

# **THE STAKEOUT**

## **CHARACTERS:**

**MADDIE  
LOUISE**

Jane Miller

Email:

[jane@blackcactus.com.au](mailto:jane@blackcactus.com.au)

**LOUISE SITS IN A GREEN VOLVO LOOKING THROUGH BINOCULARS. A MINUTE OR SO PASSES AND MADDIE ENTERS. SHE IS WEARING A BALACLAVA ON TOP OF HER HEAD LIKE A BEANIE AND CARRYING A LARGE NUMBER OF SHOPPING BAGS.**

**MADDIE OPENS THE CAR DOOR AND SITS DOWN BESIDE LOUISE.**

**MADDIE:** Hi

**LOUISE:** Where've you been? I've been here for 30 minutes already.

**MADDIE:** I know. Sorry. You weren't easy to find. I was looking for your car. I wasn't looking for a Volvo. Where's your car?

**LOUISE:** At home. I couldn't risk him recognising it.

**MADDIE:** Good thinking. Yes. Excellent plan. God, that's great. So whose car is this?

**LOUISE:** My Nanna's....and I hope you wiped your feet. She's very fussy.

**MADDIE:** This is your Nanna's Volvo?

**LOUISE:** Yes.  
Do you have a problem with that?

**MADDIE:** No....no. It's great....it's all great...it's old...it's....Can you smell....something?

**LOUISE:** What?

**MADDIE:** Like...like....A Nanna smell?

**LOUISE:** She keeps mothballs in the ashtray...It's garaged a lot and she worries about the upholstery. Anyway we're lucky she lent it to us...I wasn't bringing my car. He would've seen us straight away.

**MADDIE:** He's a bastard.

**LOUISE:** He went in about 20 minutes ago. See there's the car

**MADDIE:** Alone?

**LOUISE:** No.

**MADDIE:** Do you know who she is?

**LOUISE:** No. Do you?

**MADDIE:** No.

**LOUISE:** What is all this stuff? What's in the bags?

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**MADDIE:** Snacks. I bought supplies...For this. For the stakeout.

**LOUISE:** This isn't a game. I took the afternoon off work.

**MADDIE:** I know and I appreciate it. No reason it can't be fun...In a way?

**LOUISE:** Anyway, we can't eat in the car. Nanna will be very angry if we spill anything on the carpet or the seats.

**MADDIE:** I brought serviettes.....They're here somewhere. And coffee. In a thermos.

**LOUISE:** No hot drinks in the Volvo. Nanna's number one rule.

**MADDIE:** Okay.

**LOUISE:** What is that thing on your head?

**MADDIE:** A balaclava. I brought one for you as well.

**LOUISE:** It's the middle of the day.

**MADDIE:** We might have to go undercover quickly. Make a getaway.

**LOUISE:** And we won't attract any attention wearing balaclavas in bright sunshine in the middle of a busy street.

**(LOUISE LOOKS THROUGH THE BINOCULARS. MADDIE STARTS EATING A BAG OF CHIPS.)**

**MADDIE:** Can you see anything?

**LOUISE:** Not at the moment.

**MADDIE:** Chip?

**LOUISE:** No thanks.

**MADDIE:** Dip? Carrot stick? Lamington?

**LOUISE:** No, I'm fine. And you can't eat Lamingtons in the Volvo. The coconut might go down the cracks in the seats.

**MADDIE:** Nanna's number two rule?

**LOUISE:** Exactly.

**(PAUSE)**

**MADDIE:** I think it's great that you're being so supportive of me...Like this.

**LOUISE:** Don't mention it.

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**MADDIE:** I didn't know who else to call.....

**LOUISE:** It's fine. Just keep your eyes on the car. And the restaurant. See it's that one – Che Marinaro

**MADDIE:** ....and then I thought....Louise....I'll phone Louise because she'll understand.

**LOUISE:** I bet they're having a seafood banquet and a really expensive bottle of plonk. Turd.

**MADDIE:** Lou, can we just pause for a moment....Can I just say....I think you're amazing....I really admire you.

**LOUISE:** *(NOT LISTENING LOOKING THROUGH THE BINOCULARS)*  
Do you?

**MADDIE:** I do.....You're so supportive of me and some people would say I really don't deserve it.

**LOUISE:** Would they?

**MADDIE:** They would. The thing is....Lou.....If I'd have know we'd become friends, I mightn't have met Nick all those times while you were at Pilates.

*(LOUISE BECOMES SUDDENLY ALERT – PUTS DOWN THE BINOCULARS. POINTS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE RESTAURANT)*

**LOUISE:** What's that? Look.

**MADDIE:** What? Is he coming out? Can I see?

**LOUISE:** There. In the doorway.

**MADDIE:** Where?

**LOUISE:** There...No...False alarm.

**MADDIE:** But then I'm torn....Because if I hadn't met Nick, we wouldn't have become so close. Nick and I getting together that November was like fate....It was in the stars.....In so many ways.

**LOUISE:** November?

**MADDIE:** November. Cup day, 2005.

**LOUISE:** Are you sure?

**MADDIE:** I'd hardly forget. We arranged to meet behind the portaloos with a bottle of champagne and a polar fleece blanket.

**LOUISE:** November?