

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



I'll Write to Richie Benaud

by Heather Nimmo

EXTRACT

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1 SCENE 1

2
3 FX CRICKET ON TV WITH RICHIE BENAUD COMMENTATING

4
5 FX SMALL INNER CITY FLAT ATMOS

6
7 HELEN (OFF)
8 Can you turn that down?

9
10 FX (OFF) TAPPING OF KEYS ON COMPUTER

11
12 HELEN I'm trying to finish this report.

13
14 FX (OFF) TAPPING STOPS

15
16 HELEN Michael!

17
18 MICHAEL (ON - OTHER END OF FLAT) What?

19
20 HELEN Can you turn that down?

21
22 MICHAEL But it's the cricket.

23
24 HELEN I know.
25 (COMING CLOSER)
26 (PLAYFUL) But this is a small flat. This is my small flat. And I
27 need to work.

28
29 MICHAEL You need to relax.

30
31 HELEN I promised I'd have that report done by Monday.

32
33 FX TV TURNED DOWN.

34
35 HELEN Thank you.

36
37 MICHAEL Don't I get more than that?

38
39 (THEY KISS)

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HELEN That do you?

MICHAEL More.

(LONGER KISS)

MICHAEL (MUFFLED) Could you move to your left a bit.

HELEN (BREAKING FREE) You're supposed to be kissing me. Not watching the cricket.

MICHAEL I'm multiskilled. I can do both.

HELEN 'I'll write to Richie Benaud.'

MICHAEL And tell him what?

HELEN It's what Steven says. When he's not happy. Or when he's got a problem.

MICHAEL Why Richie Benaud?

HELEN Listen to him.

FX RICHIE BENAUD SOUNDING VERY AUTHORITATIVE.

HELEN He sounds so calm. And reasonable. You could take any problem to him and he'd know what to do.

MICHAEL So what's your problem?

HELEN (BLOCKING) Or if someone asks Steven a question that he can't or won't answer. (MOVING AWAY) He moves his hand as if he's writing and says, 'I'll write to Richie Benaud'.

FX (OFF) COMPUTER KEYS TAPPING.

1 SCENE 2

2
3 FX CRICKET COMMENTARY ON TV CONTINUES. IT'S MUCH
4 LOUDER.

5
6 FX OLDER SUBURBAN HOUSE ATMOS. RATTLE OF CROCKERY.

7
8 MOTHER (APPROACHING) (A LITTLE BREATHLESS) There we are.
9 Another Coke for you Steven. Though why I should be running
10 after a big lad like you ... What do you say?

11
12 STEVEN Thank you.

13
14 MOTHER It's a pleasure. And I'll just sit myself down here on the couch

15
16 FX SHE ALMOST FALLS ONTO THE COUCH

17
18 MOTHER ... and enjoy my cup of coffee. And a cigarette.

19
20 FX MATCH FLARES.

21
22 MOTHER I know I shouldn't.

23
24 FX SHE TAKES A DRAG.

25
26 STEVEN Smoking bad.

27
28 MOTHER (PLAYFUL) So's your Coke.

29
30 STEVEN Rubbish.

31
32 MOTHER So it is. Makes you fat.

33
34 STEVEN Rubbish.

35
36 MOTHER What's the score?

37
38 STEVEN Ask him.

39

1 MOTHER Ask Richie Benaud?

2 STEVEN Yes. Ask him.

3

4 MOTHER Richie Benaud, can you please tell me the score?

5

6 FX COMMENTARY BY RICHIE BENAUD eg 'And Australia are four for
7 one hundred and fifty-two ...

8

9 STEVEN (LAUGHS AND MAKES HAPPY SOUND) Yes.

10

11 MOTHER (LAUGHS) You're not as silly as you look.
12 (GIVES A CRY OF PAIN.) Oh. Oh.

13

14 STEVEN What's wrong?

15

16 MOTHER Oh. Oh. My arm. Run next door and get Mrs Bowley.

17

18 STEVEN Ask him.

19

20 MOTHER Run next door.

21

22 STEVEN Ask him.

23

24 MOTHER Run. Steven. Run!

25