

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



# Back Pocket

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by Michael Jeffery

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EXTRACT

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“BACK POCKET”

BY MICHAEL JEFFERY

[IT IS 12.35 AM ON A WEDNESDAY, IN AUGUST, 1997. OUR SCENE IS THAT OF A CRAMPED STORE ROOM IN A WELL KNOWN MELBOURNE CASINO. THERE IS A SMALL RUBBISH BIN DOWN STAGE CENTRE. IN DARKNESS, WE HEAR THE LOUD, PERCUSSIVE SOUNDS OF POKER MACHINES. AFTER APPROX. 25 SECONDS, THESE DECREASE IN VOLUME.]

NOTE: I'D SUGGEST THAT THE SOUNDS OF THE POKER MACHINES REMAIN AS BACKGROUND NOISE FOR THE REST OF THE PLAY.]

HELEN:  
[OFF] What, in here?

JOHNNY:  
[OFF] It's as good a place as any.

[HELEN AND JOHNNY ENTER, FORMALLY ATTIRED. JOHNNY SWITCHES ON THE LIGHTS.]

HELEN:  
How long we got?

[JOHNNY CHECKS HIS WATCH - THE AUDIENCE GET THEIR FIRST LOOK AT JOHNNY'S ROLEX.]

JOHNNY:  
Long enough.

[PAUSE]

HELEN:  
Any security cameras?

JOHNNY:  
Better check.

[THEY DO. PAUSE]

HELEN:  
Well?

JOHNNY:  
I'll wait 'till the others get here.

HELEN:  
O.K., but are you sure? [PAUSE, JOHNNY STARES AT HELEN] Sorry.

[ENTER KAREN AND PHILLIP, AGAIN DRESSED FORMALLY.  
KAREN'S OUTFIT IS NOTICEABLY LESS EXPENSIVE THAN THE  
OTHERS.]

KAREN:  
We came as soon as we heard.

PHILLIP:  
This better be good, I'm ten bucks up in blackjack. [SPOTS HELEN,  
LIKES WHAT HE SEES:] Oh hello [ABOUT HIMSELF:] Phillip Oats,  
Membership Drive Manager.

HELEN:  
[REMEMBERING THAT THE LAST TIME THEY MET, PHILLIP  
TRIED TO PINCH HER ON THE BUM] Yes I know, we met at the  
Guernsey Presentation, [POINTS TO HERSELF] Helen Kitson; Aussie  
Grain.

PHILLIP:  
[PAUSE, REMEMBERS] Oh yeah, sorry, I'm not much good at  
rememberin' sponsors.

JOHNNY:  
[TO HELEN:] I take it you know Karen.