

Battle of Waterloo

by Kylie Coolwell



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Notes

Characters

CASSIE	Studying fashion design at TAFE.
AUNT MAVIS	Cassie's aunt. She and Cassie have been living together for the last three years.
RAY	Cassie's man of five and a half years. Has just got out of jail.
SISSY	Cassie's cousin. Currently living with Cassie and Aunt Mavis after leaving an abusive partner.
LEON	Ray's best friend.
JACK	Cassie's younger brother.
UNCLE MILO	A busker.

Setting

A two-bedroom flat on the fifth floor of the James Cook building on Pitt St, Waterloo. It is exactly the same as the hundreds of people living around the area. The walls are not thick enough so the sounds, screams, laughter, chatter, fights echo constantly through the flat, though you don't really hear it till night time when it becomes its own beast.

BATTLE OF WATERLOO

ACT 1

CASSIE is alone. She is lying on the mattress in front of the TV which is on mute in the lounge room. It's mid-morning and RAY has left her to check out the scene while she was asleep. CASSIE is restless she hates being alone so she gets out of bed and checks the flat for movement. She puts the radio on which is always tuned to Koori Radio and then goes out to the balcony and looks out, she looks worried but the sounds of men can be heard down the outside hallway and she instantly recognises her man RAY's so she quickly jumps back into bed.

He enters with his childhood friend, LEON.

RAY I'm telling you, he was a proper dog. He dogged on all of us that's how come I got an extra six months see. He was the only one who was there and not get three fucked up years and a dead giveaway my brother, he went straight to protection. What blackfulla needs protection aye, bra?

LEON If that's true cuz, now that ya out he wanna be catching the express train back to Walgett. He don't want to be showing his face around here. *[They chuckle knowingly]*

RAY suddenly realises that CASSIE is still resting up and motions LEON to silence as he tiptoes to CASSIE and gently wraps the blanket over her and gives her a kiss, she doesn't really respond to RAY's affection and you get a sense she is distant from him. She rolls over feigning sleep and as he tiptoes to the kitchen with LEON following he takes the house keys from around his neck and gently throws them on the mattress but misses. They land on the ashtray.

- RAY Bub ... what's wrong? We're being too loud? You want Leon to go? Just us ... aye?
- CASSIE I'm working. Just do what you want ... You do any way don't you?
- RAY I was only jiving woman ... I missed you, that's all. When you stopped visiting ... I haven't seen you in over a year. That's a long stretch in jail ... Even for a nigga like me.
- CASSIE Well, you shouldn't have got locked up.
- RAY I love you Cass, No more jail time for me. I'm over that shit, it's a fresh start, ok?
- LEON There's no fresher start then the knock-outs! Just been waiting on a player like you my bruz, there's no way we gonna lose. **[Beat]** You're the fucking predator bruz! I was there when you got the name ... Fuck when was it now? When you was with that white piece? Fuck she was lovely, real fine like one of them models you see in them magazines. We were all jealous of you bra the way she was all over you like a rash. **[Notices CASSIE is listening]**
- RAY I'd be careful what you say bruz!
- LEON Oh sorry Cass, I mean you're real fine too, well I mean you're not a bad sort. Oh shit what I mean to say is this was long time before you come along.
- CASSIE I don't care. **[Beat]** Why would I?
- RAY It wasn't like that Cass she grew up with us. So I would stop right now if I was you. **[To LEON which CASSIE notices]**
- CASSIE If you loved her so much why did you break up?
- RAY Nan and Pop took her in so she was more like a sister. She was a good sort, and not like that Leon.



LEON

[Trying to get out of sticky situation] Oh sorry bra I was out of line. Anyways, you should of seen him play, Cass. *[Mimes RAY playing]* We was down two lousy points with only a minute left. The predator here gets up, stalks old matey till he knows he has him, then bang! Pounces on the poor cunt. He gets up, steals the ball, blows off four and goes straight down the middle and scores for us. I'll never forget beating them racist wombat cunts on their home turf. How many fights did we get into on the way to the bus, you reckon?

RAY

I can't remember, maybe a few ... It's different now. I got a woman. Them fighting days are over. *[Beat]*

CASSIE

What did you expect going out with a gubba. The welcome mat?

RAY

Well lucky I got myself a black doob. *[Beat]* Even if they all jealous. Aye, Leon?

LEON

True dat.

CASSIE

You wish! I'm not jealous!

RAY

But you never said you're not my woman so I'm in!

CASSIE

I wouldn't push it if I was you.

RAY

I know you love me Cass you just admitted it. *[Kisses her]* Have we got a sponsor?

LEON

What for?

RAY

The knockouts it costs money, Walung, you know? You got to put the walung in to get the big walung out dumb-arse.

LEON

Got it covered bra, we trying to get Richie's son on board. He's playing in reserve grade now, so he got the money to back us. With you there he'll definitely be in the mix for sure, you fucking taught that boy! He owe ya!

- RAY True aye? Richie Junior playing for Norths? Fuck that boy, had two left feet until I showed him how to style it up. His dad and me grew up together. We go way back.
- LEON He like a brother from another mother, aye Bro?
- RAY True dat. We were the ball boys for the Redfern All Blacks when we was kids. Our dads played first grade for South's back then too. That's until dad got shot ... The Copper dogs, killed dad and we got nothing to show.
- CASSIE Bub, talk about something else aye. You know what happens when you talk like this.
- RAY Yeah I know Bub, I muck up. *[Beat]* That's not happening no more Cass, them three years changed me you know? I know I been locked up before. But I never had a girl like you Cass. You've changed me ... You're my Koorie Rose. You hear?
- CASSIE Yeah.
- LEON Look out, can you say it like that? Yeah.
- CASSIE Shut up Leon!
- Pause.*
- LEON Fucking Deadly. *[Beat]* Aye Cassie?
- CASSIE What?
- LEON Ray getting out. I was fucking cheering when I ran into my brother just then. Welcome back to the hood my brother!
- RAY goes out onto the balcony.*
- RAY But fuck, it's all changed ... Where all the black-fellas? *[Beat]* I get out of jail and the block's gone, all the families gone and I find my Mrs cooped up in this fucking jail they wanna call a home. How come they put youse up in the James Cook building? It's an insult if you ask me.



- CASSIE Because of the riots ... That's how come we lost the block, you should know that. You were there. They forced us off.
- LEON It's a fucking disgrace alright. My Ma was born on the block even reckons she conceived us down there. Take the block away, all them future jarjums don't stand a chance, aye?
- CASSIE What? Because there's no block we can't have kids, Leon?
- LEON Well, you know ... not like the old times. A lot of jarjums were conceived down there, that's all.
- CASSIE Oh Leon, you guarnie you know that?
- RAY True dat, but I still don't know why youse never fought it.
- CASSIE We got no say. Not even Aunt was consulted ... And she was there when they gave us the block in the first place, bless her.
- LEON I seen these gubs playing golf down there the other day so for a laugh I started jogging towards them. They were running so hard their jeans so tight they giving themselves a wedgie!
- RAY You're cracked brother! [*Comes back inside and looks into the rooms*] Can't sit here all day. Doin' my head in. What the fuck we doing here anyways? We belong outside not up high, our feet belong on the ground, we not fucking pigeons! Bub? Baby?
- CASSIE What?
- RAY Let's get outside, aye? We'll go get a carton and have a barbeque, come on, like old times aye?
- CASSIE You want a charge? Are you for real? It's not even midday!
- RAY It's only half an hour away. You don't have to drink ... Don't you get claustrophobic up here all the time? I don't know how youse do it.
- CASSIE We make do ... Aunty got her room, Sissy and me sleep in that room, and Uncle Milo when he's not staying in Newtown sleeps out here.

- RAY Sissy staying here?
- CASSIE Since she escaped her man's.
- RAY Yeah, well she can sleep out here on the lounge now I'm back. You'll have to tell her bub.
- CASSIE What makes you think you can stay here Ray?
- RAY I'm staying all right ... Come on, Cass? We just made love ... I'm not letting you out of my sight, ok? Not this time and youse need me, I know what Sissy is like! She won't muck up when I'm around now that's for sure.
- CASSIE It's not my place to say, it's Aunty's. I'm not even on the lease.
- RAY She'll be right ... If you talk to her ... Anyways, your Aunt and me go way back. She use to chase after dad when he was running the Clifton.
- CASSIE Ray ...
- RAY Come on bub I need you.
- CASSIE Need me for what?
- RAY Let's get outside for a while, your work not gonna run away from you.
- CASSIE Just go with Leon, you don't need me to hold your hand.
- RAY Yeah I do. I want to show you off to the whole of Waterloo.
- CASSIE You're a dickhead Ray and you better not get too drunk, you hear?
- RAY No fucking way Cass. They call me Coolio not Foolio! Come on let's go to the park and have some meat. [*Whispers*] and then you can come home and have some of mine.
- CASSIE [*Whispers back*] Ray you fuckhead, Leon can hear you.



LEON Oh no Sis I can't hear a thing what youse a saying, true god!

RAY [*Gently*] Well, come on then. Get ready aye?

CASSIE I need to do this by tomorrow, can't you just go?

RAY Bub? What's wrong with ya, aye?

CASSIE I won't graduate if I don't finish this, it's that simple.

RAY I just got out, can't you do it after? Or how 'bout me and Leon just go get everything and by the time it's ready you can come down then, aye Bub?

CASSIE I don't know how long I'll be.

RAY What? That's what you got to do for an assignment? Sewing? It don't look so hard to me.

CASSIE I made these myself, you dickhead. They're my designs!

RAY Come on Bub, just come down for half an hour. You don't want to be seen with me, is that it?

CASSIE What? [*Beat*] Oh for fuck sake! Fine I'll come down but only for half an hour. Ok? Are you happy now?

RAY Thanks babe. [*Gives her a kiss on cheek and goes out onto balcony again looking for a BBQ*] Come down to the corner one, ok bub?

CASSIE It's broken.

RAY What about the one next to it?

CASSIE That's broken too —

RAY You gotta be fucking kidding, what they all broken ... The dumb houso cunts! Does any of 'em work or they just there to tease us poor dumb cunts?

CASSIE The one below Daniel Solander I think. I'm pretty sure that still works.