



Ad Hoc Fiction

A Bath Flash Fiction Award Project



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The Expedition

Friday night.

"Your dad's not coming home. Again."

I'd waited all evening, willing him to appear.

"He'll be drinking away his wages in the pub." We had nothing in the fridge. I peered in cupboards innocent of contents. Mum was ill and couldn't work. We were feeling the pinch.

Saturday morning.

The allotments were quiet, leaves heavy with dew. Unseen hens chuckled quietly. I'd brought a bag; scrumping with intent.

Scrambling up a tree, I snagged my jumper on a branch, landing winded and pinched by the cruel fence. I rubbed myself, trying not to cry.

"You trying to pinch my rhubarb?" Caught, my cheeks burned crimson.

"Yes! We're hungry, and my dad didn't come..." Hot tears laved my grimy cheeks; the old man scratched his nose in contemplation.

Saturday evening.

Egg and chips and baked apples. Laden with harvest and a pinch of my cheek, the kindness of strangers.

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With thanks to all the writers who have made this issue possible.

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