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THE DICTIONARY OF IMAGINARY PLACES

by Anna Tregloan

EXTRACT

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Australian Script Centre, trading
as australianplays.org

77 Salamanca Place Hobart
7004 Tasmania Australia

admin@australianplays.org
<http://australianplays.org>
Tel +61 3 6223 4675
Fax +61 3 6223 4678

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The Dictionary of Imaginary Places.

The first sign, scrawled in texta on butcher's paper, reads: "Stuck in the Middle with you" Over the course of the show the pages of paper are turned to reveal other signs, sometimes the words are written live.

The performers sit at the rear of the vast space. What they say is barely heard and begins while the audience is still taking their seats.

James: She used to snoop when she was in Parkville. Oh there's those people who were in the tram, isn't that amazing. Isn't that amazing, I wish you could win tatts lotto like that it is so amazing. And it happens all the time, when you meet, and you meet somebody and you leave at a particular time and then you come back say three or four hours later and you don't know them but you end up on the same tram or you end up at the same particular spot. That is quite bizarre because all the things you do and all the people that are around. The people were in the tram when I was coming in.

Rita: I got an MR from Heather today, Heather. Oh like, blah blah, it was fairly long. Some of was "It'd be shame for our friendship to end over this, blah blah blah, you know I should have trusted you. I've been friends with you for years, I should have trusted you". And I pretty much just gave my recollection of the night saying you know I thought I had a pretty good night out with you guys and at the end of the night I get a text saying blah, blah, blah and the end of it said I don't know where this leaves our friendship, where this leaves our friendship. I said that, I said that in the email I said I was absolutely devastated, I have never been so offended in my life, and I said to the point that mum had to come round the next day to calm me down cause I was really horribly upset. Yeah I said to her, the only thing I said to that guy was about you. I said yeah call her, she's a great girl or words to that effect and then I went back and sat with the other people I had been talking to. Um and yeah. She said "I was going to write you a letter", 'cause I purposely hadn't like added her as a friend for that reason and then got this email from her, well message on facebook and that comes up to me as a e.r. and that was interesting. She said she was going to write me a letter cause she couldn't say everything she wanted to say in an SMS but she didn't know my address exactly, so. And in the MR back to her I said to her "I have to be honest with you, I can't be bothered with it, I said I'd expect this from James but not from you, to, for James to go off about something and not know all the..and then apologise later". I would expect that from James, I wouldn't expect that from Heather.

Heather: Rita, do you realise? Do you realise if you did not pinch my car...

Rita: I didn't pinch your car

Heather:we would have a really good car now. Yes you did.

Rita: I have the car keys for it. I drove your car.

Heather: She can't drive for a piece of shit.

Rita: I didn't drive it, James drive it.

Heather: He can't drive either. None of you can drive but they're gunna pinch my car.

James: I can drive mad.

Slowly James moves to the front of the space and takes a seat. The others slowly join him.

Cunts like us spend our whole life fuckin' on the edge and then you get some chick that just drives a car normally. Fuckin' on the edge. Fuckin don't like that. It's dumb, you are better off living life fast mate. It's not every cunt you have to go past. That's what I say, even when I am puffed. I don't know it'll never happen.

Rita: Most of them, I don't remember their names. "Do you remember this person?" and I go "Who?". I don't remember anyone. If I was seeing them I'd have to pretend I was excited. Some people who I might have gone to high school with; I might have sat next to on the train and I wouldn't know. I can't remember their name- yeah. Even people in my group I don't remember.

Chris: Where are we? Have we missed our stop? We haven't have we? Let's just get a taxi.

James: We missed out stop by two stops. Where will we get out?

Rita: I had to check through. You know how they have common friends? I had to look through just to work out "Oh, I must have been at high school with them". "Who the hell is that from Gillikin?" When I saw Gillikin I realised that there was only one way I could have met them and that was through James, so at least I know him. You just have to live with it. Do I know them? I am not sure. I am going to take myself off, I am too exposed. And people find you and they want to meet you.

No, its true. I don't want to be found that's why I moved away. I don't want people to know everything about my life. I don't use it at all. Like I never use it. I actually hate it when I go in there cause

there is a thousand and one messages going; "So and so has requested a friendship. So and so has changed their mood".

James: I went home after that. The last time, everyone was sick after that. I went home I was driving; and it was weird it was kind of underground.

Heather: What station do you want to get off mate? I'll let you know. I'm going all the way to Elysium. Can't go any further.

James: Well, let me know when we get there.

Heather: Oh - you'll know cause it will stop.

That's very dis... that was very disappointing with that person there, wasn't it? Disappointing. Sometimes in your life you come across people and it was a bit naughty. Sssssss Silling next. Make sure we've got no sleepers. We've got a sleeper at the end. I'll have to wake you up and see. We've got a couple of sleepers, jeez, don't know if I can handle anymore pressure. Actually, I think I can handle pressure.

I wonder who can pretend to look the most to the side. Most people are looking the side. I can't see who I am looking at I can't see anything. Get ready. Get ready. Yep, we got a lot of readers. What you reading? I want you to read it and in five minutes, I want you to tell us what you have read. There will be nothing there. But you've noticed a few things.

Oh, that looks like Cloudcuckooland come on give us the C. It's like the YMCA it's like the village people. Yes, I knew it was at Cloudcuckooland - bloody hell I knew it.

Chris: I keep on going straight through.

Heather: All the way through big guy, remember all your trivia questions. Remember those.

Chris: Trivia questions? The whole thing is trivia.

Heather: You got any trivia questions there? You got one? There should be a trivial one. This is embarrassing. What you got there?

Chris: It's the free one.

James: That's to keep us entertained on the train. We've got better things to do.

Chris: Nah, don't like what I am reading.