

EXTRACT

**THE LAST BOY  
ON EARTH**  
BRENDAN HOGAN

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### **NOTE ON THE SCRIPT**

This is an unedited manuscript as provided to us by the playwright. We distribute it in good faith; however it may contain layout inconsistencies or typographic errors.

*The Last Boy On Earth* was developed with the support of Creative Victoria. This version of the script was first performed at HotHouse Theatre, July 9-13, 2019. A live musician accompanied all aspects of the show. Other than specific works that are named in the script, the music was improvised/written by the musician.

Some changes to the script may be made, in discussion with and the permission of the playwright.

### ***List of Characters***

Sprout

Googletron 1

Googletron 2

Pete – a male virtual assistant. Voice only. A puppet (*SPALDING*) is the embodiment of PETE

GoogleBot – a female virtual assistant. Voice only.

\* \* \* \*

*As the audience enters the performance space there is rubbish everywhere, big and small; whitegoods, televisions, broken couches, everything. It spills from the stage and is on the walls, from the ceiling, down the aisles, under and on top of seats. Amongst the junk on the stage, almost indistinguishable at first, is a space-age musician who rises from the rubbish as the music begins. Haunting music plays, building to a crescendo. Images from the history of the world flicker past him at an increasingly rapid speed, in time with the music. It ends. The world ends.*

**PRE-SHOW ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY PETE.** Welcome to this performance of 'The Last Boy on Earth'. If there's rubbish in your way, deal with it. I don't care. Turn off your mobile phone. Or don't. We understand that it's important to check Facebook every five minutes to see if people still like you. If your phone does ring, however, please note that we will be forced to employ phone-jamming technology. Which basically means jamming your phone somewhere where the Sun no longer shines. Like Earth, in 2043...where we meet young Sprout, the last boy on Earth...

## **ACT ONE**

### **SCENE ONE**

*SPROUT'S home is a bit like a cave, constructed from the junk of others and covered in white dust. Every aspect of his home is something that has either been recycled, reused or repaired. There are several cupboards or drawers which are labelled, 'Do not open'. Elsewhere there are painted signs of rules and manifestos. There are piles of rubbish, grouped by purpose or material. Despite its junk-like appearance, his home has some modern comforts such as places to eat, sit and sleep, as well as some homely touches, including promotional posters of 'Dear Leader' in Summer Bay. There are even some appliances such as a small TV and video player. All of the energy needed to power these appliances is generated physically by riding a stationary bicycle or exercise bike, hooked up to a generator. There is a small pile of Spam cans on a shelf.*

*SPROUT is standing next to a freshly dug grave holding a spade. SPROUT doesn't know how to bury somebody, but he is going to give it his best shot. He takes a video cassette and puts it in a video player. The theme from the TV show 'Home and*

*Away' plays on a small TV screen (which SPROUT can view, but the audience cannot). The ceremony can begin. SPROUT performs a simple but sincere ritual, full of solemnity, respect and sadness. At some point during the song, the music and lights begin to warp. Darkness. SPROUT gets on the bicycle and pedals hard. The music and lights return. He continues the ceremony, before pausing the music and presenting the eulogy to the audience. He is still upset but is trying to remain strong. He pulls out the 'Bad Book'.*

**SPROUT.** A reading from the 'Bad Book', page twenty-six. On the fifth day, Shane Warne took off his nicotine patch, gave into temptation and started smoking again. On the sixth day, he met Liz Hurley and they both went blind and died. *(Closes book)* Praise be to Dear Leader. *(He puts the book away:)* I am gathered here today to remember and celebrate the life of my father, Dear Leader, a modern-day prophet and saviour, who learned the lessons from the Bad Book. A man who knew there was a better way. When the wreckoning came, and boy did it come, every single human being went blind and died as punishment for their wickedness! But not Dear Leader and me. We have been rewarded for our piety. And now I rejoice, for I know that although his body is in that grave, his spirit is back home in the Promised Land, a land where the air is pure, the sun shines bright, clear water stretches further than the eye can see, and healthily tanned people frolic in the surf without a care in the world. Summer Bay. And rejoice in the good news that someday, I will fulfil his prophecy and join him in that magical place. The power is yours! Praise be to Dear Leader.

*SPROUT presses play on the video player. The 'Home and Away' theme continues as he concludes the ceremony. The music begins to slow down and warp as the generator runs low, once again.*

## **SCENE TWO**

*The musician plays and sings as we see a series of vignettes showing the monotony of SPROUT'S existence over the passing days. He eats Spam, watches TV, waters a seedling, reads from the Bad Book...eats Spam, watches TV, waters a seedling, reads from the Bad Book, makes a puppet – SPALDING -...eats Spam, watches TV...The audience can't see the screen but they can hear the action from an episode of 'Home and Away', starring Dear Leader.*

**TV.** It's about you. About you and Summer Bay, actually.

**SPROUT.** *(To SPALDING:)* He's talking to Dear Leader in Summer Bay.

**TV.** Yes, I think you're right. I think it is time you left.

**SPROUT.** But he had to leave.

**TV.** You have wreaked enough pain and anguish upon everyone.

**SPROUT.** To save the world from wickedness.

*The episode ends and SPROUT pauses the video and moves the hands of a clock. He takes a toilet scrubbing brush which he uses to brush his and SPALDING'S teeth.*

**SPROUT.** Okay, Brother Spalding, time for bed. And you know what Dear Leader said about not getting enough sleep...? Well, you go blind and die, of course. You're a slow learner, Brother Spalding. Not me. Dear Leader said that I am very smart, just like him. I got straight A's in the five R's: recycling, reusing, reducing, repairing, and remembering to unzip my pants before I sprinkle my tinkle. Now, before you go to sleep, Dear Leader always reads a story from this thing.

*SPROUT retrieves the 'Bad Book'.*

*(Condescendingly:)* This, this is called a book. They used to have lots of them before the Wreckoning, but during the fire and fury only one of them survived. *(Creepily:)* The Bad Book. A permanent reminder detailing all the sick and hideous things humans did before Judgement Day, and which should never be repeated or thou shall go blind and die. *(Opening the book and reading cheerily:)* Page nineteen. The girl who loved herselfie too much. Once upon a time, before the Wreckoning, there lived a young girl called Kim Kardashian. Kim wanted nothing more than to be beautiful and famous. Sadly, however, she had no talent but she wouldn't let that stop her. Instead, she took pictures of her big, fat butt and put them everywhere so that they broke the internet... *(Responding to SPALDING:)* Hmm?...Well, Dear Leader said that the internet was one of the most evil things ever invented. It was hideous. Facebook. Email. Cats that make you LOL. And worst of all *(really creepy:)* Google, which was owned by the Devil himself, giving people a false sense of power and false ideas about what was important. *(Reading again:)* Soon, Kim was famous beyond her wildest dreams, but she loved herselfie so much that when the Wreckoning came...kaboom! Her big butt exploded and everyone who liked it or shared it or set it as their wallpaper, went blind and died! And that's why, Brother Spalding, you should never put yourself before others or want things that you don't really need, like money, or fame...or...a father. All you need to do is follow the way of Dear Leader and live sustainably. Praise be to Dear Leader.

*SPROUT closes the book.*

Shhhhh. Go to sleep my little buddy. I'll sing you a lullaby Dear Leader used to sing to me to help me go to sleep.

*(Singing:)* If you love yourself the most,

You'll go blind and die.

If all that matters is a Facebook post...

You'll go blind and die.

But when my friend, the world should end,

We will lead the way.

Take my hand –

*SPROUT holds out his hand, but there is no one there to take it.*

Take my hand, to the Promised Land,

We're bound for Summer Bay.

*(Speaking:)* I won't let you down, Dear Leader. The power is yours.

### **SCENE THREE**

*SPROUT'S back is to the audience but they can see he is urinating in a jar. He adds the jar to some others and taps them with a spoon, playing the theme from 'Home and Away'. He tips a jar into a filtration system and uses the output to water a cup full of dirt.*

**SPROUT.** Dear Leader always said that one who plants a garden, plants happiness.

*He stares at it, willing it to grow.*

Grow. Grow. Please grow.

*He gives up.*

Nothing grows here anymore, not since the Wreckoning, but Dear Leader said that one day the Sun will come again, and shower the Earth with its golden glow like it did in the ancient times. Maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow, but if you have faith, Brother Spalding, it will return and we will be ready! Then food. Glorious food. Foods you've never ever heard of. *(He elongates the sounds of the words and says them wishfully, maybe even mispronouncing them:)* Apple. Potato. Banananana. And there'll be none of those wasteful foods they had in the Bad Book. Quinoa. Activated almonds. And sugar, or as Dear Leader liked to call it, the Devil's drug. But for now, we have lots and lots of delicious Spam.

*He moves the hand on the clock.*

Time for dinner, Brother Spalding.

*SPROUT reaches for a can but the shelf is bare. He anxiously looks around for others, beginning to panic.*



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