's house.

Katy is standing on top of the mound with a backpack on. She paces back and forth looking into the distance while using an industrial-sized torch to inspect the area below. On the other side of the mound is Luke, Katy's boyfriend, he stands still with his torch fixed in position, he is also keeping a look out but has less intensity than Katy.

*At the base of the tip there is a sign that reads,
'We're here to stay. We won't give up, we won't give in'.*

Luke: If you keep shining the torch like that they're going to know we're up here.

Katy: Good, I want them to know we're up here.

Luke: When you asked me to do a stake out I was picturing eating donuts in the front seat of my car not standing in the dark with torches on top of your tip.

Katy: I want them to know that I'm ready for them this time. The best offence is a strong defence, I've always said that.

Luke: I've never heard you say that.

Katy: Well, I've always thought it.

Luke: Could you at least stop pacing around, it doesn't seem safe.

Katy: Are you scared?

Luke: What? No! It's the structure of this thing, it's an avalanche waiting to happen.

Katy: That's a new one.

Luke: I'm just saying, what if it collapses and we get trapped and have to cut each other's arms off, like that rock climber guy.

Katy: Don't worry, I have a Stanley knife in my back pack.

Luke: Why do you have a Stanley knife in your back pack?

Katy: Just in case this thing collapses and I have to cut my own arm off.

Luke: Be honest, if you had to, would you do it?

Katy: It's not going to collapse! Are you keeping watch on your side or not?

Luke: Don't worry, no trespassers yet. There's been one ute on the south road in the last ten minutes, your parents are still safely watching T.V. in the lounge room and the security light hasn't been on since Pilot went out the dog door.

Katy: Good, I'm glad you're being thorough.

Luke: As a reward can you stop patrolling for a second and admire the view with me? It's actually not so bad here at night.

Katy: Less of an eye-sore?

Luke: I didn't mean- I mean, you can see the whole town from up here.

Katy: You only just realising how big your house is.

Luke: No. I've just never seen the town from this angle before, in a weird way it's actually, kind of... beautiful.

Katy: Really?

Luke: Once you get used to the smell.

Katy: Just keep a look out, would you. I don't want any of those douche bags vandalising the shop again.

Luke: Yes ma'am.

Katy: Don't call me ma'am.

Luke: Stop acting like a ma'am then.

Katy: I'm not acting like a ma'am.

Luke: I thought this was meant to be fun.

Katy: Why would it be fun?

Luke: I don't know.

Katy opens her backpack and chucks him a fedora.

Katy: Here, have this hat, hats are fun.

Luke: I'm only wearing it if it makes me look adorable and handsome at the same time.

He puts on the hat and presents himself to Katy but goes unnoticed as she continues to explore the area below.

Luke: So?

Katy: What?

Luke: Does it make me look adorable and handsome at the same time?

Katy turns to look at him.

Katy: Oh God! You look exactly like Mr. Dallis at the swimming carnival!

Luke: *(Luke impersonates Mr. Dallis' deep voice)*
'Girls and boys! Contrary to popular belief, participation in the swimming carnival is compulsory not voluntary. I repeat *compulsory*. I want to see every single one of you wet by the end of the day.

Katy: He's such a ped.

Luke: Defs a ped. Where did you get this hat from?

Katy: I found it on the ground on the way up here.

Luke: What?!

Luke rips that hat of and chucks it on the ground.

Luke: Eww. Why would you- I had that on my head, probably had lice or rabies or who knows what infested in it.

Katy: Jeez it's just a hat.

Luke: Why would you pick it up?

Katy: It looked expensive so I was going to give it to mum to sell in the shop.

Luke: You could've warned me before I put it on my head.

Katy: If you're so disgusted by this place then maybe you shouldn't have come.

Luke: I'm not saying/

Katy: What? We both know you can't stand it on this side of town.

Luke: Well it's not exactly how I wanted to spend my Friday night.

Katy: It's not exactly how I wanted to spend my night either.

Luke: ...

Katy: What?

Luke: Nothing.

Katy: Tell me.

Luke: You're better than this! I hate to say it, because I know your parents are having a tough time but no matter how much they protest the tip's probably going to get shut down. And to be honest, and don't hate me for saying this, I think it's actually a good thing. You can start afresh and finally stop being known as the recycle centre chick/

Katy: The tip chick, the recycle dike, the trash rash or my personal favourite the bin chicken/

Luke: You shouldn't listen to that/

Katy: I'm only called those things because your mate Darcy came up with them and don't talk about my parents when you don't know shit.

Luke: Katy I'm trying to help you. You said it yourself, you hate this place, you were always complaining about having to work here.

Katy: Everyone complains about their crap part time job. I live where I work, and where I work is a tip, and my parents are my boss/

Luke: You voted at the meeting! You said you were glad there was finally a lobby group to shut this place down, you specifically said, '*Thank fuck, I'll wear that shirt*'/

Katy: I was stupid ok! If I could take my vote back I would, I'd take it back a thousand times. I didn't think people would start trying to destroy the place when my parents put up a fight, I didn't realise people would turn so ugly.

Luke: It's ugly now, but think about the future.

Katy: I am!

Luke: You know as well as I do this tip was bringing us all down, the trucks and the types of people it was attracting to the town/

Katy: Is that the excuse your mum and all her salon friends use?

Luke: My mum has never cared that you live here/

Katy: Does she give everyone hand sanitizer and make them leave their shoes at the door?

Luke: That's just/

Katy: Let's not forget when Darcy and your friends spray-painted dad's car, and yeah, don't think I didn't know it was them.

Luke: That was shit, everything everyone has done has been shit. You didn't deserve that. But when this whole things blows over, and the people get what they want everything will go back to normal/

Katy: You don't get it! It's never been normal for me! I've always been different. Since I can remember everyone has always made jokes, jokes that I never thought were funny but I laughed anyway because what else was I meant to do. But this is my home, this is where I grew up, this is who I am. I'd rather be a bin chicken than to go on pretending like I don't care. How do you think my parents got the money to send me to your school in the first place? If the tip shuts I'll be put straight into Crescent High and then what? Will you still talk to me? Still have me round for dinner? Still invite me to your parties? So, if you'd rather be at Darcy's plotting ways to take my family down then go. But I'll be here all night every night if I have to.

(Beat)

Luke picks up the fedora and holds it in his hand.

Luke: I'm sorry.

(Slight pause)

Luke: I was a douche, I was a big douche and I'm sorry. I don't want to go to Darcy's, I don't want to go anywhere, I just want to be with you and if you're going to be here all night every night then *I'll be here all night every night*. Except Tuesday night, I have that Bio exam the next day, but every day, other than that day, I'll be here with you keeping guard!

He puts on the fedora.

(Slight pause)

Katy: Thanks.

A crashing is heard. They both jolt, take out their torches and point them to the left.

Katy: Who's there?

Luke: Come out you cowards!

Another rustling is heard to the right. In synchronization they quickly turn their torches.

Luke: Oi! Come out!

Luke slowly steps towards the noise, Katy stays back with her torch scanning around.

Luke: Oh my god!

Katy: What!?

Luke: It's one of those/

Katy: What!?

Luke: Grim reaper birds!

Katy: What?

A squawking is heard.

Katy: It's a, it's a *bin chicken*!

End.