

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Life Drawing

by Julia Lewis

EXTRACT

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LIFE DRAWING

Characters

KIT, a man in his early thirties

RAYMOND, a conservative man in his late forties

SCENE: Life Drawing Class.

KIT and RAYMOND are sitting side by side, sketching.

KIT People always say they can't draw when they can.

RAYMOND doesn't answer.

KIT It's a continuing class isn't it? You can enter at any time during the eight weeks. There's no "week one".

RAYMOND nods.

KIT How long have you been here?

RAYMOND Six weeks.

KIT This is my second week.

RAYMOND I know.

KIT I came last week. I sat over there. When she took her clothes off, I felt so embarrassed. I thought over there was the safest spot. I was afraid, isn't that strange?
Scared.

RAYMOND Of what?

- KIT A complete stranger, exposed. A woman lying naked on a sheet of butchers paper. And me, a stick of charcoal in my hand.
- RAYMOND Would you rather draw pieces of fruit?
- KIT No, no, no. The human form is so much more beautiful. It's more that I'm afraid of showing anyone what I've drawn. Of trying to express more than I can.
- RAYMOND I see.
- KIT I don't think you do.
- They continue sketching.
- KIT If I murdered someone, say, I'd be afraid... Not that it would be wrong, not that it would be right, but that it would go unnoticed. No justice, no god, no sanity. No one to bring understanding to such horror.
- RAYMOND You'd better not kill anyone then.
- KIT No. (pause) That's very good.
- RAYMOND Thank you.
- KIT It's light. It's got movement. It reveals something about you.
- RAYMOND What?
- KIT That you have a grasp of complexities. Even if simple truths pass you by. (pause) You are impervious to pain, insensitive perhaps, you do not suffer, why should someone else? (pause) Do you mind me making judgements like that?
- RAYMOND Not at all.
- KIT It amuses you?
- RAYMOND shrugs.