

A Recipe for Diaster

Hilary Clarke

1. The cupcakes are too dry.
2. Meticulously mix the food colouring into the icing. Make six different colours, and don't let yourself spill any of the green into the orange.
3. Be sure to set some icing aside—that's not the right shade of purple.
4. Your hands are shaking so much that it's almost impossible to apply the icing. You drop three of the cupcakes into the rubbish bin (because they look delicious, but even the thought of eating one right now makes you feel sick) before you're satisfied with the lettering.
5. Ice six cupcakes, each one a colour of the rainbow.
6. Call your parents over.
7. Try for a "surprise!", but your voice will crack around the edges and it comes out far too weakly. "I like girls."
8. Watch your father piece the letters together: "I-M-G-A-Y... I'm gay."
9. Watch your careful icing smear across the linoleum floor.
10. Don't cry.
11. Apologise.
12. Don't cry
13. Later, pick up the crumbs.
14. Cry.