

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Trapped

by Trudy Hellier

EXTRACT

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CAST

FRAN: 25 - 35 A woman currently living near a men's gaol.

JACKY: 20 - 30 Fran's new flat-Mate.

ANGUS: 30 - 40 A long term hardened prisoner.

MAT: 22 - 30 Angus's new cell Mate. A science teacher serving his first prison term. A specialist in home made bombs.

SETTING

The play is primarily set in two different spaces, a cell within a men's prison and a suburban flat next door to the prison where the two women are living. However, the action may be played out on an empty stage with the same space being used for different locations. These different locations can be indicated by lighting states.

PROPS

The necessary props are a suitcase, a small transistor radio and a screwdriver or some kind of rudimentary tool.

SCENE 1

Both interior men's cell and women's home

The play opens with a montage of the 4 characters moving in the space. Although they use the same stage area they are inhabiting different worlds. FRAN is showing JACKY the flat, ANGUS watches MAT in the cell. ANGUS and FRAN speak the opening line together, MAT and JACKY respond together. MAT and JACKY should end up center stage, FRAN and ANGUS on the periphery.

FRAN, ANGUS: So, What do you think?

MAT, JACKY: It's not bad

MAT moves towards the back of the stage, FRAN comes forward. The space becomes FRAN'S flat. A window should be established facing out towards the audience.

SCENE 2

Internal FRAN'S home

FRAN: Really?

JACKY: I like it.

FRAN: Yeah?

JACKY: I do, I really do apart from....

FRAN: What?

JACKY: That *(Points to the window)*

FRAN: It's sort of romantic.

JACKY: Yeah, you could say that.

FRAN: You don't like it.....

JACKY: It's so close

FRAN: No one ever does.

JACKY: Can you hear them? The inmates?

FRAN: Only when the wind changes.

JACKY: Why didn't you tell me?

FRAN: Experience. It's not some thing you advertise. "The view? To die for,

Prison's right there, you've got the bars, the screws, the razor wire.....

JACKY: Maybe it's worth the risk.

FRAN: Funny thing is it's actually a very safe place to live, maximum security, the whole areas crawling with cops.

JACKY: Do you ever see them?

FRAN: The cops?

JACKY: The men

FRAN: I try not to

JACKY: You must be able to hear them?

FRAN: Cheap rent, prisons and cemeteries. If you can only bare to live with them, you'll find yourself a real bargain.

JACKY: Why did the last person move out?

FRAN: Fell in love.

JACKY: Who with?

FRAN: Me.

SCENE 3

Interior men's cell

MAT has just entered the cell for the first time. He is very anxious, ANGUS on the other hand is at home, relaxed, enjoying the game. but at the same time he is trying to be threatening. The scene picks up from the first line in scene 1.

ANGUS: Not bad?

MAT That's what I said.

ANGUS Mate; Best on the block. Position, Position, Position. Took me three bloody years to get this cell an' I'm not gonna share it with just any one. Picked you very carefully.

MAT Why, why did you choose me?

ANGUS Liked your crime.

MAT Explosive?

ANGUS You could say that, "Explosive"

MAT It's not funny

ANGUS Mate. Who's laughing?

SCENE 4

Interior Women's Flat

Jacky Who were you looking for?

FRAN I don't know....someone I could trust.

JACKY Can you trust me?

FRAN That's a bloody good question.

JACKY Why did you ask me?

FRAN Tell you the truth, you're the only one who applied.

JACKY Can they see us? The inmates

FRAN: No...Not a chance.

SCENE 5

Interior Men's Cell

MAT What can you see from the window?

ANGUS Ah now that my friend is the beauty of this place, reason I sold my soul to get this cell. That my friend.....Is heaven!

MAT So, what can you see?

ANGUS Women!

SCENE 6

Interior women's home. JACKY is still looking out the window.

JACKY Have you ever been in there? Seen them?

FRAN Oh yeah. Once or twice.