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*.

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1. FX HOUSE ATMOS IN

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

 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

<u>6.</u>	FX	ATMOS OUT
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.
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4.	MEGAN	That's Kinieval!
		eating those sweets, talking about 'Punk' and Evil!
		Evans. I've heard you and your friends sitting round,
3.	DAFFYD	Not in my house they're not Megan Gwyneth Chastity
2.	MEGAN	Dad! It's 1976! Everybody's listening to punk music!

 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. FX ATMOS BACK IN

2.	DAFFYD	Have you done your rugby training today, Megan?
3.	MEGAN	Oh, Dad, this is England. We don't have to do rugby training.
4.	DAFFYD	Just because we're in this Godless wilderness doesn't mean we have to let the old ways die out. Rugby training five times a day. Face towards Cardiff Arms Park and recite the Union Rules.
5.	MEGAN	Oh Dad, I've had enough! I'm going out! It's the 1970's!
6.	DAFFYD	Where do you think you're going on that space hopper?
<u>7.</u>	FX	SPACE HOPPER BOUNCING
8.	MEGAN	Out!
9.	DAFFYD	This country It chews you up. Like one of those sweets.

 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 <i>have</i> 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.
<u>9.</u>	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.

 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 ATMOS (UNDER).

2. MIC	KEY	Alright,	Mario,	two c	coffees p	lease.
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 MARIO (THICK ITALIAN) Ah, Mickey! It's-a nice-a to see you. Sit-a yourself-a down.

4. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) Mario, the jovial comedy Italian, greeted
Mickey with his phonetically spelt dialect. Knowing
deep down tha27168 Tc (e) Tj0.TD (d) Tj0 Tc (ee) Tj0.20832 Tc0 Tc (a (c) Tj0 Tc (o) Tc (o) Tc (p) T Tc (e, t) Tj0.20832 T Tc hede, tionet Tc (w) Tj-0

1. FX CAFÉ FALLS SILENT.

<u>10.</u>	FX	DOOR OPENS AGAIN.
<u>9.</u>	FX	DOOR SLAMS. (BEAT)
<u>8.</u>	FX	SHOP (Café) BELL JINGLES
7.	MICKEY	Come on, Megan, we're out of here.
6.	MARIO	Hey! I'm-a no fascist. I should-a know. My father was a fascist.
		to Tom Jones and Shirley Bassey but if an actual Welsh person walks in they can't take it. Fascists.
5.	MICKEY	No, Megan, this is like political. Yeah, they'll listen
4.	MEGAN	Don't, Mickey, it's not worth it.
3.	MICKEY	I don't believe you Mario. Well, you know what you can do with your coffees, don't you?
2.	MARIO	(WHISPERED) Mickey, she's Welsh. I don't-a want-a no trouble. Why you bring-a Welsh girl to my café?

- 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 R

- GQ REVIEWER Miss Jones combines the magical realism of the young Rushdie with the satiric sharpness of midperiod Swift to create a Proustian Forsythe Saga for the Cold Feet generation.
- 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 the0.23808 Tc () Tj-0.24 Tc	
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1. GRAMS ANGRY PUNK MUSIC

<u>3.</u>	GRAMS	SONG FINISHES IN A BURST OF CACOPHONY
4.	MICKEY	It's called 'London'.
5.	MEGAN	Wow. Is that you singing?
6.	MICKEY	Singing?
7.	MEGAN	Is that your voice?
8.	MICKEY	Oh, yeah, I'm on lead vocals and spitting. Here, give
		us that bong joint.
9.	MEGAN	Sorry am I bogarting the Mary Jane?
<u>10.</u>	FX	COUGH

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. MEGAN They work in a restaurant.
- ZANDRA JONES (V/O) Not just *a* restaurant, but Kensal Green's first authentic Welsh restaurant the Star of Cardiff. Serving the finest in Welsh cuisine to the drunken, unappreciative palettes of North West London. And as Megan and Mickey skinned up another doobie, Head Waiter Daffyd Evans was arranging napkins and conf of.Tj0c (I) Rc (p) Tj-0j0c (I) Rc (p) Tj Rc

1. GRAM

 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 marvellos, look you. e kick off in Ypres, c () Tj0.39c () TjWollecun

lomt nc (is) Tj0.36 Tc (0 Tc (o) Tj0.200

 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.
- 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.
- **60**. DAFFYD You have ordered quite a lot of leekll9.Avo Tc (o) ff60bce o rK

<u>5.</u>	GRAMS	TINNY MUZAK SWELLS.
4.	BLOKE	Right, ten Carlsbergs. Each.
3.	DAFFYD	Yes.
2.	BLOKE	Eurgh, nah. Got any English lager, like Carlsberg?
1.	DAFFYD	We have Brains Bitter, brewed in Cardiff. Very nice.

1. FX RESTAURANT KITCHEN ATMOS, WASHING UP (UNDER) (UNDER) 2. DAFFYD Well, that's the last of them. 3. IVOR Bloody buggers. Did they leave a tip?

4. DAFFYD Two pence.

5. IVOR Oh. Have we had decimalization yet?

6. DAFFYD I don't know.

7. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) Hmm, must check The Rock and Roll M0416 Tc () Tj0.1562422

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 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.

Come on, Dad, look on the bright si

6.

IVOR

Paperback Hell: Black Teeth Lane Robins & Tetsell

1. FX WINDY NIGHT ATMOS (UNDER)

- 2. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) So out into the cold London night went lvor 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.

- 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.
- 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!

- MICKEY Yeah, we're reclaiming wine from the bourgeoisie.
 We're saying let the people drink wine. With cheese. If they want to.
- 2. SPEAKER Our first wine is parsnip and nettle.
- 3. MICKEY Yeah, obviously they may *not* want to. But they should have the choice.
- 4. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) Choice is something that had not previously been offered to Zandra Jones I mean, Megan Evans. It's only partly autobiographical. I'm much better looking than Megan. If you don't believe me look at the flattering author's photograph on the back of the book. Anyway, Megan had not been offered choice before and now she embraced it hungrily, slurping home-made wine, talking anarchist politics, forgetting who she was and where she came from.
- 5. SPEAKER So, that's enough about Gramsci. Who are you and where do you come from?
- 6. MEGAN (SLURP) Not the foggiest, boyo.

<u>1.</u>	FX	DOORS BURST OPEN.
2.	IVOR	MEGAN!
<u>3.</u>	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.
<u>11.</u>	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

- 1. MEGAN And living in London.
- 2. IVOR London?
- 3. MEGAN With an Englishman. (PAUSE) An estate agent.
- 4. IVOR No, don't tell me he...
- 5. MEGAN He sells holiday cottages. In the Gower Peninsula.
- 6. IVOR Noooooooo!
- 7. ZANDRA JONES (V/O) There is nothing that shatters quite so nastily as an illusion. Like a squash racket made impractically of glass, our dreams fragment into a million pieces at the first serve and stick in our toes and make the court dangerous for those that come after us and... hang on, I've lost the thread of the metaphor. Anyway, here's lvor, here's Megan, here's Mickey, with the ground crumbling away beneath them and a starless void waiting to take them beyond the now into a fresh new 1977, born anew and lain on the soft green sward of the impossible future. Not literally, obviously. It is, as I've said, magical realism with a hint of social commentary. God, I am good.

1. GRAMS SOMETHING APPROPRIATE (TBC)

2. ANNOUNCER That was Chapter One of Black Teeth Lane, read by

the author Zandra Jones with help from Mel Hudson,

Michael Fenton Stevens, Rebecca Front, Alex Lowe

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