

## Cunts and Cocks and Balls

I'm allowed to stay the night with my friend when I get to be fifteen.

We spend the afternoon trying on her five pairs of Levis.

That night we eat avocado and sit round a wooden table

all wearing Levis: me, my friend, her little sister and

her big sister, her mum and her dad. No-one says anything

about the Levis, just about how there isn't enough avocado to go round.

I save my wages from working in the greengrocer's each Saturday,

hauling steaming beetroot out of a vat and sorting potatoes

and hiding from the Saturday boy who makes me feel

red as a beetroot: then I buy a pair of Levis. My mother finds them

where I've hidden them. In our house no-one wears jeans

because they are worldly. I'd been changing into them

behind the neighbours garage and going to my Saturday job

where the Saturday boy sometimes touches my bottom and says it's nice

and I wonder how it will feel when he kisses me and what I should do.

My mother has tears in her eyes and says she must tell my father,

and when she does he takes my jeans and pushes them into the Aga,

where he'd burnt The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie the week before.

(At eighteen I leave home, and later, when my mother can bear to speak to me again

I bring my boyfriend home and she buys him a pair of Farah trousers to wear because

she says people can see his cock and balls through his Levis, only she doesn't actually say

'cock and balls' but I know that's what she means)

I'm at a family party and I'm wearing my Levis. My niece is getting married

and we're all here to meet the boy. He flirts with me and I

enjoy it though I'm surprised because I'm fifty and he's half my age.

I look at the outline of his cock and balls beneath his jeans

through my sunglasses. We all drink and he gets flirty

with everyone and we all love him till he starts telling jokes.

He tells us about a girl whose camel's foot is so fat it makes

him queasy. And about how he'd like to give my niece a string of pearls.

Later I ask my husband, what is a camel's foot? He says

it's when a ladies cunt is big, you know, when you can see it.

Like when she's wearing a tight pair of jeans. If it sticks out.

I feel a sort of sorrow inside me, about my niece, and

about my cunt as well.