

The Chip Butty Delicacy

by

Clare Louise Roberts

JODIE, A WOMAN IN HER 20S IS EXPLAINING TO HER AUSTRALIAN HOUSEMATE WHAT A CHIPPY BUTTY IS.

JODIE:      Do you want some tea? No food, come see... What do you mean 'What am I doing to those chips?' I'm making a chip butty! Why, what did you think I was doing, like? No this isn't like the chicken balls. But you liked 'em didn't ya? See. Do you have something similar in Australia? No Chip butties...Chip butties are much better than chicken balls it's like...it's like a sandwich - it's a - it's a sandwich, yeah. (SIGH, TUT) BUT they're not just a sandwich. They're better. They are glorious. This one's not the same though cos they're not fresh they're yesterday's takeaway chips...But made with fresh chips, oven cooked, takeaway doesn't matter. There's nothing better than 'em honestly. Bit of ketchup, bit of salt. Done. Beautiful...Some people have chips and they add gravy and - Yeah I know, those people are sick let me tell ya. Mind you, did you try that curry sauce I got last night?

(PAUSE)

Honestly, chips and the Chinese takeaway's curry sauce, it's brilliant. Yes, curry sauce! You just gotta try it and you'll see. Go on have a bite of mine and see if you like it.

(HANDS PLATE. PAUSE)

Are you serious don't take a photo of it. What are you like, you're not going to put that on Instagram are you? It's really not worth it really, people will think you're stupid. Because no one Instagrams potatoes that's why. No, not even on your stories. Stop it. Not everything's a chance for a caption ya know. Give it back if you're not gonna try it before it gets cold. It's really... (TAKES PLATE BACK) Look you're getting way too excited about sandwiches, yeah they are amazing but also like no one thinks, like they're really nothing special, it's just your average tea if you fancy some variety to the sides of your meal, or - yeah I know I'm only eating the chip butty on its own - as my meal - but yeah but it's leftovers alright? So what if that's all I want for tea, you know I don't have a big appetite. No one's gonna like that photo, they'll just be like 'Why did you put up that...? Hashtags? (LAUGHS) Getaway with ya..! I dunno... Hashtag this-is-a-stupid-picture? Hashtag average-housemate-dinner? (LAUGHS) Hashtag Australia-has-sun-but-it-don't-have-this?' (LAUGHS) You're thinking too much about this. Nooo, no, like, listen right - it's a British tradition, this is British cuisine, this is a delicacy, my friend. Have you ever tried it? Just try one, go on. I'll make you one? Do you want one? Ok try mine then and if you like it then I'll make you one. (HANDS OVER PLATE) Oh! We

should do a food night where like, you make your traditional meals and I'll make you mine, ooh that would be so fun what do you think? And you can tell us some stories why your food is what you 'ave and I'll tell you about ours growing up.

(PAUSE)

What do you think then?

(TAKES PLATE BACK. PAUSE)

Not bad eh? Shall I make you one? No? Fair enough, more chips in the kitchen if you want some. Right.

(PAUSE)

You making what?... A Chip Butties salad?! Like what, no, that's not a thing, you can't make a chip butty salad that defeats the... Oh - she's off. Can't stop a woman when she puts her mind to something... Yeah, you butter the bread. Yeah, I like brown too, but for this, it's gotta be white. It just does, it makes it taste better. Trust me, who - who is the chip butty expert here? NO what are you doing you don't add vinegar you mad? That stuff reeks. No...*Ketchup* you add *ketchup!* (COVERS EYES TO LOOK AWAY) Nooo. (DEEP BREATH AND SIGH) No, you don't need anything else or it's not a - oh yeah, sure why not? Just do whatever.

Yep add vinegar with the ketchup, why not. Eh, why not add mayonnaise whilst you're there? That'll really bring out the flavour in the lettuce. Oh, you want - you want cherry tomatoes instead of ketchup? (SHORT SIGH) Yeah sure why not?

(PAUSE)

Finished? Oh, it doesn't smell like a glorious chip butty should I'll tell you that now. No, I think it was the err... the everything you added to it. Yeah. Look at you sitting there with yer mountain of chips just, you can't even call 'em chips at this point - Mashed 'em - you've mashed 'em and - oh and you've bloody chicken balls of course. Mixed up with your mayonnaise and lettuce. Lovely. Are you happy?

(PAUSE)

Yeah culinary queen you are... Yeah... Mmm! (LAUGHING SCOFF) Nah mate there's no way you're getting me to eat that. You're joking, aren't you? You can't call it a Chip Butties Salad you've not made a new meal you've made a chip crime. No, I don't want your chicken balls and cherry tomatoes and I hate vinegar! (LAUGHS) I dunno, I don't know. You enjoy your mess. Just let me eat my food in peace alright?