

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Drapes

by Stephen House

EXTRACT

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DRAPES

CHARACTERS

Peyton: Around 40

Jake: Around 17

Estelle: Around 70

Babe: Around 70

Myles: Around 45

Set

In an old inner city house in an Australian city

SCENE 1

(PEYTON IS PACING THE ROOM, DRESSED UP, NERVOUSLY DRINKING AND SMOKING. JAKE IS IN HIS CORNER PLAYING PLAYSTATION / COMPUTER)

PEYTON: You know I'm trying.

JAKE: Yeh.

PEYTON: I can't do anymore.

JAKE: Mum...

PEYTON: I'm worried Jake. If there was some way I could just--- know what

JAKE: I'm OK. Just shut up for a minute.

PEYTON: Don't speak to me like that Jake.

JAKE: Don't keep on then. (SILENCE)

PEYTON: If you went somewhere...just to talk.

JAKE: Don't start on that again. (SILENCE)

PEYTON: Jake.

JAKE: Yeh.

PEYTON: Myles has got two tickets for the football next week.

JAKE: So.

PEYTON: He'd love you to go with him.

JAKE: I'll see.

PEYTON: You never even go outside anymore. Why Jake? Why's it got to this now?

JAKE: I do so.

PEYTON: When?

JAKE: Last week.

PEYTON: That's right. I saw you, got the shock of my life. There was a bloody new game in the letterbox wasn't there. How did you get that game Jake... hey?

JAKE: I just did.

PEYTON: I bet Mum gave you the money. Didn't she?

JAKE: Maybe.

PEYTON: And you sent away for it didn't you? Sitting in her all day with them! It's not healthy for a boy. (SILENCE)

JAKE: Babe was on the roof this morning.

PEYTON: I've heard. Nothing surprises me round here anymore. (SILENCE / SHE GETS A DRINK) People are talking about her round here. (SILENCE) Jake.

JAKE: Yeh.

PEYTON: (SHE GOES TO HIM.) Remember when we climbed up the scaffolding the workmen set up at the flats?

JAKE: Yeh.

PEYTON: And we watched the fireworks in town. And we... hauled up that basket of food and drinks. (LAUGHS) We've done some things over the years you and me. Haven't we darling. We've had some good times together... haven't we Jake?

JAKE: Yeh. (SILENCE)

PEYTON: Sometimes I don't sleep for thinking about it.

JAKE: Seems like no one round here sleeps anymore.

PEYTON: (SHE GETS, THEN PASSES HIM PILLS AND WATER) Here. (JAKE TAKES THEM.)

PEYTON: These fucking games all morning. The feeling in this room! This bloody old house! Our lives! And her... what do I do about her? I don't know anymore. I'm on Valium myself now. Did you know that?

JAKE: Maybe we can swap pills when we're bored.

PEYTON: Maybe we can. (SHE LIGHTS A CIGARETTE AND GOES TO THE WINDOW) Huh! (WITH DISGUST) (SHE GOES TO SHUT THE DRAPES.)

JAKE: Don't shut them again. She's opened them twice today. You keep fucking shutting them.

PEYTON: Don't talk to me like that. (SHE DOESN'T SHUT THEM)

JAKE: What?

PEYTON: That... the fuck this, fuck that business.

JAKE: You do it.

PEYTON: I know. (SILENCE / SHE GETS ANOTHER DRINK) I'm sorry Jake. I don't mean to snap at you baby.

JAKE: It's OK. She likes them open. And it's her house.

PEYTON: As if I didn't know. (PACES AND DRINKS) I don't want you spending all of your time at the window.

JAKE: As if.

PEYTON: I saw you looking out.

JAKE: It's a fucking window. What do you expect?

PEYTON: It's not normal.

JAKE: What's normal?

PEYTON: That isn't.

JAKE: You'd know.

PEYTON: (SHE EXPLODES) Shut up Jake. For a moment just shut up.

JAKE: You. (SILENCE)

PEYTON: I saw that kid you used to go surfing with walking through town with his girlfriend. Why don't you give him a ring? I liked that crowd.

JAKE: You ring them then.

PEYTON: You all used to get on the bus with your surfboards. Remember the two girls that would go with you. I liked that blonde girl, the one who dressed like a hippie. She was keen on you. She's a model now. That's what he said. I knew she'd make something of herself that girl. She couldn't keep her eyes off you Jake. He still sees her.

I talked to him for quite awhile. He said he'd love to see you. You've still got your surfboard down the back. He still goes surfing. God, he's taller than me now. A boy turns onto a man in moments. You're nearly a man Jake.

JAKE: Wow. (KNOCK AT THE DOOR, PEYTON ANSWERS)

PEYTON: Hi... You're early. (ENTER MYLES)

MYLES: Hi hon. (THEY KISS)

PEYTON: Drink?

MYLES: Yeh. I've had a shit of day.

PEYTON: (GETTING DRINKS) You too? (THEY SIT ON THE SOFA)

MYLES: Hi Jake. (JAKE DOESN'T LOOK UP)

PEYTON: Jake, Myles said hello.

JAKE: Mm. (NOT LOOKING)

PEYTON: Don't be so rude...

JAKE: (STILL NOT LOOKING) Hello.

PEYTON: I'm dying to go out.

MYLES: Hon... something's come up... I can't stay for long. We're going to have to --- cancel.

PEYTON: Jesus Myles! I've been looking forward to a night out.

MYLES: It's unavoidable.

PEYTON: It would be.

MYLES: The business idea. That guy got here from Queensland.

PEYTON: Today?

MYLES: Yeh. I need to see him hon. He's going back in a couple of days.

PEYTON: You said we'd talk tonight.

MYLES: I want to.