

SMALL MEDIUMS AT LARGE
(SAMPLE EXTRACT)

By

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SAMPLE EXTRACT

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COLD OPEN

EXT. FLINDERS LANE - DAY

An inner city laneway lined with quaint old shops; appealing in the sunlight but largely deserted. A young lady walks past wearing a surgical mask. She doesn't stop to window shop.

We see a quirky looking antique/curiosity shop called "QURIOSITY" and we:

CUT TO

INT. "QURIOSITY" SECONDHAND SHOP - DAY

A cozy but cluttered old curiosity shop. Quite eclectic and atmospheric.

A bronze statue of Rodin's 'The Thinker' sits on the counter. RANDALL (a dreamer whose dream has become a nightmare and left him bitter and cynical) sits reading at the counter, in the same pose as the statue.

The door bell tinkles, and his friend DENNIS (a naively positive dreamer who always believes that things turn a corner and work out for the best) enters the shop. He has a narrow wooden board under his arm.

RANDALL

Do you know what time it is?

DENNIS

Yes...

RANDALL

Do you know what month it is? Where the hell have you been?

DENNIS

You'll never guess what just happened to me!

RANDALL

OK, well I would expect the answer should be "I collected the second hand furniture from the auction like Randall told me to do" but I suspect that somehow this isn't going to be the case, so I'm going to go with "You took a nap and woke

(MORE)

RANDALL (cont'd)
up completely covered in
butterflies"

DENNIS
Nope.

RANDALL
A building made entirely of Lego
collapsed on your car and you had
to walk back over miles of sharp
Lego blocks with no shoes on?

DENNIS
No, but interesting scenario.

RANDALL
The local ISIS rep handed you a
pamphlet and you took a 3-month
online radicalization course before
building a bomb-belt out of parts
from an old Ferris wheel?

DENNIS
That's possible but the course is 6
months including the multi-choice
test and course completion
certificate.

(After a beat)
And NO...I met...Joan Pond the
Witch!

RANDALL
I told you to stay away from that
crazy old crone!

DENNIS
Joan Pond the Witch was asking me
how you came to name your shop
Curiosity with a "Q". She was very
curious. With a "c".

RANDALL
Joan Pond the Witch can mind her
own bloody business. Silly old
duck. She's nuttier than a Portaloo
at a peanut festival! Ever since
she bought that hokey White House
new age shop she's been the bane of
my existence.

DENNIS

Wow, she really winds you up
doesn't she?

RANDALL

What did you say to her?

DENNIS

I told her that you were just being
quirky. And it's a very quirky old
curiosity shop so hence Quriosity
with a "Q"

RANDALL

Dennis, we've been in business for
2 years. Why is she suddenly
sticky-beaking now?

DENNIS

Well..hang onto your hat and cancel
your 1 o'clock appointment. This is
huge! Have you heard of Qanon?

RANDALL

CueAnon the community support group
for recovering pool and billiards
addicts, or Q-anon the fun but
highly derivative board game for
ages 6 to adult where every word
has to start with the letter Q?

DENNIS

You have no idea do you?

RANDALL

Dennis, how many times have I told
you to stay away from that
nonsense. And what's that bloody
ugly block of wood under your arm?
What is it..a chopping board carved
by a drunken gypsy...what?

DENNIS

This - is a glow in the dark
cribbage board!

RANDALL

A glow in the dark cribbage board.

DENNIS

Yep!

RANDALL

Terrific. Now we've got two. What am I going to do with the glow in the dark cribbage board I just bought in?

DENNIS

You bought one too?

RANDALL

NO! Of course I didn't! What the hell would anybody want with a cribbage board that glows in the dark? We couldn't sell a bog standard cribbage board let alone a luminous one! A glow in the dark cribbage...that's about as useful as an inflatable dart board, or...or a marzipan dildo.

DENNIS

I like marzipan.

RANDALL

Not lovingly fashioned into a dildo you won't.

DENNIS

No, really. Look..this is hand made. That's real craftsmanship. It's hand crafted out of a piece of Tasmanian oak.

RANDALL

And what drunken Tasmanian gypsy did you buy that off?

DENNIS

Joan Pond the Witch. She was at the auctions. She bought this in a deceased estate lot, thinking it was a haunted Ouija board.

RANDALL

So then she duped you into buying it off her did she? You realise the owner most likely died after being irradiated by the luminous paint?

DENNIS

Well it wouldn't suit her shop but I reckon someone will snap it up here.

RANDALL

So I send you out to pick up some furniture and you basically come back with magic beans.

DENNIS

Plus this handsome handcrafted glow in the dark cribbage board.

RANDALL

(Typing on computer)
...which if you manage to sell,
I've now catalogued under 'Magic Beans'

DENNIS

Think about it Randall. If this Qanon thing is true then something really big's going on.

RANDALL

Well it's a pity that 'something big' didn't include you picking up the big furniture lot from the auction.

DENNIS

Relax, you're wound tighter than a Swiss watch. The furniture is on the trailer round the back. Honestly, I think you're going lockdown crazy.

RANDALL

Well I've spent all morning balancing the books. If this lockdown stretches on much longer we're going to find ourselves on the poverty line.

DENNIS

Also..since you mentioned butterflies, did you know the lifespan of a butterfly is only three days?

RANDALL

I think you'll find that's a myth.

DENNIS

No..I'm pretty sure it's a butterfly.

Following a tip-off that a tunnel complex has been discovered underneath Melbourne's Flinder's Street railway station, and thousands of abducted children have been liberated from the clutches of Deep State and whisked away to a secret Antarctic base, Dennis convinces Randall to join him on an expedition. There the pair meet up with Joan Pond the Witch who is conducting a reconnaissance mission of her own

EXT. FLINDERS STREET RAILWAY STATION - NIGHT

Dennis and Randall wander through the deserted entrance hall of the railway station. Dennis wears a large backpack. Randall wears a sour expression.

RANDALL

(Poking the backpack)

If that's a bomb-belt made out of parts of an old Ferris wheel, I'm going to be very disappointed with you Dennis Rossi.

DENNIS

Relax. This is vital equipment.

RANDALL

And I believe ISIS refer to bomb-belts as 'vital equipment' so that's hardly comforting now, is it?

DENNIS

Look will you drop it already? You need to approach this with an open mi..

Dennis walks head on into a temporary wall.

RANDALL

Now what are you doing? Trying to get into Hogwarts?

DENNIS

(Perplexed)

This wall wasn't here yesterday. Do you think it has something to do with..the rescued children?

RANDALL

No Dennis, I don't think it has anything to do with your rescued children. And I don't think Deep

(MORE)

RANDALL (cont'd)
State can actually hide a secret
underground base behind 10 metres
of fibreboard.

A cleaner has overheard and approaches the pair, sweeping
with his broom nonchalantly as he speaks to them; as if
they're being watched by Deep State.

CLEANER
I can tell you what you need to
know about the tunnels.

DENNIS
Did you hear that Randall?
(Excitedly to the Cleaner)
What do you know about the tunnels?
Is the story for real?

CLEANER
Keep your voice down! A lot of
people are starting to ask that
same question. Do you want to know
how deep the rabbit hole goes?

RANDALL
(Flatly sarcastic)
Yes, how deep does the rabbit hole
go?

CLEANER
Well, it was kinda rhetorical
but..very deep.

RANDALL
I don't believe you.

CLEANER
I thought you might say that. Well
Mister Cynical, maybe you need to
check the second door, down past
the ticket offices. It's unlocked.
Follow the corridor for a couple of
hundred metres and you'll see an
old blue timber door to your left.
Go through it, and down the
staircase and you might learn all
you need to know.

RANDALL
OK, maybe we'll do just that.

CLEANER

Wait, wait, wait..hold on there fella. My info doesn't come cheap. Let's talk money first, shall we?

DENNIS

But..you just told us everything.

CLEANER

(After a long pause)

Did you hear everything I said?

DENNIS

Yes.

CLEANER

Both of you?

DENNIS / RANDALL

YES! / YES!

CLEANER

OK, that panned out a whole lot differently in my head.

INT. FLINDERS STREET TUNNEL - NIGHT

The boys are now wearing head-lamps and their footsteps echo in the empty concrete tunnel. Joan Pond the Witch is "sensing energy" with her hands outstretched dramatically and eyes part closed.

RANDALL

I could have been home curled up with a good book. Instead I'm out on a wild goose chase with the Scooby gang, in a disused tunnel that smells like a men's urinal.

DENNIS

(Finding a discarded newspaper)

Look! Signs of life..yesterday's Herald Sun.

RANDALL

Right, so not very intelligent life then.

JOAN POND THE WITCH

Ha! This proves they were here!

RANDALL

So, the military platoon stopped here with the 30,000 kids for a bit of a breather, caught up on the news then headed out to meet the thousands of Uber taxis discreetly parked out the front to whisk them to the airport to catch connecting flights to Antarctica?

DENNIS

(Snapping his fingers in a 'light bulb' moment)
And they put us into lockdown..so it could all be done secretly!

RANDALL

Seriously, are you listening to yourself? You're as delusional as this crazy old loon.

JOAN POND THE WITCH

Shhh! The children are nearby! I can feel them!

RANDALL

I thought you lot were against that sort of thing?

JOAN POND THE WITCH

What? NO, you fool..I meant I can feel their energy! I sense it! A dark energy..and such pain..

RANDALL

...as if millions of voices cried out in terror and were suddenly silenced. Like something terrible has happened?

JOAN POND THE WITCH

There, you see? Now you're sensing it too.

RANDALL

(To Dennis)
Oh God, are you going to break the news to her about Alderaan or am I?

DENNIS

(Seeing movement in the dark)
Look! Someone's coming!

From the darkened tunnel, four scruffy 30-somethings appear.

SCRUFFY NUTTER #1

Oi, who are you lot? Are you Deep State?

RANDALL

Yeah, you got us. What gave it away - the "Join Deep State now, ask me how" buttons or the Deep State official marching song we were singing jauntily in three-part harmony?

JOAN POND THE WITCH

Oh do be quiet..I'm Joan Pond the Witch and we're the forces of Light.

DENNIS

(Pointing to his head-light)
Hence the lights.

SCRUFFY NUTTER #1

Ah, OK. We're Millions Rise for Australia.

RANDALL

Wait a minute..Millions Rise for Australia..what are you - the advance party?

SCRUFFY NUTTER #2

No, this is all of us.

Randall peers into the darkness over their shoulders.

RANDALL

So..four of you?

SCRUFFY NUTTER #2

Yeh.

RANDALL

You really are severely irony impaired aren't you?

DENNIS

Did you find anyone down there?

RANDALL

Yes, by my reckoning we're now looking for 30,000 children, an entire US military platoon and nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand,

(MORE)

RANDALL (cont'd)
nine hundred and ninety-six missing
members of your Millions Rise for
Australia posse.

JOAN POND THE WITCH
Did you find the children?

SCRUFFY NUTTER #1
There's no children down there.
It's empty!

RANDALL
There you are. I told you..

Randall is cut off by the others suddenly cheering, whooping
and high-fiving.

SCRUFFY NUTTER #1
The operation was a success! They
got them all out!

RANDALL
I don't believe it.

DENNIS
YES! In your face, Deep State!

JOAN POND THE WITCH
Blessed Be! The children are safe
in Antarctica..I can sense it!

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SCRIPT & DETAILS

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