

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



# Trembling

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by Cas Anderson

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EXTRACT

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# Trembling

*In the beginning, the audience devise a spell which will later be used to put the palace kitchen staff in a trance*

## 1. Grandma introduces her family

*Grandma alone, knitting Trembling's jumper. She makes up a song as she knits.*

### **Grandma**

Trembling!

In over through off .

Trembling!

In over through off .

Can you knit? It's a bit tricky isn't it? Plain and purl, cast on, cast off, don't get your wool in a knot.

In over through off .

It's a jumper. I'm knitting a jumper for my granddaughter Trembling and now I need to measure her.

Trembling!

I've knitted bathers for Fair, underpants for Brown and now I'm making a jumper for Trembling. Fair, Brown and Trembling. They're my three granddaughters - Fair, Brown, and Trembling.

I still remember them being born, bless them. Brown was born in the bush, dropped into the dirt on her noggin, she was all brown, covered in dirt, dead leaves sticking out of her bottom, stinky, pooey kind of girl, nasty, not a kind word for anyone.

Fair popped out at the Sunday market. There she was in the vegie basket, nearly sold as a pumpkin! Oo that Fair. That girl spends her whole life flirting with herself in the mirror. I might knit a cover for that mirror!

Now Trembling, she was a lovely wobbly cuddly pudgy baby, she'd lie on her back in her little knitted nappy, we'd whack her on the tummy and she'd be all of a trembling. Her father spoils her, and her sisters bully her, what she really needs is more time with Grandma.

Trembling!

I could teach her the words to my new song.

In over through off

Cast on cast off

Don't get your wool in a knot

Knit knit

## 2. Meet Fair and Brown

*The sisters enter and sing at the same time as Grandma, who tries to sing louder than them*

### **Fair and Brown**

We are Barbie girls, in a Barbie world etc etc

### **Grandma**

In over through off

Cast on cast off  
Don't get your wool in a knot  
Knit knit.

**Fair and Brown**

Gran!

**Fair**

Stop that howling!

**Brown**

What have we told you? You're not to make a noise. Now say it after me.

**Brown**

I'm not to make a noise.

**Grandma**

I'm not to make a noise.

**Fair**

If you make a noise we won't let you live in the house. You'll have to live in the shed next to the laundry.

**Brown**

Silly gran.

**Fair**

Bad gran. Get out.

**Brown**

Good grans aren't seen.

**Fair**

Good grans aren't heard.

**Fair**

Stupid old cow.

*Granma has left. The sisters see their reflections in the mirror*

**Brown**

Oh Fair you're so cute!

**Fair**

I know.

**Brown**

Your hair -

**Fair**

I know -

**Brown**

Your arms -

**Fair**

I know -

**Brown**

Your eyes -

**Fair**

I know -

**Brown**

Your legs -

**Fair**

I know I know I know. I'm so cute I make myself cry.

**Brown**

Oh!

**Fair**

What?

**Brown**

I just noticed my hands. I've got really cool hands.

**Fair**

You have.

**Brown**

And my feet, they're so small.

**Fair**

They are.

**Brown**

I really do look like Barbie.

**Fair and Brown**

*Singing* We are Barbie girls in a Barbie world.

**Fair**

I wish I could marry myself.

**Fair and Brown**

God we're gorgeous!

**Brown**

Fair, I've got you a present. *Brings out tiny backpack.* Of course I couldn't find anything as cute as you.

**Fair**

Thanks Brown. I've got something for you too! *Brings out tiny backpack.*

**Brown**

Thanks Fair! It's so cute! I love it on you.

**Fair**

I love it on you too.

**Brown**

And they're just big enough for our -

**Fair and Brown**

- mirrors!

**Brown**

We really are wonderful aren't we? We're the cutest sisters in the school!

**Fair**

Pity about Trembling.

**Brown**

AHH don't say that word.

**Fair**

she's a disgrace

**Brown**

She's embarrassing

**Fair**

It makes me so angry when I think of her. Why us? Why us? What did we do to deserve a sister like that?

**Fair**

I hate her.

**Brown**

If it wasn't for Trembling life would be perfect.

**Fair**

Don't frown Brown, you'll get wrinkles.

**Brown**

Look, look.

**Fair**

Oh there I am again. I feel good when I see me.

**Brown**

Me too.