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Reversal

## have me laurel <br> BY CAITLIN

FINGERNAILS
BY NATALIE LEWIS
DOWNWARD DOGS
DOWNWARD DOGS
BY TONY PIPES
I've tried meditation,
Medication,
Eastern contemplation. I've tried happy places, finding spaces, Deep breathing, Deep thinking, deeper drinking, 've tried yoga, mantras,

Buddhist tantras, Downward dogs and mindfulness blogs, I've tried prayers, chanting,
ust full on ranting,
Primal screams,
finding themes
and even analysing dreams.
Finding myself is not someth managed to do.

RULE OF SIX
In six words her world
ended.
LORNA SMART
This is her last
drink. Unknowingly.
CAROL SAINT MARTIN
Nan licked her
fingers. Grandad
helped.
CALUM ECROYD
In hindsight he should
have lived.
ANNABEL BAINBRIDGE
She held my hand and
jumped.
LYDIA LUKE

## INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Pitch black. The eyes of a MAN open as he awakens in a sparsely-furnished bedroom.

MAN (V.O.) Today was the day I was going to use the weird key.

He sits bolt upright, staring into the middle distance with a barely-contained look of glee.

## INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The MAN goes about his morning rituals... making breakfast, washing and dressing himself in an unremarkable suit.

MAN All in all, it had been a long time coming... But now it was unavoidable...

As he makes to leave his apartment, briefcase in hand, the MAN pats his pockets with a growing anxiety.

MAN Upon leaving my apartment, I found myself almost deliberately trying to forget it. Leaving it in the coin bowl here...

The MAN retrieves the WEIRD KEY from a small bowl full of foreign coinage.

## OUTSIDE

MAN ...under the door-pig there...

As he steps out of his front door he pats his pocket again, looking confused for a moment. He lifts a heavy, pig-shaped doorstop, retrieves the weird key with relief and walks away.

MAN ... as if it was consciously trying to get loose of my grasp. But the direct import of its use that day could not be denied. As I rattled away from my domicile, I could already -

## INT. BUS - DAY

The MAN sits on a rattling bus as he catches other passengers' eyes with a small smile for each of them.

MAN - see the sparkle of anticipation behind people's eyes at the prospect of my using the weird key at last.

## EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Through revolving glass doors with a multifaceted sheen, the MAN paces with conviction past the secretary and onwards to the inner corridors of an expansive, modern office building.

## INT. OFFICE CUBICLE

MAN Entering my place of work, I saw that Peter had already scheduled a meeting with myself. 03:30am on my white - No! Rainbow board.

The MAN stares blankly at a message left on his whiteboard within a pokey personal office room filled with assorted boxes and trash.

MAN I had oftentimes worried that this circumstance was long in the pipeline but, as long as I possessed the weird key, I had the confidence to face anything.

He paces up and down, staring at the clock on the wall as it steadily approaches: 03:33.

MAN It was my suspicion that Peter already knew that I had possession of the weird key and its power, and wanted it for himself.

## INT. OFFICE CORRIDOR

The MAN leaves his office and marches down the corridor towards the meeting rooms.

MAN Each agonising second that passed felt like a step forward into an unknown, unfathomable future, as I walked towards Meeting Room 17B.

## INT. MEETING ROOM 17B

The MAN enters Meeting Room 17B. PETER is already there, looking slightly miffed at his tardiness.

MAN When I arrived, Peter was already there... I could see his game here... Nonetheless, I acted as aloof as I possibly could about the whole situation.

PETER Late again, J___ ? I can't even say I'm surprised at this point... Look, I just want you to see this as an informal but very serious warning here. We like you, I like you! You've already proved yourself to be a valuable member of the team. But this recent behaviour is... Well... It's unsustainable...
You see?

The MAN, J $\qquad$ , nods agreeably with everything PETER has to say but it's obvious his mind is elsewhere.

As PETER talks, MAN steadily starts to remove the weird key from his inner jacket pocket. It is revealed to be a passkey made from the purest blackness. Little rainbow gleams glance off the edges.

MAN As I removed the weird key from my inner jacket pocket a magnificent light started to shine from Peter's forehead.

A keyhole-shaped hole starts to shine from PETER's forehead magnificently. As PETER continues to talk, MAN slots the weird key into the middle of PETER's forehead.

MAN Everything changed...
PETER's head opens up like a music box, revealing an assortment of intricate cogs and machinery.

## INT. OUTSIDE MEETING ROOM 17B

The MAN jumps up and down with elation, chanting madly as thick blood splatters over the partially-misted glass of the office window.

MAN Weird key! Weird key! Weird key! Weird key! Weird key! Weird key! Weird key!

TITLE CARD: ‘WEIRD KEY’

