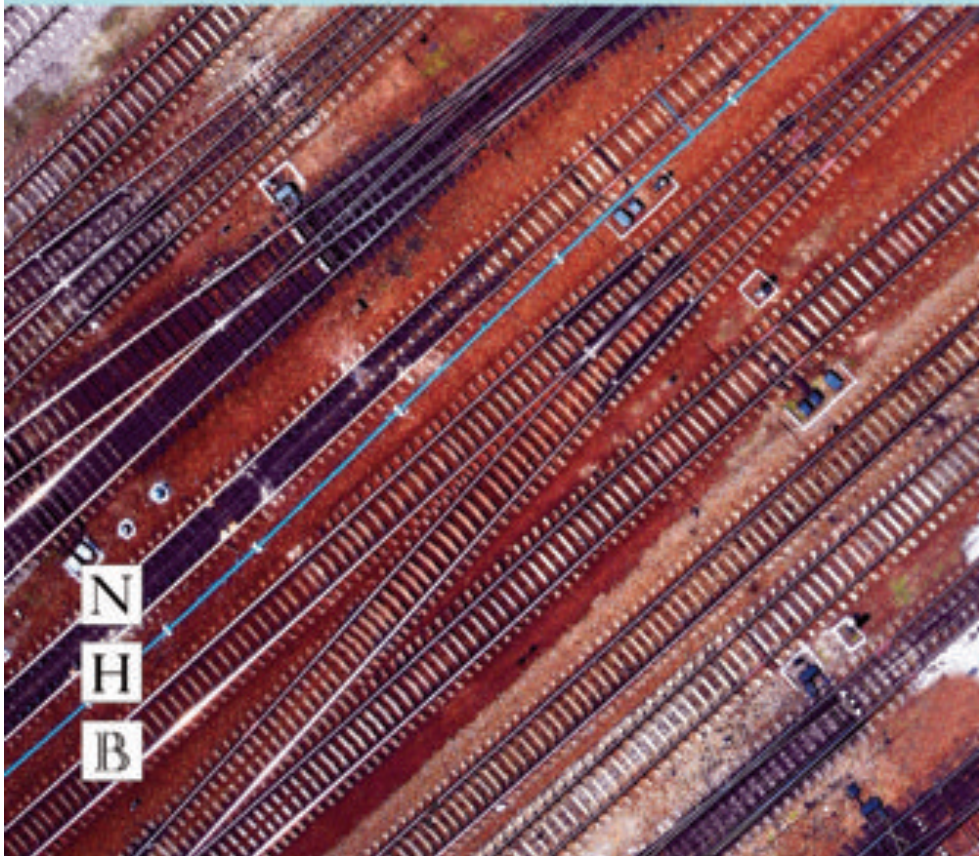




multiplay

katzenmusik

Tom Fowler



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Characters

MAYOR
ASSISTANT
VET
OWNER
VOICEMAIL
MAUREEN
CALLERS 1 *and* 2
NEIGHBOURS 1 *to* 3
STUART
JEAN
SALES REP
SALES MANAGER
CUSTOMERS 1 *to* 4
RESIDENT
PAINTER
BOYS 1 *to* 4
OWEN
RADIO HOST
CAROL
RADIO REPORTER
TAXI DRIVER
JAMIE
LAUREN
KEITH
PARENTS 1 *and* 2
CHILDREN 1 *and* 2
JOURNALISTS 1 *to* 4
GRACE
VIEWERS 1 *to* 3
POLICE OFFICERS 1 *and* 2
ATTACKERS 1 *and* 2
TWITTER USERS 1 *to* 9
BROTHER
LOCALS 1 *to* 8
BARTENDER
JACKIE
DOCTOR
CLUBBER 1 *to* 3
TRAIN STATION ATTENDANT
EMPLOYMENT ADVISOR
INVESTOR 1 *and* 2
BOSS

katzenmusik
(German, n.)
caterwaul; a shrill howling or wailing noise (of a cat)

Scene One: Burnside Town Square

MAYOR *and* ASSISTANT.

MAYOR. Read them to me.

ASSISTANT. Now?

MAYOR. Yes. Quickly.

ASSISTANT. 'We will not be divided.'

MAYOR. No.

ASSISTANT. 'We will not be conquered by cowards.'

MAYOR. No.

ASSISTANT. 'We will not cower in the face of barbarism.'

MAYOR. God no.

ASSISTANT. 'We will not be broken.'

MAYOR. No.

ASSISTANT. 'We will not be weakened.'

MAYOR. *No*. Did *you* write these?

ASSISTANT. Uh – no. Well, some of them. I mean we all did.

MAYOR. Right. Go on.

ASSISTANT. Uh – 'We will not be threatened.'

MAYOR. No.

ASSISTANT. 'We will not be defeated by hate.'

MAYOR. No.

ASSISTANT. 'We are stronger united.'

Beat.

MAYOR. Again?

ASSISTANT. What?

MAYOR. Again. Say it again.

ASSISTANT. 'We are stronger united.'

MAYOR. Yes. Yes it's...

Beat.

I mean it's not that.

ASSISTANT. Right.

MAYOR. No, but it's something like that. Something more positive.

ASSISTANT. Sure.

MAYOR. And it's going *here*, is it? The plaque.

ASSISTANT. Yes. Here. Under the cat.

MAYOR. Great. Anything else?

ASSISTANT. Your speech.

MAYOR. What about it?

ASSISTANT. Well I'm writing it at the moment and I – um – I just wondered if I should mention Jackie?

MAYOR. Jackie?

ASSISTANT. Jackie Williams.

MAYOR. What? No. No, obviously not. No.

ASSISTANT. Right sorry.

MAYOR. No. Just write about remembering – *remembering* the tragedy and not *forgetting* the tragedy but also how we've moved on from the tragedy. How we're stronger – as a community. As a town.

ASSISTANT. Of course.

MAYOR. What about press?

ASSISTANT. What about them?

MAYOR. Have they been notified?

ASSISTANT. Oh. Yes. All the Burnside papers are coming. And a few nationals.

MAYOR. Great.

ASSISTANT. *The Herald* actually asked about getting an interview.

MAYOR. Tell them no. Is that everything?

ASSISTANT. Uh – no there is actually one *more* thing. It's about graffiti.

MAYOR. Graffiti?

ASSISTANT. There's been more overnight. A lot more. Across the town hall.

MAYOR. Saying what?

ASSISTANT. Saying we killed her. Jackie.

Beat.

MAYOR. Well, make sure it's cleaned. Today.

ASSISTANT. Of course.

Scene Two: Veterinary Practice

VET and OWNER.

VET. Are you still giving him the pills?

OWNER. Yes.

VET. Twice a day?

OWNER. Yes. With every meal.

VET. And?

OWNER. And he's definitely calmer.

VET. Good.

OWNER. He's generally *much* calmer.

VET. That's *good*.

OWNER. Yes it's just – when we have guests.

VET. Right.

OWNER. Even when we keep him upstairs.

VET. Does he still –

OWNER. Shit everywhere, yes.

VET. Right.

OWNER. And yesterday – yesterday I was running late for work. So I'm putting my belt on in the kitchen to save time – whilst the kettle boils – when he sees me. He sees me holding the belt. And he jumps up – about this high – and starts making this wailing sound. This awful wailing sound.

VET. God.

OWNER. Yes.

VET. Well I can prescribe him more pills but otherwise – I mean with this sort of trauma – it's just about time. About giving Roger that time.

OWNER. So there's nothing else you can do?

VET. I'm afraid not. No.

OWNER *nods*.

Beat.

Do you need more cat food?

OWNER. No.

Scene Three: Phone calls

VOICEMAIL, MAUREEN *and* CALLER 1.

VOICEMAIL. This is the Vodafone voicemail service for – oh – seven – nine – seven – six.
Seven – eight – seven. Seven – nine – three. Please leave a message after the tone.

*

VOICEMAIL. This is the Vodafone voicemail service for – oh – seven – nine – seven – six.
Seven – eight – seven. Seven – nine – three. Please leave a message after the tone.

*

MAUREEN. Hello?

CALLER 1. Hi there.

MAUREEN. Who is this?

CALLER 1. Is that Maureen?

MAUREEN. Yeah.

CALLER 1. Maureen Lammond?

MAUREEN. Yeah.

CALLER 1. Hi, Maureen. I'm calling from British Gas.

MAUREEN. Right.

CALLER 1. Yeah, and I just wondered how you live with yourself?

MAUREEN. What?

CALLER 1. I said I just wondered how you fucking live with yourself? You and your fucking
scrounging sons. I just wondered how you justified living. You worthless, evil fucking –

Scene Four: The Twickenham Arms

STUART, JEAN, PARENT 2 *and three* NEIGHBOURS.

PARENT 2. Right. What can I get you?

STUART. Oh. Umm.

JEAN. Just a lager please.

STUART. A glass of pinot. Please.

JEAN. Thanks.

PARENT 2 *exits*.

Silence.

NEIGHBOUR 1. *So.*

JEAN. *So...*

NEIGHBOUR 1. How are you settling in?

JEAN. Uh – yeah.

STUART. Yeah. Good thank you.

JEAN. Yeah. *Yeah.*

NEIGHBOUR 1. Good.

NEIGHBOUR 2. Good.

NEIGHBOUR 3. *Good.*

Beat.

NEIGHBOUR 2. What is it you do?

STUART. Well I'm a teacher – I teach.

JEAN. And I develop websites.

NEIGHBOUR 1. Wow.

JEAN. Yeah.

NEIGHBOUR 2. Where is it you teach, Stuey – can I call you Stuey?

STUART. Uh – yeah. Stuey's fine.

NEIGHBOUR 2. Where is it you teach, Stuey?

STUART. At the college.

NEIGHBOUR 3. Burnside *Hill* College?

STUART. Yeah.

NEIGHBOUR 2. Right.

NEIGHBOUR 3. Right.

NEIGHBOUR 1. Right.

NEIGHBOUR 2. Well. I'm sure it's rewarding.

Silence.

NEIGHBOUR 3. Around here then, is it? That you're living.

STUART. Oh. No.

JEAN. No.

STUART. No we looked round here but it was a little out of our price range so.

JEAN. Yeah. And Stuart wanted to be closer to the school.

STUART. Well.

JEAN. So we're in a flat. In Burnside Hill.

Beat.

NEIGHBOUR 3. What – actually in Burnside Hill?

STUART. Yeah.

NEIGHBOUR 3. Oh.

NEIGHBOUR 2. Oh.

NEIGHBOUR 1. Oh.

Silence.

NEIGHBOUR 3. You weren't put off then?

STUART. Put off.

NEIGHBOUR 3. Living there. After everything.

STUART. Oh. No.

JEAN. Well, we talked about it. We *did* talk about it.

STUART. Well, we talked about it but everything seemed to have calmed down by then. And we didn't want something like that to change our plans.

JEAN. No.

NEIGHBOUR 3. Right.

NEIGHBOUR 2. Do you *have* a cat?

STUART. Well, we do. Ginger – she's a tabby. But –

NEIGHBOUR 1. Have you been to Cat Master?

JEAN. No.

NEIGHBOUR 2. You'll probably want to get yourself down to Cat Master. In case.

NEIGHBOUR 3. You probably do yeah. Get yourself a secure cat flap.

NEIGHBOUR 1. And a GPS collar.

NEIGHBOUR 2. And some DNA grease.

NEIGHBOUR 3. Yeah.

STUART. Right.

NEIGHBOUR 2. And be careful who you talk to. Round there.

NEIGHBOUR 3. Yeah. Don't tell anyone if you're going on holiday.

NEIGHBOUR 1. No. And don't talk about your cat online.

NEIGHBOUR 3. Or post *pictures* of your cat online.

NEIGHBOUR 2. No. And don't give *anyone* a spare key.

NEIGHBOUR 1. Or leave your windows open.

NEIGHBOUR 3. Or drink at The Griffin.

NEIGHBOUR 1. No.

NEIGHBOUR 2. No.

NEIGHBOUR 3. No.

Beat.

JEAN. Right. Umm – thank you.

STUART. Thanks.

Silence.

PARENT 2 *returns with drinks.*

PARENT 2. Here you go. I went for Kronenbourg – I hope that's okay.

JEAN. That's lovely.

STUART. Cheers.

PARENT 2. Right then. Let's toast, shall we? To new friends.

ALL. To new friends.

Scene Five: Burnside Shopping Centre

SALES REP, SALES MANAGER, RESIDENT *and four* CUSTOMERS.

SALES REP. Hi there. Are you looking for any Cat Master products today?

CUSTOMER 1. Sorry.

Beat.

SALES REP. Hi there. Are you looking for any Cat Master products today?

CUSTOMER 1. No sorry.

Beat.

SALES REP. Hi there. Are you looking for any Cat Master products today?

No response.

MANAGER. You're doing good.

SALES REP. Yeah?

MANAGER. Yeah, just – try smiling more.

SALES REP. Okay.

MANAGER. And speak louder. Be harder to ignore.

SALES REP. Okay, yeah.

Silence.

Hi there. Can I interest you in any Cat Master products today?

CUSTOMER 3. No, thank you.

Silence.

SALES REP. Hi there. Are you looking to purchase any Cat Master products today?

CUSTOMER 4. Not today, sorry.

Silence.

SALES REP. Hi there. Are you looking for any Cat Master products today?

RESIDENT. I am actually.

SALES REP. Oh.

RESIDENT. I was looking to buy one of your cat flaps?

SALES REP. The Smart Flap?

RESIDENT. The Smart Flap yes.

MANAGER. That's a great product.

RESIDENT. Yes one of those, please.

SALES REP. Great. So that would be fifty-four pounds and forty-nine pence.

RESIDENT. Perfect.

Beat.

SALES REP. Can I interest you in anything else today?

RESIDENT. I don't think so, no.

SALES REP. Because we actually have an offer on our Secure Home package. So you'd get the Smart Flap, but you'd also get a GPS Collar, a security camera –

MANAGER. With motion sensors.

SALES REP. With motion sensors, yeah. And a set of wall spikes.

RESIDENT. Wall spikes?

MANAGER. For your garden wall.

RESIDENT. Oh. And how much would that be?

SALES REP. That would be one hundred and ninety-nine pounds.

MANAGER. Though we can knock off ten per cent. So it'd be a hundred and eighty.

RESIDENT. Right.

Beat.

SALES REP. What do you think?

RESIDENT. I don't know. I might just get the Smart Flap. If that's okay.

SALES REP. Course.

MANAGER. Of *course*. Although I would say – well, I guess it depends on how far you're willing to go. How secure you want the house to be.

RESIDENT. You don't think the Smart Flap's enough?

MANAGER. I mean the Smart Flap will definitely *help*. I think it's definitely worth buying either *way* but it's just... For *me*, the saddest thing is seeing tragedies that could've been avoided. With the right equipment. Because the Smart Flap's a *start* but if someone really wanted to get in your house – if someone really wanted to hurt your cat – do you think they'd stop *there*? Do you think they'd stop at the cat flap or do you think they'd go

through the window? And if they go through the window, *then* what? *Then*, what have you got in place to keep your cat *safe*? And what if, heaven forbid, they get a hold of – what was your cat’s name, sorry?

RESIDENT. Snuffles.

MANAGER. *Snuffles*. What if they get a hold of Snuffles? How are you going to make sure that person – that twisted, evil *person* – gets punished?

Beat.

But as I say. It comes down to how far you’re willing to go.

RESIDENT. You’re right. I’ll – um – yeah. I’ll take *that*.

SALES REP. Yeah?

CUSTOMER. Yeah. The package – all of it. I’ll take it please.

SALES REP. Great.

MANAGER. Great. You won’t regret it. Honestly.

Beat.

SALES REP. Will you be paying by card?

Scene Six: 3 Champion Terrace

RESIDENT *and* PAINTER.

RESIDENT. Hello?

PAINTER. Hi there.

RESIDENT. Who is it?

PAINTER. I’m here for the kitchen.

RESIDENT. I’m not interested.

PAINTER. No, that’s not – I’m here to paint your kitchen.

RESIDENT. I’ll call the police.

PAINTER. Your kitchen. I’m here to paint your kitchen. Your kitchen.

RESIDENT. Oh.

Quiet.

Sorry.

PAINTER. It’s fine.

RESIDENT. I thought you were – sorry.

PAINTER. It’s *fine*.

RESIDENT. I didn’t think you were coming today.

PAINTER. Didn't you?

RESIDENT. No. I thought it was Thursday. I thought we said Thursday.

PAINTER. Well, we did. We *did* say Thursday.

RESIDENT. That's what I thought.

PAINTER. But then your husband called and asked if we could do Tuesday.

RESIDENT. Oh.

PAINTER. And it's Tuesday.

Quiet.

Are you going to let me in then?

RESIDENT. He didn't say.

PAINTER. What?

RESIDENT. He didn't say. That he moved you to Tuesday.

PAINTER. Well, he did.

RESIDENT. Have you got an email?

PAINTER. An email?

RESIDENT. Confirmation. That he asked you to swap. To Tuesday.

PAINTER. No. It was over the phone.

RESIDENT. Right.

Silence.

PAINTER. Can't you call him or something?

RESIDENT. I'll try him now. Hang on.

Waiting.

RESIDENT. Voicemail.

PAINTER. Ah.

RESIDENT. Have you maybe got ID or something?

PAINTER. ID?

RESIDENT. Or anything that proves that you're actually painting my kitchen.

PAINTER. No.

RESIDENT. Right.

PAINTER. I *am* painting your kitchen though.

RESIDENT. Sure but – if you can't prove it, I'd rather wait.

PAINTER. Wait?

RESIDENT. Till Thursday.

PAINTER. I can't do Thursday now.

RESIDENT. Next week then.

PAINTER. I'm here *now*.

RESIDENT. I know but –

PAINTER. It won't take long.

RESIDENT. I'm sorry.

Thinking.

PAINTER. Fine.

RESIDENT. Thank you.

PAINTER. But I'll have to charge you for this.

RESIDENT. How much do you want? For coming out.

PAINTER. Call it thirty?

RESIDENT. Hang on.

Waiting.

I'll slide it under the door.

*

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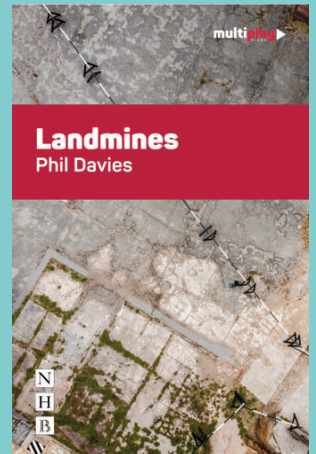
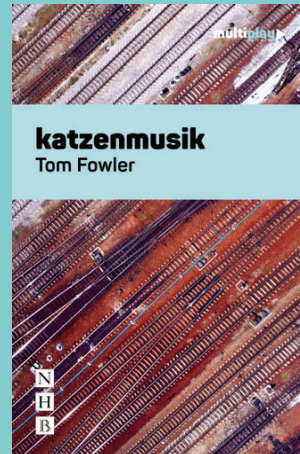
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