Let Us Grow!

Five friends grew strong and tall together: Coral, Butter, Curly, Rom, and Little Gem.

With round good nature they met the breezy adventures of youth; then one day Curly sought her ancestry.

With excited abandon the five searched and shared.

Little Gem shrieked, "Romaine and I must be kissing cousins! Even fully grown, I'll look like her as a young'un."

Romaine good naturedly shrugged, but kept quiet.

Coral stoically said, "Well I'm no Lollo in *my eyes,* but," with a complacent shake she finished, "I do like my tight, frilly curls."

Butter smiled and just said she liked the distinction of being an Oak Leaf.

But Curly, she shook with frustration. Everybody else got to know where they belonged but her? A Cress? An Endive?

She was still aquiver when that afternoon: *snip, snip,* and all five found their way into the salad bowel.

In the name of Decency.

"Robert," Tyler said, "I'm really worried about this woman. She is doing uneven reps on her legs."

"Maybe she has a muscle imbalance that she's correcting?"

"Well I think it is odd. She refuses to speak to me, but if you talk to her, as the gym owner... I mean, what if something happens and you are held liable?"

"Tyler," Robert sighed. "She is using the equipment correctly, yes?

"Yes?" Robert firmly questioned again.

With a grunt Tyler assented.

"Has she asked anyone at the gym for any guidance on workout routines?"

"No," Tyler began, but Robert cut in, "Then leave her be."

"Well, excuse me for caring," Tyler muttered heading for the door.

"About who?" Robert asked.

"I care about people, okay!" Tyler stormed. "And so should you. It's only decent."

"The question is," Robert stated calmly, "who do you care about? This woman who's refused your nosiness? You? Who? Who is this about?"

Diary of an August Invasion

August 6

Erin agrees these 3 are the roommates from hell. Hello! rent is due on the 1st and mid-week parties until 2am?!

August 10

Started a blackberry ferment today. Step one of: *Invasion* of the Eek.

August 15

Fruit flies now here. First eek comment. Next blackberry ferment begun.

August 21

Third blackberry ferment started. Roommates mad at growing fruit fly cloud. "Eek! Eek! Eek!" they shriek, shriek, shriek.

September 10

T moved in with some dude. L's with them. S is hanging tough but Erin and I just talk of new ferments we want to do and make the blackberry.

September 24

S is gone. Bottled all the blackberry drink.

September 28

Toasted the dying fruit flies and our freedom with the blackberry all day. Mandy & Carmen will move in Oct 1st.

Thank you mighty cloud!

Blackberry Ferment Recipe

Pick about 1 gallon of blackberries, this should be the amount left *after* you²ve eaten your fill; if you need to buy them, a half-flat or a bit more. If you have the luxury of biking them around - in a closed, sealed container - in the hot sun, do it. Put berries straight into a full-size crockpot.

Add honey/sugar to taste. Until you know your taste: for soda, add nothing; otherwise, start by eyeballing an amount that looks like about a cup. In either case, you can add more later, if needed. For taste and it's also additional food for the yeast.

Fill crockpot with water until about 1 inch from top. Cover only with cheesecloth or a fine sieve (keeps flies out). Stir vigorously at least each morning and night; several times per day is best.

Once bubbling, it is a ferment. Let go a few hours to a day or so for soda. Several days, etc. for a mild alcoholic drink.

Strain. To be drunk immediately; considerations such as explosions, if you bottle it.

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Stories

- 2. In the name of 1. Let Us Grow!
- Invasion (plus the 3. Diary of an August Decency
- 4. To Taste Blackberry Ferment Recipe)
- 6. The Visit (best read 5. A Mix (best read aloud)
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2021 January 22 - February 16 Stories Written

The Visit

Lying fround upon the punoj əys Wondered at some things 'umop Saw the sights both up and Maggie wandered round the

ground;

this? She pondered: what ritual is amiss, Weat and tidy, nothing .bnuoì Like presents waiting to be ground Knotted bags upon the

One colored vegetation 'uəəsun She s tepped on a bag squealing hisssssss; She suddenly gave a this As she pondered more on

8 seeu With a spin away from the green.

Smelly, goopy dog shit! smeared with IT, She saw her steps were - ¡uəəsun And hoping shead remained

XIM A

With a deepish sigh which I replied, "In Crete." I was asked by Phinn. To "So where have you deen?" no need to beat a retreat!" you are much too thin, Sam called, "Scoot on in, and a reason to take a seat. is a pleasant sight A taste delight

and plenty of meat. the rest of the day with ale We chattered away

relaxed in the pleasant heat.

and a rub to my thigh, I

rain to a sleet." get mauled! It's gone from a 'Til I heard called, "Don't

.1991 murmured Sam as rose to his that'll give some kicks," "We'll have a wintry mix,

eat?" mix, is this to drink or elation, I asked, "Wintry In anticipation, of gustatory

mix sounds like salty sticks "Why," I cried, "a wintry snow and rain and sleet." maw, Phinn gasped, "It's With a guffaw from a gaping

and nuts in a jar to eat!"

To Taste

With weather chit and Lynn," turned and smiled, "Why, hi, Starting, Carol Anne "Carol Anne Swindon."

With a thoughtful look, head. rueful shake of Carol Anne's Saturday?" which prompted a coming over for dinner Lynn said, "How about nearly to self-checkout when teaching chat the two were

Put on the spot, Carol terrible?" conversations was the food so Since you seem to enjoy our ON' , yes syswls uoy won with me twice last year, but Lynn said, "You had dinner

asked, "And Green Indian With grave reserve, Lynn comfort food in my family." I'm mean, not for me; they're belong in lasagna or quiche, "It's just that meat doesn't Anne confessed with a blush,

with, "And you must try my delight when Lynn finished Carol Anne's smile was of Curry with shrimp on rice?"

friend. And Saturday was on. then rueful look at her Carol Anne after a careful, busted out laughing - as did At her friend's gulp, Lynn

carrot, pea jello dessert."