

Merger

—Corey Plover

The gentle rocking and sounds of the waves are like cradle and lullaby to your battered and exhausted body. You soon doze off, while Lulu steers the boat, Amy looks over you and Morgan cooks breakfast – porridge and honey on toast. He wakes you up after they'd eaten to see if you wanted anything. You say that the leftover porridge is fine, although it'd be fantastic if you could get a big bowl of *Just Right*. You try to catch a bit more shut eye when you finish, but sleep does not seem forthcoming. Instead, you lie with your eyes closed, trying to recount everything that's happened and wondering if the Twins have already reached the Big Banana. In this manner, you once more descend into dreamland, and only awaken as you reach Coffs Harbour. The Teddies mask themselves once more in their cloaks, and together you begin to make your way towards the Big Banana.

Driving through the town on a car left to you by Rat, you see that stores are deserted and houses abandoned: the only person you encounter in the stretch to the Big Banana seems more like a shade than human. You question her about the state of this once thriving tourist town, and she leers at you in disgust.

“THEY SOLD THE BIG BANANA! THE BIG BANANA! *THE BIG BANANA...*”

The mood dampens even more as you approach the Big Banana. Although once a place of sunshine, tourists and golden photo-opportunities, a dark cloud now hangs over the whole complex. That isn't to say that the place is abandoned, in fact, quite the contrary: for a three hundred metre radius around the giant oblong fruit, you find it hard pressed to locate a single square of land not being squatted on by an emo teenager. In light of this, you and the Teddies decide to ditch the car nearby and try to approach the landmark by foot. You find the parking ground filled with paraphernalia relevant to the Big Banana's previous position as a commercial venture. In particular, you uncover several large logos of past sponsors and investors strewn across the lot.

