

FAUST IS DEAD

Mark Ravenhill

DONNY: My name is Donny and I cut myself. I had a big smile when I was a kid and my tongue was always red and my lips were always red and my teeth were always red. That was on account of my mom. See, she worked nights in the store and so I'd go there after school, hang out with my mom 'til like six in the morning and every hour or so she'd say: 'Donny, you want something?' 'Yes, Mom. I'm thirsty.' 'What you want, Donny?' 'Want a slushie, Mommy.' 'Well, you help yourself, Donny, you go right ahead and you take whatever you want.'

And I'd go right up to the slushie machine, press that cardboard cup in the hole ... and I always had cherry. Never even gave anything else a try, because it was always cherry I wanted. Wasn't so much as curious about the other choices. So, six, seven, eight cherry slushies every night your teeth and your tongue and your mouth get pretty red. Got so some guys called me Red Mouth Donny and some guys who didn't know me so well just called me Red. Which I liked. Then one day, the slushie machine was taken away. Some guy from the company just took it away. I think maybe the owner of the store hadn't kept up the payments, but he wasn't letting on. And I felt so bad and no one could tell me why and by this time I wasn't a kid any more. I was like eleven, twelve years of age, but that hit me so bad. And I started to cuss the teachers and the cussing led to fighting with the teachers and that's when Momma said she couldn't cope with me any more and I had to move away from her. Saw her a few times at the hospital because they wanted to study us on account of some professor who had a theory that it was something in all those slushies that made me angry with the teachers and something in the fluorescent light in the store that gave Momma her cancer. I reckon that's not true and those things just happened to us and that maybe if I get to ask Jesus one day he'll let me know. Jesus had quite a few cuts too by the end and I reckon he understands why I do this to myself.