

PAPERBACK HELL

'BLACK TEETH LANE' BY ZANDRA JONES

1. ANNOUNCER We begin our adaptation now of one of last year's most talked about debut novels as author Zandra Jones reads from her sprawling warm-hearted epic of life in London's immigrant Welsh community, *Black Teeth Lane*.

1. FX HOUSE ATMOS IN

2. MEGAN (WELSH) Oh, Dad, I was listening to that.

3. DAFFYD It's a bleeding racket my girl and you're supposed to be getting ready for church.

4. MEGAN Oh, Dad.

5. FX ATMOS OUT

1. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) Daffyd Jeremiah Brimstone Evans was a large block of patriarchal Welshness. A man who feared God and punk music in equal measure, Daffyd ruled his family with a rod of iron and a lovespoon of wood. Unafraid to appear at times clichéd and broadly stereotypical, he had the confidence of a man who knows his character is based on someone I knew when I was growing up.

1. FX HOUSE ATMOS IN

2. MEGAN Dad! It's 1976! Everybody's listening to punk music!

3. DAFFYD Not in my house they're not Megan Gwyneth Chastity
Evans. I've heard you and your friends sitting round,
eating those sweets, talking about 'Punk' and Evil!

4. MEGAN That's Kinieval!

5. DAFFYD You're 'kin'right it is! If your mother was still alive
she'd have a thing or two to say about it.

6. FX ATMOS OUT

1. ZANDRA JONES

(V/O) The silence that always fell at the mention of the late Gwyneth Gladys Severity Evans descended. Megan's dead mother was a constant presence in the house – not an actual *presence*; her mummified corpse wasn't propped up in the hallway – they just thought about her a lot.

1. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) So here's Megan on her spacehopper, both rotund, both with a cheerful smile and long pointy ears. Megan Evans – overweight, but destined to be played by someone a lot prettier in the inevitable Channel 4 adaptation. She has no idea that after she lurches chaotically round this next corner, her life will change for ever. There she goes. Here it comes. It's coming...

2. FX CAR BRAKES SCREECH, SMASH.

3. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) There we go.

1. FX STREET ATMOS DISTORTS.

2. MEGAN (D) Ohhhhh.
3. MICKEY (D) Oh my God! Are you alright? I didn't see you.
4. ZANDRA (V/O) Megan stared up into a face peppered with acne, spiked with ginger hair and pierced through the nose with a safety pin.
5. MEGAN You're beautiful.
6. MICKEY You *have* had concussion, love. What are you doing jumping out in front of my scooter? Here let me get you up.
7. MEGAN Thank you. I think my pelvis is broken.
8. MICKEY Nah, you're alright. But I think your space hopper's had it.

9. FX SADLY DEFLATING SPACE HOPPER.

10. MEGAN Oh dear.

1. MICKEY Here, you're Welsh, aren't you?
2. MEGAN Erm... no.
3. MICKEY It's alright. I think the Welsh are cool. I love your music.
4. MEGAN Really?
5. MICKEY Yeah, I really dig all that male voice choir stuff. It's groovy.
6. MEGAN 'Groovy'?
7. MICKEY It's a punk thing.
8. MEGAN You're a punk?
9. MICKEY Yeah. I'm Mickey by the way. I'm in a band called Mickey and the Mongoloids.
10. MEGAN Wow. Which one are you?
11. MICKEY I'm Mickey.

1. MEGAN Wow.
2. MICKEY So, what's your name?
3. MEGAN Megan Gwyneth Chastity Evans.
4. MICKEY Blimey.
5. MEGAN It's my Dad, he's very traditional.
6. MICKEY Well, Megan Gwyneth Chastity Evans, let me take you for a coffee – it's the least I can do after running you over with my scooter.
7. **GRAMS** **APPROPRIATE SEVENTIES TUNE (FADE UP AND**
OUT)

1. FX CAFÉ FALLS SILENT.

2. MARIO (WHISPERED) Mickey, she's Welsh. I don't-a want-a no trouble. Why you bring-a Welsh girl to my café?

3. MICKEY I don't believe you Mario. Well, you know what you can do with your coffees, don't you?

4. MEGAN Don't, Mickey, it's not worth it.

5. MICKEY No, Megan, this is like... political. Yeah, they'll listen to Tom Jones and Shirley Bassey but if an actual Welsh person walks in they can't take it. Fascists.

6. MARIO Hey! I'm-a no fascist. I should-a know. My father was a fascist.

7. MICKEY Come on, Megan, we're out of here.

8. FX SHOP (Café) BELL JINGLES

9. FX DOOR SLAMS. (BEAT)

10. FX DOOR OPENS AGAIN.

1. MICKEY How much do we owe for the coffees?

2. MARIO It's alright-a, they're-a on-a the house.

3. MICKEY Fascist!

Paperback Hell: Black Teeth Lane
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1. GQ REVIEWER Miss Jones combines the magical realism of the young Rushdie with the satiric sharpness of mid-period Swift to create a Proustian Forsythe Saga for the Cold Feet generation.

2. ZANDRA JONES As GQ put it. That's Rushdie, Swift *and* Proust. Boy, is my second novel going to be eagerly awaited. (BEAT) I hope it's not a slight disappointment.

1. FX CHURCH ATMOS

2. DAFFYD

(PRAYING) Oh Lord, Thou knowest that I haven't
always been the most methodical of Methodists. I did
have that liqueur chocolate when we won the
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1. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) I know all about drugs. I went to
comprehensive school.

2. FX _____ COUGH

3. MEGAN Wow, the sensemillia is making feel really high.

4. ZANDRA (V/O) Mickey and Megan. Megan and Micke

1. GRAM

1. DAFFYD

It's not as easy as you think, boy. I never wanted to
be here. You think I don't wish I was still back in the
Rhondda Valley like you7t2j0 Tc (2) Tj-0.48384 TeA Tc (o) Tj0 Tc (u7t2

1. FX TRAIN SOUND EFFECT, STATION ATMOS

2. MRS OWEN I'll miss you, boyo!

3. SON Don't go, Da!

4. OWEN Oh, don't take on so you two; it's only a rugby tour,
isn't it?

5. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) History is in the details, and if Owen he hr
the sort of man who read the fre12 Tc (s) Tj0 Tc () Tj-0.22416 Tc (w) Tj
the all-imporet he0.20832 Tc T.13584 Tc (l) Tj-0.10416 Tc (i) Tj0 Tc (r
191 ad might have cecked oce agae his rugby
tour itinerary.

6. OEN It'll be bloody marvellous, look you. e kick off in

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1. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) Did you see what I did there? I've thrown in another generation and another major historical event. The reviewers were right, this really is a sprawling warm-hearted epic.

2. **FX** **STEAM TRAIN FADES INTO RESTAURANT**
ATMOS.

**1. GRAMS MUZAK – WE’LL KEEP A WELCOME IN THE
HILLSIDE (UNDER)**

2. DAFFYD He never came back.

3. IVOR The English tricked him and he died because of it.

4. DAFFYD No, he didn’t die. He ran off with a French girl.

5. FX DOOR OPENS, SHOP DOOR BELL.

6. DAFFYD Look you, there’s customers need serving.

7. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) The Friday night ritual, serving up slop to
drunks with no idea about real Welsh food.

8. BLOKE Alright, Taffy.

9. DRUNK GIRL (LAUGHING) Here, Steve, don’t call him that!

10. BLOKE He don’t mind, do you, Taff?

11. DAFFYD What can I get you?

12. DRUNK GIRL Don’t he speak funny?

1. BLOKE Right we'll have what...? Two? Three. Yeah three rabbits.
2. DAFFYD That's rarebit.
3. BLOKE Whatever, three of them. Each. Does that come with chutney?
4. DAFFYD Yes, and mustard.
5. BLOKE Right, then some sheep's cheese. And er...
6. DRUNK GIRL I want to try some of them leeks.
7. BLOKE Do you do leek?
8. DAFFYD Yes, sir, we do leek.
9. BLOKE Right, well, couple of big bowls of that.
10. DAFFYD You have ordered quite a lot of leek

1. DAFFYD We have Brains Bitter, brewed in Cardiff. Very nice.

2. BLOKE Eurgh, nah. Got any English lager, like Carlsberg?

3. DAFFYD Yes.

4. BLOKE Right, ten Carlsbergs. Each.

5. GRAMS TINNY MUZAK SWELLS.

1. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) The telephone. Ever since Alexander Graham Bell first stole the idea off an Italian we have stared into the dark unknowable of the ring tone. *De Profundis Clamavai*. We are caught Odysseus-like between the Charybdis of uncertainty and the Scylla of call waiting. And I don't mean Cilla Black. This is quality contemporary fiction. Now, where were we?

2. FX PHONE RECEIVER REPLACED.

3. DAFFYD No answer.

4. IVOR But it's eleven. Where could she be?

5. DAFFYD Oh, I hope she's not having sex with a punk and discovering a wider world outside of the narrow confines of her own culture.

6. IVOR Come on, Dad, look on the bright si

1. FX WINDY NIGHT ATMOS (UNDER)

2. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) So out into the cold London night went Ivor Evans, like a grim spectre of revenge with a touch of the young Windsor Davies. He was mad; mad at the corrupt English society around him; mad at a world that could drag his sister out at a time like this; mad at a town that called him Taffy. But there was Methodism in his madness.

3. IVOR Oh God.

4. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) He prayed.

5. IVOR Help me find Megan. Please don't let her have had sex with a punk.

6. FX ATMOS OUT

1. GRAMS PUNK MUSIC STING.

2. FX CROWDED HALL MURMUR.

3. SPEAKER Alright, brothers and sisters. Settle down. Greetings,
Comrades.

4. MEGAN (WHISPERED) Oh, Mickey, this is so exciting. What
a day. I've been knocked over, possibly knocked up
and now I'm at an anarchist meeting. My Dad would
be furious if he knew I was discovering such a wide
world outside the narrow confines of my own culture.

5. MICKEY Yeah, it's pretty wild, isn't it? These guys are really
radical, they're really shaking things up.

(SHOUTING) Class War Now!

6. FX THE CROWD SHUSH HIM.

7. MICKEY (WHISPERED) Sorry.

8. SPEAKER Comrades, we now move on to the first item on the
agenda – the anarchist home-made wine tasting.

9. MEGAN And there's booze as well. Brilliant!

1. FX DOORS BURST OPEN.

2. IVOR MEGAN!

3. FX CROWD SHUSH.

4. IVOR (WHISPERED) Sorry. Megan! What are you doing here with these English scruffs? And is that wine? Oh, there's not lovely for you.

5. MEGAN Go away, Ivor.

6. MICKEY Is something the matter?

7. IVOR Who's this mongoloid?

8. MICKEY Oh, you know my work?

9. MEGAN Mickey, this is Ivor, my fundamentalist Methodist brother. Ivor, this is Mickey, the punk I just had sex with.

10. IVOR Right.

11. FX PUNCH.

1. MICKEY / IVOR Ow!

2. MICKEY What did you do that for? That hurt.

3. IVOR You're telling me it did. Why do you have a safety pin
in your nose? I could get blood poisoning, bach.

4. MEGAN Stop fighting. Ivor, can't you see I'm culturally
confused? I'm second generation see, I don't want to
grow up to have an arranged marriage to a Welsh
man.

5. IVOR Oh, you want an unarranged marriage do you? Too
many guests, not enough chairs, nowhere booked for
the reception?

6. MEGAN I want to get away from the caste system.

7. IVOR You c

1. MEGAN No, Ivor. No she isn't.

2. ZANDRA JONES (V

