

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



# Last Seen Entering

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by Patricia Harris

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EXTRACT

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LAST SEEN ENTERING.

CAST:           In order of appearance.

RICK:           A tough looking young man. Eighteen to mid  
                  twenties.

EDDIE:          As above.

LAURA:         Attractive, neat, young woman. Any age  
                  from late teens to late twenties.

WOMAN:         Middle-aged. Friendly and motherly looking.

NEWSCASTER'S  
VOICE:          Heard off. Male or Female.

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LAST SEEN ENTERING.

A LONELY BUS STOP AT FOWLER'S LOOKOUT.

THERE IS A TELEPHONE BOX [R]. ALL GLASS IS MISSING. SOME PIECES LAY SCATTERED AROUND THE BASE. THERE ARE TWO BENCH SEATS MIDWAY BETWEEN [CS] AND [DSC]. A BUS STOP IS [DSL] WITH A LITTER-BIN NEARBY. CAR PARK AND PATH TO LOOKOUT ARE OFF [USL].

TIME: EARLY EVENING. ABOUT THIRTY-FIVE MINUTES BEFORE DARK.

AS THE CURTAIN RISES RICK AND EDDIE ARE PLAYING SOCCER WITH AN EMPTY SOFT DRINK CAN. THEY ARE AGED BETWEEN EIGHTEEN AND TWENTY-FOUR. WEARING TORN JEANS, T'SHIRTS WITH APPROPRIATE SLOGANS AND HEAVY BOOTS. THEY HAVE SHORT HAIR AND POSSIBLY TATTOOS. THEIR APPEARANCE IS TOUGH AND MENACING. THERE IS A SCRUFFY SPORTS BAG RESTING AGAINST BENCH [L] OF CENTRE. A RADIO OR GHETTO BLASTER IS ON THE SEAT. GROWING TIRED OF THE GAME EDDIE SPRAWLS ON THE BENCH BESIDE RADIO. RICK ENTERS TELEPHONE BOX.

RICK: [from box] Looks like somebody's been busy in here. [he steps out of phone box with receiver in his hand. The cord has been cut] Can't call a cab on this, Eddie. Looks like we'll have to wait for the bus after all.

EDDIE: The bus ain't due for at least an hour, Rick. What are we supposed to do for an hour?

RICK: [shrugs] It's wait or walk. [puts receiver back and joins EDDIE on bench.] What's it to be?

RICK: How long does it take to walk to Jimmy's?  
[as he speaks he reaches out and turns on the radio which is not tuned in, and emits a garbled noise.]

RICK: More than an hour. We could start walking and try to hitch a ride.

EDDIE ADJUSTS THE TUNING DIAL AND PICKS UP A NEWS BROADCAST.

NEWSCASTER'S VOICE:

At today's inquest into the death of eighteen-year-old Miranda Thompson, forensic experts revealed that at least two people were involved in the crime. Miranda's body was found four weeks after she was reported missing by her family. [pause] According to information just received, Miranda was last seen entering... [newsreader is cut off as RICK reaches out and turns the radio off.]

RICK: Well, Eddie, what's it to be? Are we hitching or not?

EDDIE: [seeing LAURA enter UL] Things are looking up, Rick. Maybe we'll wait for the bus after all.

SEEING THE YOUNG MEN SPRAWLED ON THE BENCH, LAURA APPROACHES DIFFIDENTLY. CLEARLY NERVOUS ABOUT SPENDING TIME ALONE WITH THEM AT THE BUS STOP, SHE HAS NO OTHER CHOICE. NEATLY DRESSED, YOUNG, AND ATTRACTIVE, LAURA IS CARRYING A SMALL SUITCASE, A HANDBAG, AND A MAGAZINE. MOVING TO THE UNOCCUPIED BENCH [R] SHE SITS AS FAR RIGHT AS POSSIBLE, PLACING HER SUITCASE ON THE SEAT SO THAT IT IS BETWEEN HERSELF AND THE MEN ON THE OTHER BENCH: IGNORING THE YOUNG MEN, SHE OPENS THE MAGAZINE AND TRYS TO READ.

RICK: [swivelling round to look at LAURA]  
You might be right at that, Eddie. The wait may not be as boring as we thought. [to LAURA] Waiting for the Riverdale bus, darling?

LAURA: [without looking up] It looks like it.

RICK: Ah! It talks.