

and I'll say it to that bird's fecking face. (*Pause.*) ~~That was the entire of it, Mairead. Sure, I have as much concern for the cats of this world as you do, only I don't go around saying it, because if I went around saying it they'd call me an outright gayboy, and they do enough of that with me hairstyle.~~

start

↳ Mairead lowers the gun and idles around.

Mairead / Davey

(3)

Davey You'd have blinded your brother over a dead cat.

Mairead I would. Without a question.

Davey And then you say you're not mad.

Mairead I'm not at all mad.

Davey I could round up ten cows with only one eye would disagree.

Mairead Don't keep bringing them cows' eyes up! Them cows' eyes was a political protest!

Davey Against cows? Sure, what have cows done?

Mairead Against the fecking meat trade, and you know well!

Davey I can't see how shooting cows in the eyes is going to do any damage to the meat trade, now.

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Mairead Of course you can't, because you're a thick. Don't you know that if you take the profit out of the meat trade it'll collapse in on itself entirely, and there's no profit at all in taking ten blind cows to market, I'll tell ya. There's a loss. For who would want to buy a blind cow?

Davey No one.

Mairead No one is right. So in those circumstances I did see cows as valid targets, though my thinking has gone full tilt since then, and they are valid targets no longer.

Davey Aye. It's only wee lads and their bicycles you see as valid targets nowadays.

Mairead If they're suspected of doing damage to cats it is, aye.

Davey Well, I was doing no damage to that cat. I was trying to help that cat, and help Donny too, and amn't I still trying to help Donny, running arse-faced errands I'm a dead man if I fail in.

Mairead What errands?

Davey He's got me roaming the country to find a black cat identical to his Wee Thomas, so that when Padraic roars home at high noon tomorrow it won't be a cat with a half a head we'll be placing in his arms.

Mairead Sure, do you think Padraic's thick?

Davey What we're banking on is that Padraic's as thick as a mongo fecking halfwit.

Mairead pokes his bloody cheek.

Mairead Don't be saying mongo halfwit about a brave son of Erin, now, David!

Davey I won't be, Mairead.

Mairead Padraic'll be able to tell the differ straight off between a cat that's his and a cat that isn't. Sure, isn't he a second-lieutenant at the age of twenty-one, sure?

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Davey He is, aye, a second-lieutenant. In his own brain if nowhere else.

Mairead Sure, every cat has its own separate personality, sure, not to mention its eyes and its miaow. Look at my Sir Roger. Sir Roger has a different personality to any cat. Any cat I've ever known, anyways ...

Davey Aye. He's a snooty little bitch.

Mairead He's no snooty little bitch.

Davey He's a snooty bitch and he tore two of me *X-men* comics the other day and on purpose ...

Mairead Good on Sir Roger, so.

Davey So don't be defending him.

Mairead I will do what I wish.

Davey Is me cheek still bleeding?

Mairead It is.

Davey *(quietly)* Ya feck.

Davey *sets up his bike again and starts pumping it as before.*

Mairead *idles, swinging her gun around her fingers and singing 'The Dying Rebel'.*

Mairead *(singing)* 'The last I met was a dying rebel ...'

Davey Ar, don't be singing your fool fecking rebel songs again, now, Mairead!

Mairead *(singing)* 'Kneeling low I heard him say, God bless my home in dear Cork City, God bless the cause for which I die.'

Davey *(singing over her last line – Motorhead)* 'The ace of spades! The ace of spades!'

Christy, *Northern Irish, in a dark suit, sporting an eyepatch, enters right, walking along the road. He stops as he's about to pass the two.*

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Christy Howdo?

Davey Howdo?

Christy That's a nice wee gun.

Mairead It gets the job done.

Christy *(to Davey)* I've seen you somewhere before, I'm thinking.

Davey I don't know if you have or you haven't.

Christy Today, even, it may've been. I remember your girly hair.

Davey *tuts.*

Christy Weren't you the fella I saw rode over the cat on the road this morning?

Davey I rid' over no cat!