

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Me Cowboy You Indian

by Simon Froehling

EXTRACT

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**ME COWBOY
YOU INDIAN**

Characters TIM, 37
 MARK, 26
 MOTHER (Anne-Louise), 52
 LINDA, 28

Place Kitchen
 In TIM'S maisonette
 Until two months ago TIM and MARK lived there together
 A hallway leads from the kitchen to the front door and the other rooms
 The townhouse with the maisonette belongs to MARK'S MOTHER
 The MOTHER lives on the ground floor
 MARK'S sister LINDA and her baby live on the first floor

Artist's studio
 Belongs to a friend of MARK'S
 There is a mattress on the studio floor
 MARK has spent the last two months in the studio

1a

Four days later (day V)
The studio early in the morning
It's getting light outside

MARK and TIM haven't slept
They're sitting on the mattress facing each other
TIM'S shirt is lying next to them on the floor

MARK Scared

TIM Yeah

MARK Me too

TIM How do you wanna do it

MARK *Takes off his shirt*
Throws it on the floor

Me Cowboy
You Indian

TIM I wasn't being serious
I was –

MARK But I was
Right from the start

TIM Can't we do it differently

MARK What
Make love

TIM For example

MARK But we are
Cowboy

TIM And then you'll paint me

MARK That's what I said
Didn't I

TIM Blue
And red

MARK No
On a mustang

Into an endless prairie
Where there's nothing but the two of us

And a gun
Perhaps

TIM I didn't know you were that good

MARK At shooting

Leave that up to me
Greenhorn

Black

2

(Day 1)

Afternoon in the kitchen

The kitchen is being renovated

All the fittings are covered with brown wrapping paper

There is some food on the windowsill in the cold outside

A radio as well as an electric kettle and some cups are on the floor in a corner

MARK and LINDA at the kitchen table

LINDA with books

LINDA He missed you

MARK Is that a reproach

LINDA An observation

MARK Do you know where he is

LINDA Downstairs

MARK At Mum's place

LINDA Mine

MARK He still does that

LINDA He likes Baby

And somehow Tim's just had a lot more time on his hands

The past two months

I mean

MARK I love you too

Princess

When's your exam

By the way

LINDA Few days

MARK Will you manage

LINDA I hope so

Yeah

No one bothers me up here

It's nice of him

MARK With the money

LINDA If I can keep the evening shift
If Robert finally starts paying alimony
If my application for single parent support comes through
Then I will
Yes

And you
How's it going

MARK Well
You know

How is he

LINDA Baby
Fine

MARK And Tim

LINDA Alright
I guess

MARK Meaning

LINDA Why don't you ask him yourself
He's downstairs

MARK And you're up here

LINDA He was ill for a while
Some kind of flu

MARK Fever

LINDA Major

MARK And apart from that

Diarrhoea
Headaches
Dizziness

LINDA You seem to be rather well informed

MARK Looked it up

LINDA –

MARK Did Mum notice anything

LINDA Of course she noticed something Mark
She noticed that he had a flu

MARK And now

LINDA Ask him yourself
Seeing you're back all of a sudden

MARK Do you think all of this hasn't been bothering me
When I found out my first thought was
It should've been me

LINDA Well
You couldn't guess what would happen
Could you

That he'd go straight out and catch something
Just because you left yet again

MARK Could have happened to me as well

LINDA Perhaps he'll give it to you
If you ask nicely

MARK –

LINDA What are you going to do anyway
Mother's been lying to him for the past two months
Said you'd gone away to visit some aunt or something

MARK Yeah right

LINDA She doesn't have the slightest idea where you've been
She was worried

MARK She's always worried
That's what mothers are for

LINDA Watch it
You're talking to one

Short silence

MARK Do you think he'd speak to me again

LINDA –

MARK Come on
 It was you who told me about everything in the first place

LINDA ‘Cos you kept calling
 I shouldn’t have said anything at all

MARK But you did
 And now I’m here
 So we can talk
 Can’t we

LINDA I just told you everything

MARK So he’s fine again

LINDA You can’t tell he’s ill
 If that’s what you mean

MARK God damn it
 What’s that supposed to mean
 How is he

LINDA As if nothing had happened
 The doctors say that’s normal
 For the time being at least

MARK And he’s been missing me

LINDA That’s what I said
 Didn’t I

MARK What else

LINDA Nothing

MARK Sure

LINDA Ask Tim

Light change

3

Later that afternoon

MARK alone at the kitchen table

LINDA has left

MARK is waiting

There's a knock at the door

MOTHER *From outside*

Tim

Ti-im

MARK Shit

Dashes into the bedroom and closes the door

MOTHER *Comes into the kitchen with a bowl of pudding
Sees the closed bedroom door*

Tim

Hello

Are you there

Or do you have a visitor

There's some pudding left

I'll put it in the kitchen for you

Sorry about the painters

I don't know what's taking them so long to come round

I'll be downstairs if you need anything

Heat something up

Maybe

Tim

Light change

4

The afternoon has turned into evening

*MARK is still waiting at the kitchen table
Eating pudding from the bowl*

*TIM comes home
Goes into the kitchen
Freezes*

MARK Want some

TIM Fuck off

MARK You're doing up the kitchen

TIM Just get out

MARK I liked the old kitchen

TIM Forgot something

MARK Yeah
 My toothbrush
 And only just realised this morning

TIM Don't fuck with me
 You've done enough damage

MARK Speaking of which
 Linda said you were ill

TIM Yeah Mark
 I am

 And now would you please be so kind and get the fuck out of here

MARK I wanted to apologise

TIM Wanted

MARK Yes
 I'm sorry about the fight

TIM You dumped me like a piece of rubbish
 And now all you want to do is apologise about the fight

MARK What am I supposed to say

TIM Nothing
 Just fuck off
 I won't say it again

MARK Was it nice
 At least

TIM –

MARK With the other guy
 What was his name
 Anyway

 Or didn't he have a name

TIM No Mark
 No name

 But it was fabulous
 Really fabulous Mark
 He had a monster cock

MARK Arsehole

TIM –

MARK I missed you

TIM How sweet
 And now you want Daddy to take you in again

 You must've run out of cash

MARK I said
 I missed you

TIM –

MARK And you
 Didn't you miss me at all

TIM Unfortunately I had other problems

 Many thanks
 By the way

MARK Fuck you

TIM –