

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Are You Happy?

by Scott McAteer

EXTRACT

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Characters:

Tom: A troubled man seeking help

Mr Price: A man who claims to be a self-help work-shop facilitator

Ms Price: An actual self-help work-shop facilitator

TOM IS SITTING IN AN ADULT LEARNING CLASSROOM OR A MEETING ROOM. MR PRICE ENTERS MUTTERING ANGRILY.

MR PRICE

God damn stupid freak people. God damn it.
Killing's too good for them.

TOM

Hello.

MR PRICE

What!?

TOM

Oh, nothing I-

MR PRICE

(To man) Remind me when it's 9 o'clock will you;
I've got to move my car and screwdriver a few
tires.

TOM

Are you here for the self help class?

MR PRICE

Well, I'm not here for the atmosphere.

TOM

Good for you. I guess we're just waiting for the
teacher to get here.

MR PRICE GIVES TOM A LONG, HARD LOOK.

MR PRICE

I am the teacher.

TOM

Oh sorry, I-

MR PRICE

Look, just let me get into the right head-space.

MR PRICE FACES AWAY FROM TOM AND THE AUDIENCE. BREATHES DEEPLY.

MR PRICE

God damn it! Somebody save me from these freakin' losers!

MR PRICE TURNS BACK TO MAN WITH A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT DEMEANOUR. HE GIVES TOM A WARM SMILE.

MR PRICE

Hi there everyone, welcome to the "Happiness through Peace, Love and Understanding" workshop. I'm your mentor, Richard, but you can call me Mr Price. Before we get started I do have copies of my new book "Loving the Inner Dolphin" available for purchase at only \$9.95...

PAUSE. MR PRICE LOOKS AT TOM

MR PRICE

Perhaps you'd like one?

TOM

I can't really afford it.

MR PRICE

Sometimes we need to spend money on ourselves to grow as a person.

TOM

I don't have any cash on me.

MR PRICE

Credit card?