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DOING DAWN

by Alana Valentine

EXTRACT

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CHARACTERS

SHAUN

IRIDE

DIANN

NATHAN

TURKISH AIRPORT OFFICIAL*

who doubles as:

TARIK, Gozleme Seller*

SINGER

TUKISH SOLDIER*

ANZAC SOLDIER

TURKISH HISTORIAN, Captain Ali*

DANCING FLY

SOUVENIR SELLER*

CHAPLAIN

SAVAS, Istanbul Herald

*Translations by Yalin Ozucelik are used with permission.

SETTING

Anzac Cove, Turkey

SYNOPSIS

Doing Dawn is the story of five young pilgrims who travel to the Gallipoli Peninsula for the ANZAC Day commemorations. Based on interviews with actual travellers and Turkish soldiers, *Doing Dawn* is a searing confrontation of the baby-boomer, anti-war rhetoric that has dominated recent debates about attendance of increasing numbers of young people to the site. Instead, *Doing Dawn* gives angry, poignant, confused and hilarious voice to the reasons for the pilgrims journeys, finding that the reasons young people go are as various as their diverse identities and politics. For some the initial impulse is no more than 'the Big Day Out goes Turkey' or an overseas gathering of ex-pat Aussie travellers. But once at the commemorations, something happens, not always predictable and sometimes even surreal, and identities are challenged, changed, and shifted by a confrontation with the past. Using direct address, theatrical time and reality shifts, songs, drama and Turkish language, *Doing Dawn* is a cry to be heard from a generation who are more preached to than heard from. It is an often surprising, confronting and moving insight into the concerns of Australian young adults and, importantly, also gives voice to the Turks who host the event.

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BRIDGE

An ANZAC soldier, head down, his hands resting on his standing rifle in the catafalque ceremony pose, stands in low light in centre stage.

SHAUN enters and circles the SOLDIER.

SHAUN I've always wanted to go to the dawn service.

All my life. Since I was a kid.

And I'd say to people, my parents and other sniffers you know, that I wanted to go and they'd go ballistic.

Boomers in general who are stuck in their Vietnam anti-war bullshit.

Their 'question the myth' bullshit.

Always trying to ram the 'reality of war' croc down your throat.

SHAUN removes the soldier's hat and puts it on his own head.

SHAUN I'd say, 'We owe it to them to go'.

And that would send them into even more of a spaz attack.

Tell me I'd swallowed some kind of nationalist agenda.

Fuck on about glorifying war and that.

So lame.

I mean, God, when has all their papping stopped the idea of war?

SHAUN removes the SOLDIER's boots, one by one, and puts them on his own feet.

It's like protesting about the colour of the sky when it rains you know.

Oh, der, grey is a real downer of a colour, let's not have it.

Let's not commemorate war because it's so ugly.

All their hippy shit is just cowardice about how ugly stuff is.

And they bleat on, baa baa baa about soldiers feelings and battle scars and how they didn't really want to be there, they were just British canon fodder.

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And they just don't get it.

SHAUN takes the SOLDIER's rifle.

Because those guys, the ANZACS, were our age you know.

Young.

And that's why we go.

Because we get them.

And the oldies don't.

They don't do the fighting. In the world. Ever. We do. People our age do. And we go there to show that. You following so far?

AIRPORT

Istanbul Airport. IRIDE, standing in a queue, moves forward and hands an OFFICIAL, through a glass security barrier, her passport. He stamps it and hands it back to her. SHAUN follows her to the window and hands over his passport.

OFFICIAL Fifty Turkish lira.

SHAUN What?

OFFICIAL Fifty Turkish lira visa fee.

Pause.

SHAUN But she didn't have to pay.

OFFICIAL But she is from New Zealand.

SHAUN Yeah, well, I'm from Australia.

OFFICIAL Australians have to pay.

SHAUN Australians have to pay?

OFFICIAL That's right.

SHAUN But I want the same thing as her. I'm only going to be here a few days.

OFFICIAL A few days or a few months, Australians have to pay.

IRIDE turns back.

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IRIDE But I didn't have to pay.

OFFICIAL But you are from New Zealand.

SHAUN Australia, New Zealand, same diff.

OFFICIAL No.

SHAUN No?

OFFICIAL Australians pay for visa, New Zealanders get in free.

SHAUN How come?

OFFICIAL Do you want visa or not?

SHAUN I just want to know why Australians have to pay.

OFFICIAL So you don't want visa.

SHAUN Honestly mate, it's the same, New Zealanders just like sheep a bit better than us. Otherwise, no difference.

OFFICIAL And for you?

IRIDE He's joking.

OFFICIAL He says you are no different.

IRIDE Well, ANZAC is Australian and New Zealand Army Corp.

SHAUN What she said.

OFFICIAL You want to come to ANZAC day you have to pay a visa fee.

SHAUN Yeah, I'll pay, just how come?

IRIDE Come on, just pay it. I'll give you half.

OFFICIAL No, New Zealanders are our free guests.

SHAUN And why is that mate?

OFFICIAL Because of Malone.

IRIDE Oh yeah, Malone.

SHAUN Who?

OFFICIAL Malone who drove back the Turkish forces on Chunuk Bair.

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SHAUN You know about this?

OFFICIAL It is her proud history, of course she knows.

IRIDE looks sheepish.

SHAUN Yeah, right.

OFFICIAL Kendi tarihlerini bile bilmiyorlar ya. (They don't know their own history)

SHAUN takes out money and pays the OFFICIAL who stamps his passport.

SHAUN So they love New Zealanders huh?

IRIDE Big points straight up.

SHAUN And you're doing dawn?

IRIDE Sure am. (BEAT) Irise.

SHAUN Shaun.

IRIDE Thought you could talk him round?

SHAUN I'll have a shot.

IRIDE Gift of the gab is it?

SHAUN I once went scuba diving and I had a really bad time because I forgot that you couldn't talk underwater and I kept swallowing water.

IRIDE What you kept talking?

SHAUN Yeah.

IRIDE That is so bent.

SHAUN It is, isn't it?

IRIDE Really, you couldn't stop talking?

SHAUN Really.

IRIDE Funny.

SHAUN You getting the bus?

IRIDE Yeah.

SHAUN And I know that you're gonna want to sit with me.

IRIDE (MOCK SURPRISED) You'll be lucky.

SHOTGUNNING

SHAUN is at the Istanbul Youth Hostel with IRIDE and another girl, DIANN.

SHAUN Step one, pour yourself a glass of milk.

DIANN Milk! I haven't drunk milk since I was twelve.

SHAUN Yeah, so that was only a year ago.

IRIDE You walked into that.

DIANN Can it at least be coffee?

SHAUN Not Turkish coffee.

DIANN Why not?

IRIDE Because the cup is too small to get the Tim Tam into the top.

SHAUN And the biscuit collapses a lot quicker if it's in a hot drink.

DIANN Tea then, lukewarm tea.

SHAUN Yeah. OK, just for you. Step one. Make yourself a cup of lukewarm tea, have a taste, barf into the sink and *then* pour yourself a glass of milk.

IRIDE pours a glass of milk.

IRIDE Voile.

SHAUN Step two, bite a small corner off the edge of the Tim Tam.

DIANN bites a corner off the edge of the Tim Tam.

SHAUN Step three, insert biscuit into cup of milk and begin to suck.

DIANN does this.

SHAUN And what a sucking motion. She's done this before on other vessels.

DIANN (Through a mouthful of Tim Tam) Shut up, Shaun.

SHAUN Step four, the milk will begin to come up through the Tim Tam and Step five you plunge the collapsing biscuit into your mouth before it turns to utter mush in your hand. And that, dear Diann, is what we