

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre

Destiny of a Car Crash

by Elise McCredie

EXTRACT

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This script is distributed by The Australian Script Centre
77 Salamanca Place Hobart 7004 Tasmania Australia
email admin@ozscript.org
www.ozscript.org
ph +61 3 6223 4675
fax +61 3 6223 4678

CAST

WOMAN– A woman in her late thirties, early forties

MAN– Her husband, in his late thirties, early forties

GIRL - Their teenage daughter. 17 -19 years

All other characters to be played by the three actors.

STAGING

A double bed

3 spots of light downstage. These are the three characters worlds outside the home. The Library, The Bank, and The Share House. When any of the 3 characters appear in their spotlight the other character in the scene is played by one of the other actors. Lines are thrown into the scene from darkness. At any one time the audience sees only one character.

1. IN BED

Silence.

She lies in bed. He stands looking out the window.

MAN: I was thinking . . .

WOMAN: Really?

MAN: That we should have a holiday somewhere . . .

WOMAN: Hot and sandy.

MAN: Yes.

WOMAN: Yes.

Pause

WOMAN: Oh shit!

MAN: What?

WOMAN: I forgot to buy talcum powder.

MAN: You what?

WOMAN: I forgot . . .

MAN: I heard you.

WOMAN: I'm sorry.

MAN: You know I need talcum powder. I've got a really big day tomorrow.

WOMAN: Yes. Meeting of the board. Need to smell your best.

MAN: Actually yes.

WOMAN: And all this time I thought you ate club sandwiches and talked about the All Ordinaries.

MAN: What?

WOMAN: When really you just sniff each other for allegiances and betrayals. Like dogs on the beach in summer.

Pause

MAN: Thailand. We could go to Thailand.

He gets into bed.

Pause

WOMAN: Goodnight

MAN: Goodnight

Pause

MAN: What's the matter?

WOMAN: Nothing

MAN: I'm not stupid

WOMAN: Nothing's the matter.

MAN: Well if you want to say anything I'm listening.

Pause

OK?

WOMAN: Mmmm

(He starts to make sexual advances towards her)

WOMAN: I couldn't teach properly today.

MAN: Why not?

(His rhythm continues throughout dialogue)

WOMAN: I don't know. I was standing in the studio, instructing demi-plies, surrounded by 7 year old girls and I kept seeing that pink bicycle helmet bobbing up and down amongst them. Up and down. Up and down. I couldn't get it out of my head. What good is teaching little girls demi-plies I kept thinking. They should be learning judo or karate or kickboxing or I