

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Welcome to my Planet

by Patricia Harris

EXTRACT

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WELCOME TO MY PLANET:

THE PLAY IS SET IN THE KITCHEN OF AN OLD FARMHOUSE. THERE IS A SINK AND WORKTOP ALONG CENTRE BACK. AN OLD STOVE UL. THERE IS A LARGE WOODEN TABLE AND SIX CHAIRS DCL. A SHABBY EASY CHAIR SITS DCR. THERE IS A KITCHEN TIDY BIN, AND A DUSTPAN AND BRUSH, ON THE FLOOR NEAR SINK. EVERYTHING LOOKS A LITTLE RUN DOWN.

Time: The present.

SCENE ONE: Mid afternoon.

SCENE TWO: An hour later.

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WELCOME TO MY PLANET:

CAST: In order of appearance.

ANGELA: An attractive and pleasant young woman, recently married into a new way of life. Angela is quite chic, and through no fault of her own, looks out of place in her new, less than affluent surroundings.

MARY: A country woman. Middle aged. Angela's nearest neighbour, friend, and confidanté.

BILLY: Angela's brother-in-law. A young man of twenty-four, who, due to a childhood accident, has the mind of a seven-year-old.

PAUL: Angela's husband. A hardworking young man whose recent marriage is beginning to bring back bad memories.

KEVIN: Mary's husband, and Paul's friend.

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SCENE 1: Mid afternoon. As curtain rises BILLY is seen playing on the floor, with a cardboard box, and a number of toy cars and trucks. He is whizzing cars about, making appropriate brmm and crash noises. ANGELA is standing with a folded tablecloth in her hands. The cloth is lace, or heavily embroidered. A special occasion cloth. Too fancy for afternoon tea on an ordinary working day. MARY is by the sink, pouring hot water into a fancy china teapot.

ANGELA: [shaking out the cloth she throws it over the table] What do you think of this, Mary? I found it in one of the cupboards, along with the china. They must have belonged to Paul's mother.

MARY: They're all very fine. I haven't seen this teapot in years. Stella liked to have nice things around her. Not that she had much.

ANGELA: The teapot was hidden away with everything else. It seems a pity to keep such nice things shut up in a cupboard.

MARY: [as ANGELA carries a tray of delicate cups and saucers, sideplates, sugar bowl and milk jug to the table, and sets them out] They certainly make the place look festive. Almost as if it was a special occasion.

ANGELA: It is a special occasion. You've come for afternoon tea. And Kevin's going to join us don't forget.

MARY: Hmm. Probably covered in mud. I don't know if we deserve all this, Angie.