

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



# Anxious but not Alarmed

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by Scott McAteer

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EXTRACT

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**Anxious but not Alarmed**

**By**

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Characters:

Geoff Manne: An Alcoholic who makes calls to the terrorist hotline.

Genevieve Barnaby: A social worker. Very experienced, very bitter and cynical.

Jenny Quillan: A social worker. Genevieve's junior, naïve and well intentioned.

*A MAN IS SITTING IN A SQUALID FLAT. THERE IS A TEA-POT AND THREE CUPS WITH SAUCERS, A TEA-TOWEL, AND A FRUIT CAKE WITH A LARGE KNIFE ARE ON A SMALL TABLE. TWO WELL DRESSED WOMEN ARRIVE TO SEE HIM ONE OF THEM CARRYS A FILE IN A MANILLA FOLDER. A DOORBELL RINGS. HE RISES TO LET THEM IN.*

MANNE

Hello?

JENNY

Hello. Mr Manne? Mr Geoff Manne? We're from the government.

MANNE

Come in, come in. I've been waiting for you to come. You're just in time for afternoon tea, a cuppa and some cake. It's about him isn't it?

GENEVIEVE

Indeed it is.

MANNE

I knew you'd get him, I've been watching him. Like a good citizen. Alert but not alarmed. Where are you from? ASIO? Department of defence? I suppose you can't say

GENEVIEVE

We're from the department of Social Services. My name is Genevieve Barnaby; this is my junior Jenny Quillan. We're social workers.

MANNE

Social workers? Why send social workers?

GENEVIEVE

Mr Man, in the last 18 months you've made 1,482 calls to the terrorist hotline.