

SOFT GRASS

By Danielle Brame Whiting

Primo and Shane lie on their backs in the park.

SHANE

Hey Preem?

PRIMO

Yeah?

SHANE

You know how your older brother is called Mark?

PRIMO

I am familiar with his name, yes.

SHANE

Is it short for Marko?

PRIMO

Nope. It's just Mark. Why?

SHANE

Well, your name is Primo, which sounds Italian to me. So, I thought Mark might be Marko or something Italian.

PRIMO

My grandmother named me.

SHANE

Is she Italian?

PRIMO

Nope. She is fifth generation Australian.

SHANE

Italian heritage?

PRIMO

Nope. Her Great Great Great grandparents came out here from northern England. A heritage that consists of the yoke of the oppressed working class and the curse to forever cook bland beige food.

SHANE

So, where'd she get the idea from?

PRIMO

I don't think she got it from anywhere. She just liked the name.

SHANE

Nah, there is always a place that the idea comes from. Like, my mum called my younger sister Savannah because she read some old book about Savannah in America, and she thought that would sound pretty on a girl. The idea must come from somewhere.

PRIMO

Savannah is a pretty name. How'd you get Shane?

SHANE

Some movie that made mum cry. It's dumb.

PRIMO

Have you seen it?

SHANE

The movie?

Primo nods.

Nah. It's probably sappy and romantic, knowing my mum.

PRIMO

I think it's cool. Mine didn't come from anything as cool as that.

SHANE

But she did get the idea from somewhere, didn't she?

PRIMO

Yep. She did get it from somewhere.

SHANE

And you do know where she got it from?

Primo nods, but fails to answer.

SHANE

Well?

PRIMO

What is it about lying in this grass that makes you feel like confessing things? Every time we come to this park we end up confessing crap to each other.

SHANE

It's because the grass is so soft.

PRIMO

It is soft, isn't it? I could fall asleep here.

SHANE

Sits up to confront Primo.

Stop changing the subject. It's a simple question. Where'd ya nan get the idea to name you Primo?

PRIMO

Sausage.

SHANE

What?

PRIMO

It's a sausage brand. Primo. I was named after a selection of pork products.

SHANE

Looks at Primo, amused, then thinks for a moment.

Still, better than a stupid movie.

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Danielle Brame Whiting

danielle@pedestriangredients.com.au

www.pedestriangredients.com.au

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