

Sweetheart



Director's Letter

"The desire to tell this story was born out of my own teenage battles with gender identity and sexuality and its ability to consume the psyche of an adolescent who hasn't quite learnt how to navigate the world as a young lesbian. I am interested in the way queer visibility and freedom of expression has changed over generations, and how that impacts a family, when confronted with the reality of an ever-changing world inside their own nuclear unit.

I hope to bring visibility to the people who don't fall under society's expectations of a female and to allow specifically lesbian perspectives to be at the forefront. My hope is that the film will be an uplifting and joyful experience, full of colour, humour, youthful energy, and heart. Thus, reflecting the rush and excitement of falling in love for the first time, whoever you are, and how when we let go of our constructed ideas of ourselves, we are free to live without shame"



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Day 1 in hell

I was perfectly fine at home but, against my will, Tina insisted on me coming. She said there's no way I'm staying in the house on my own. She acts like I could become a heroin addict... in a week! Apparently I should be more grateful to be going on holiday, but who would ever call a week in a caravan a holiday? 'Freshwater Beach Holiday Park'? I think I'd much rather be in hell.

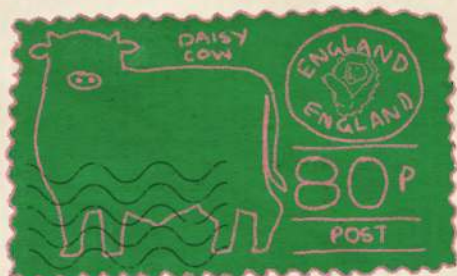
Dad wasn't invited on the trip which meant the journey took two hours longer than normal. Tina won't admit when she's lost - she calls it taking the scenic route, pointing out all of the cows we pass to prove a point. Let's be honest - things are better when Dad is around, I sometimes think he's the only one that gets me.

Good thing I've got some new books to keep me company: 'The Well of Loneliness', 'The Dizziness of Freedom' and 'Mae Martin's Can Everyone Please Calm Down?' 'A Guide to 21st Century Sexuality'. I've also made a playlist 'Dark Songs & Dark Days' so hopefully I can drown out the noise that comes with a family like mine. Wish me luck this week, I feel like I'm going to need it.

AJ x



To Write Home





Holiday Checklist

- Bucket hat
- Sunglasses
- Alien T-shirt
- Dead Jesus jumper
- Denim jacket
- Polaroid camera
- 80s shirt
- Converse
- Earphones
- Dungarees
- Envelopes
- Backpack
- Charger
- Books

Look, cows!

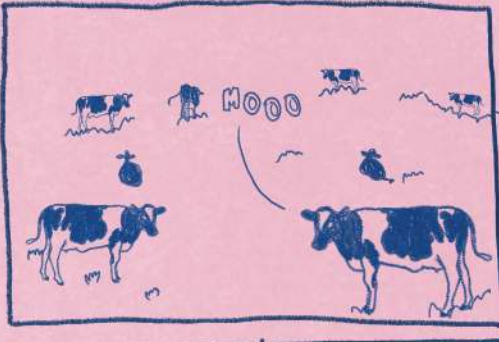
Comic



"Sometimes I'm just a child, writing letters to myself.."



Oook cows!



Did you know that the breeding of cows is the number one cause of deforestation?



"Day Day, take a picture of the cows!"

Who Dis?



Tina

Tina, Tina, Tina - where do we start?

She has such a simplistic view on the world, like she's completely oblivious to the things that actually matter. She once told me that I don't need to "analyse everything" but then what's the point? The world is falling apart and I'm supposed to just sit there and let it happen?

She says she's fine with me being gay, but it doesn't stop her trying to make me into what she thinks is a girl. She keeps buying these disgusting clothes that she thinks I should wear, like I can't think for myself. Y'know, she once told me that I was supposed to be born a boy called Aaron. I think about him sometimes and how much easier his life would have been. Like I don't want to be a boy, I'm just not sure I want to be a girl either.

It's strange because I know Tina worries about me, she is my mum after all and I sort of worry about her too, especially since Dad left. I guess we're the same like that. Yet we seem to clash on just about everything. She seems to think that I'm trying to ruin everything but I'm not trying to be difficult, I just don't want to be sad anymore.

Isla



When I first saw Isla, all I could think is that girls like her are exactly what's wrong with the world. Girls like Isla always have boyfriends like all she has to do is flash that smile and they fall at her feet. But y'know, she isn't actually like that, she cares about people and wants to make sure that everyone is happy. She has the sort of eyes that look deep into your soul when she talks to you, like you're the only thing that matters.

She's kind of different from the girls back home, she's like a kid or an old person, only thinking about today. Like, in her world, the sun isn't just a giant killing machine. It's not that she doesn't care about the planet and stuff, it just doesn't seem to be on her radar. It's weird cause I feel comfortable around her but at the same time really fucking scared. I can kinda be myself around her and she just gets it. She doesn't seem to care that I'm weird, at least she doesn't act like she does. She treats me like I'm normal.



Lucy



Lucy, older sister and the pregnant princess of Dunstable. She aimed high and found success as a hairdresser – how inspiring. She’s the reason we’re here. Mum wanted us to spend quality time together before the baby is born. What I want to know is why do people think being pregnant is so special? It’s the reason why the planet is so overpopulated and landfills are full of nappies.

Steve



Lucy’s boyfriend Steve. He’s a fireman. They met when Lucy left her hair straighteners on and nearly burnt down the house. Mum went mental but she thinks it’s romantic now. Steve is alright, he always has such an optimistic view on everything and everyone and I suppose he’s the only one who makes an effort to call me AJ.



Dayna

Simple things make Dayna happy, like seagulls, magicians and glow sticks. She's turning nine on this holiday. When you think about it, it's weird how things change. When I was nine, the holiday park was pretty much the best place in the world. Now I see it for what it is – a dump.

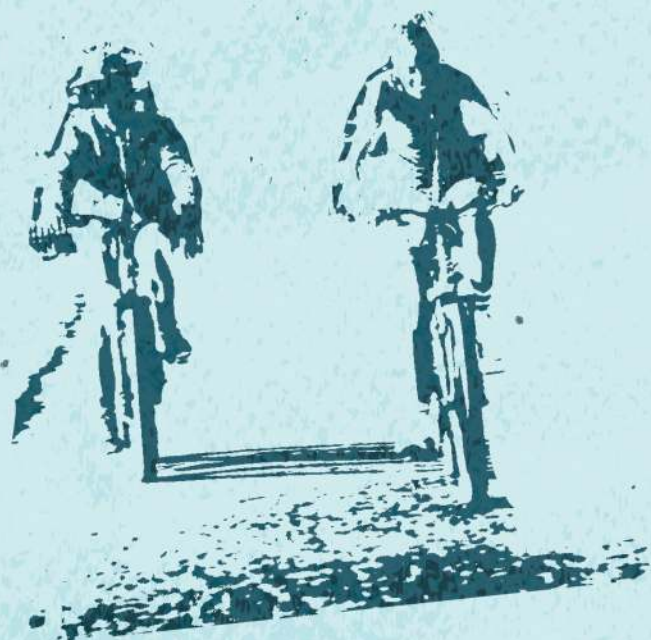
Elvis &
Nathan

Life is so easy for people like Elvis and Nathan. They spend their summer working at the holiday park, sitting by the pool all day then partying in the evenings without a care in the world.

P.S. it turns out Elvis is actually his real name.

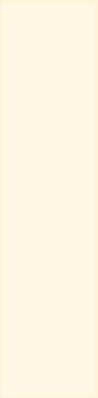


Sweetheart





FRESHWATER BEACH



WISH YOU WERE HERE X



I feel weird,
 Like I could stab her in the throat
 and stem the bleeding all at the same
 time.

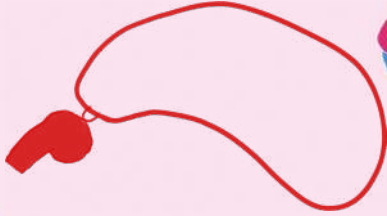


I've done this before.
 Thought something was... something.
 And it wasn't.

If I were to drown
 would she save me?



Girls like her always have boyfriends.
 So why does she look at me that way?



Inspirational Women



AJT

April. Jane. Allen

BORN 19th October 2002



Not your Mum
Not your Milk

The fact is, I've never been very good at being a girl.
I don't know why. I just wasn't made that way.
It's not that I want to see a boys reflection when I
look in the mirror, it's just, I don't want to see
a girls one either



The urge to jump is actually the urge to fly.
Which is feeling poetic if you ask me.



I'm not trying to be difficult.
I'm just, I don't want to be
sad anymore.

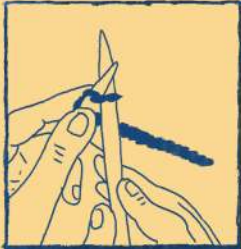
KNITTING FOR ELEPHANTS

1.



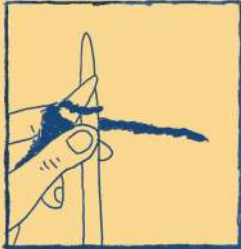
Insert right needle into first stitch, bottom to top?

2.



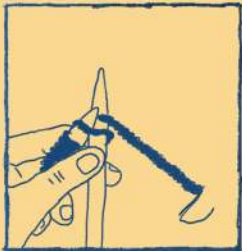
Push right needle into the stitch

3.



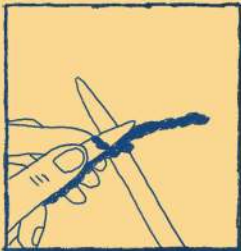
Grab the yarn attached to the ball of yarn

4.



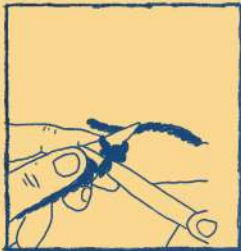
Wrap the yarn around the needle, back to front

5.



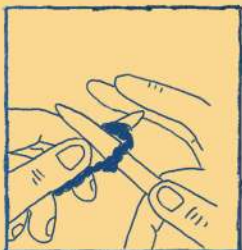
Pull yarn down and notice the yarn peeks through the stitch

6.



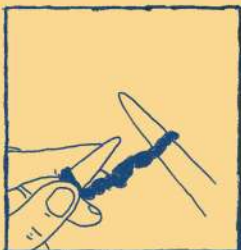
Gently pull the needle down and pick out the yarn on the needle

7.



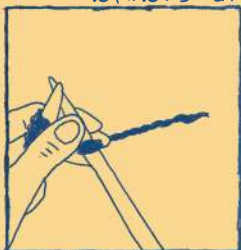
Push the right needle into the loop. This is a new stitch!
-woohoo

8.



Pull the right needle off the left needle

9.



Pull yarn attached to ball of yarn to tighten stitch. Repeat steps 1-9



Which is the top?

Indonesia
Flights £549 return- stops in singapore maybe i could stay a few days

* must ask tina to buy more yarn! *

urgh! why do i always drop it here?!

-Male elephants can grow up to 6 feet tall ^{WTF?!}

-It takes 4 weeks to knit 1 jumper, but elephants can live like 50 years

ok but how do I add a new colour?



Identifying British Rocks- A Guide

Take any rock or stone and it has its own story to tell. In terms of age, rocks can be thousands to billions of years old and range in all shapes and sizes.

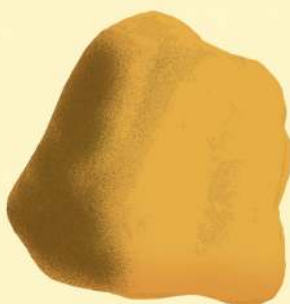
With careful study a rock can tell you if it's been melted, shattered, squashed, heated, dissolved, eroded, buried, scaped, rolled, intruded, erupted or even eaten!

The geology of Dorset is as historic as it is interesting, and the rocks in the cliffs and on the beach are mainly from an ancient Jurassic Sea.

1.



2.



3.



4.



1. Beef rock

Age: Jurassic – around 195 million years old

Composition: Calcite and mud (crystal form of calcium carbonate)

Origin: From the layers of mud in the cliffs

Beef rock forms when calcite crystals grow like fibres, usually forming flat slabs in the layers of mud. The slabs are easily broken up to pebble sizes on the beach. You can see the fibres of calcite in the edges of these flat pebbles.

2. Chert

Age: Cretaceous – around 100 million years old

Composition: Silica and sand

Origin: Top of the cliffs and river

Chert is very hard stone composed of silica. Some chert pebbles are sugary like sand and that's because chert is formed from sandstone. It is usually a sandy or orange colour. We usually don't find any fossils in these rocks.

3. Flint

Age: Cretaceous – around 100 million years old

Composition: Silica

Origin: Eroded from Chalk hills inland and brought down by the river

Flint is a very hard rock composed of silica and is similar to chert. It is typically black with a white 'rind' and is mainly found in Chalk rocks. It forms from the slimy remains of certain microscopic sea creatures that have been chemically changed over millions of years.

4. Iron Pyrite

Age: Jurassic – around 195 million years old

Composition: Mineral made of iron and sulphur

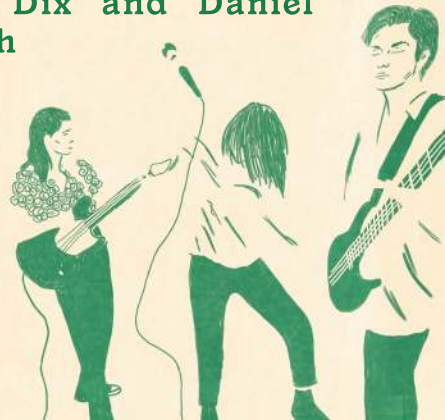
Origin: From the layers of mud in the cliff

Pyrite or 'fools gold' is a diagenetic mineral, which means it formed AFTER the layers of sediment had been buried. The crystals grew underground within the mud layers to form nodules of pyrite. The iron in the nodules causes them to take a rusty brown colour very quickly once exposed to the air but fresh shiny golden pieces are quite easy to find.

AJ'S DARK SONGS 4 DARK DAYS



1. Sweet - Porridge Radio
2. Keep This Going - Lee Richardson
3. Give/Take - Porridge Radio
4. I Like That Top - The Menstrual Cramps
5. Nothing's Gonna Hurt You Baby - Cigarettes
After Sex
6. Only Bodies - Ella Clayton
7. Cut Your Hair - Penelope Isles
8. Gnarbone - Penelope Isles
9. Let's Fall in Love Some More - Al Bairre
10. Run Tonight - Jonathan Dix and Daniel
O'Donnell Smith



THE MENSTRUAL CRAMPS

I LIKE THAT TOP

I DON'T LIKE THE SPELLING OF YOUR NAME WHY DO YOU GUYS ALL JUST LOOK THE SAMETELL ME WHAT YOU GUYS DO AROUND HERE FOR FUN? OH YEAH YOU SPEND ALL YOUR MONEY THEN YOU CALL YOUR MUM, SHE'LL HELP YOU OUT.



LIVING WITH YOU IS LIKE LIVING ON AN ALIEN SPACESHIP WHERE EVERYONE TRIES TO BE DIFFERNT BUT EVERYONES JUST THE SAME,

WHERE DID YOU BUY THAT TOP, I LIKE THAT TOP MUCH MORE THAN I ACTUALLY LIKE YOU FUCK WORK CUS IM TOO LAZYDONT FUCK WORK JUST CUS YOU HATE THE SYSTEM, THE WORLDS AT WAR BUT IM TOO BUSY THINKING ABOUT HOW I CAN MAKE THIS SCRUFFY HAIR LOOK MORE EFFORTLESS BUT IVE BEEN STARING AT THIS MIRROR FOR 3 YEARS AND I STILL LOOK LIKE A C***

I DONT LIKE YOUR MORALS OR YOUR COMPANY AND I DONT THINK YOUVE EVER DONE MUCH GOOD FOR ME SO TELL ME WHAT SCARES YOU THE MOST?

I THINK ITS RUNNING OUT OF PEOPLE WHAT YOU CAN ROAST

LIVING WITH YOU IS LIKE LIVING ON AN ALIEN SPACESHIP EVERYONE TRIES TO BE DIFFERNT, BUT EVERYONES JUST THE SAME, WHERE DID YOU BUY THAT TOP, WHY DID YOU BUY THAT TOP?

I LIKE THAT TOP MUCH MORE THAN I ACTUALLY LIKE YOU

DONT FUCK WORK CUS YOURE TOO LAZY

FUCK WORK CUS YOU HATE THE SYSTEM, CUS THE WORLDS AT WAR BUT IM TOO BUSY THINKING ABOUT HOW I CAN MAKE THIS SCRUFFY HAIR ACTUALLY LOOK EFFORTLESS BUT IVE BEEN STARING AT THIS MIRROR FOR 3 YEARS AND I STILL LOOK LIKE A C***

DONT LIKE THE WAY YOU SPELL YOUR NAME ALL YOU PEOPLE LOOK JUST THE SAME I DONT LIKE YOUR MORALS OR YOUR COMPANY

WHAT HAVE YOU GUYS EVER DONE FOR ME?

F***YOU. F***YOU. F***YOU.

F***YOU. F***YOU. F***YOU.

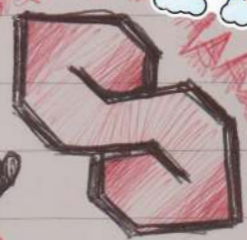
F***YOU!

F***YOU!

MONTAGUE.



RIOT!





AJ's Film Recs

cocoon

co-dependent
lesbian space
alien seeks
same

who's afraid of
vagina wolf

tomboy

appropriate
behaviour

code I used for 20%
off films on
peccadillopod.com

AJ4ISLA

COCOON – Ever feel like you’re basically watching your life on screen? This film is about quiet and shy Nora, who meets the confident and unapologetic Romy – so basically like me and Isla... It’s set in Berlin which is on my list to visit, there’s so much cool queer stuff there. Anyway it’s about Nora forging her identity for the first time in her life and feeling like she’s no longer invisible – kinda like how I felt on this trip!

CO-DEPENDENT LESBIAN SPACE ALIEN SEEKS SAME – Alright, so if you’re into Lesbian sci-fi B-movies then this one is for you. Basically, it’s about 3 aliens who get kicked out of their own planet because they are too emotional and it’s killing the atmosphere. Bit like cows really. They end up in New York where they need to have their hearts broken. Cue hilarity and cheesecake. It’s the weirdest and funniest film I’ve watched in a while – even Tina LOL’ed!

WHO’S AFRAID OF VAGINA WOLF – Ok, so I’ve been reading up on Virginia Woolf and stumbled across this one. It’s about Anna, a struggling filmmaker facing a midlife crisis. She lives in her friend’s garage and dances in a vagina costume for money. One day she meets the sexy ‘post-feminist’, Katie. To impress her, Anna decides to make an all-female version of ‘Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf’ and it’s pure class!

TOMBOY – This movie was sooo good, it’s about 10 year-old Laure who prefers football to dolls and jumpers to dresses. Sound familiar? When she moves house, she’s mistaken for a boy and just kinda rolls with it. It’s weird cause I kinda feel like that was me when I was young. But I don’t think I actually wanted to be a boy I just didn’t like girl things.

APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR – What can I say except it’s Desiree Akhavan – fuck, she’s so cool but in a dorky kind of way. I love that she’s an absolute mess but still kinda bossing it. Probably not goals for the future but still, I love this film.

Peccadillo Pictures presents

Sweetheart



#SweetheartFilm

www.SweetheartFilm.co.uk

Thanks to the contributors:

Sage Anifowoshe, Emmie McGee, Nell Barlow,
Emilia and AJ aka the Menstrual Cramps, Chloe Sheppard,
Amelia Gardiner and Laverne Caprice

FILM LONDON | BBC FILM AND BFI PRESENT A HAZEY JANE FILMS AND MICROWAVE PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH BOHEMIA MEDIA, SUMS FILM & MEDIA & MARLEY MORRISON FILM 'SWEETHEART' NELL BARLOW
JO HARTLEY ELLA-RAE SMITH SOPHIA DI MARTINO SAMUEL ANDERSON TARBITHA BYRON DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY MATT WICKS AND EMILY ALMONDO BARR EDITOR KEELAN GUMBLEY CASTING DIRECTOR CAROLYN MACLEOD C.S.A
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SAFFI THIDAGBO ANNA ANTONIOU ADAM ANTONIADES ANDY BRUNSKILL EVAN LEIGHTON-DAVIS PRODUCED BY MICHELLE ANTONIADES WRITER AND DIRECTOR MARLEY MORRISON

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HAZEY JANE

