

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



# Barnesy, the Harbour and You

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by Christopher Johnson

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EXTRACT

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**Three Men, Three Women:**

**Vic**

Early 30s, socially awkward, a “lovable loser”, corporate.  
Looks unimportant.

**Judy**

Late 20s – early 30s, shy, insecure, preferably capable of  
a great transformation from somewhat plain to somewhat  
beautiful.

**Miles**

Early 30s, cocky, arrogant, corporate, a smart-arse,  
caustically funny. Looks unimportant.

**Sarah**

Early 30s, razor-sharp wit, lusty, brazen, sexy, brassy.  
Beauty not as important as attitude.

**Dianne**

20s. Extremely beautiful high-end professional escort.  
Knockout figure. The stuff of men’s dreams.

**Rupert**

20s – 30s. Stunningly handsome high-end professional  
escort. Great build, tall – makes every man around him  
look bad.

**ONE: RESTAURANT**

Vic and Judy are at a restaurant.

VIC

Look, Judy, it's just that...  
I guess we've been through the... grace  
period. And now... my eye wanders. I guess  
it's a male thing. And I know it's terrible, but  
I guess... I'm a man. And my eye wanders.

JUDY

(LOOKING A LITTLE NERVOUS) But you  
don't act on it.

VIC

No. Well, I haven't... but now I'm feeling  
like... I want to... that I will.

JUDY

Well just don't.

VIC

No, you don't get it.

JUDY

You're breaking up with me.

VIC

I guess so, yeah.

JUDY

During the entrée.

VIC

Uh... yeah. Shit. Sorry.  
I should've waited for the main, shouldn't I?  
Shit. Sorry.

**TWO: SAUNA**

Vic and Miles are in the sauna.

VIC

So I broke up with Judy.

MILES

What?

VIC

I broke up with Judy.

MILES

Shit, Vic, why?

VIC

You know – a bit bored, wanted something new.

MILES

...Right... That's a shame though. I really like Judy.

VIC

'Liked.'

MILES

Sorry, liked.

VIC

Cheers. Really?

MILES

Of course. She's great. Was great. And she got on well with Sarah.  
Oh well – I'll miss trivia night.

VIC

It's okay. I'll find someone else and she'll come to trivia night.

MILES

Yeah, I guess so. Shame though – the four of us had a good vibe.

VIC

You really liked her?

MILES

That's what I said. She was cool, man. I'm kind of surprised. How'd she take it?

VIC

Not well.

They sweat.

MILES

Oh well, at least she works at a different branch...

VIC

Yeah, that's a bonus... You and Sarah are fine?

MILES

Oh, yeah. 'Course.

VIC

No bells ringing soon?

MILES

Nah. I mean... we'll do it eventually.

VIC

Sarah would probably like it.

MILES

Yeah, I'd like it too. I think.

VIC

You could make some little kiddies.

MILES

Well, that'd be nice. I've always wanted that...

They sit in silence, sweating, breathing.

VIC

(QUIETLY, NOTICING SOMETHING) Hey, is that guy...

MILES

(QUIETLY) What? ...Shit! He's masturbating.

VIC

Hey. Hey mate. Cut that out.

MASTURBATOR (O/S)

(CHIRPY) Sorry!

We hear the sauna door open and close.

VIC

That's not cool at all.

MILES

No.

They sit and sweat.

MILES

You ever tried it?

VIC

Wanking in the sauna?

MILES

No. Gay.

VIC

How long have you known me?

MILES

Yeah, but you might have tried it some time.

VIC

Nah. You?

MILES

Got my bone shmoked once.

VIC

Yeah?

MILES

Sure.

VIC

How was it?

MILES

The same.

VIC

Right... When?

MILES

Do you care?

VIC

(THINKS) Nah, guess not...

**THREE: GROCERIES**

Miles and Sarah put away groceries.

MILES

Vic and Judy broke up.

SARAH

(STOPS PUTTING AWAY GROCERIES)

Oh no, really?

MILES

Yeah.

SARAH

Oh, that's a shame. Why?

MILES

I don't know. Just wasn't working out.

SARAH

I never noticed that. I thought they got on great. I mean I guess I only saw her on trivia nights... (STARTS PUTTING AWAY GROCERIES AGAIN) That's a shame. I really liked her. Do you reckon Vic would mind if I called her?

MILES

Of course not.

SARAH

Because I liked her...

MILES

...I mean, I guess he wouldn't mind.

SARAH

What do you mean?

MILES

Well, he might mind.

SARAH

(STOPS AGAIN) Why would he mind?

MILES

Well, you know...

SARAH

Oh, because they've broken up, and Vic's your friend, now she no longer exists.

MILES

No, no...

SARAH

(NODDING) Yeah, that's what you're saying.

MILES

No. Well – I mean it does kind of work that way.

SARAH

Oh, right, it works that way.  
(STARTS AGAIN. UNDER HER BREATH:)  
God that shits me.

MILES

What?

SARAH

Nothing...

#### **FOUR: GIRLS AT THE PUB**

Sarah and Judy share a bottle of wine at the pub.

Miles says those phrases in bold.

Vic says those phrases that are underlined.

SARAH

His "eye wanders"?

JUDY

That's what he said.

SARAH

That is really useless.

JUDY

Well, he was honest.

SARAH

Sometimes honesty's just an excuse for shitty behaviour. Miles does it too. He'll do something that pisses me off, and then he'll say, **hey, that's just me**. I did it, I knew it

was wrong but I did it anyway, **I'm a bloke**,  
that's how things are.

JUDY

Vic said it was "a male thing".

SARAH

See! That's such bullshit! This thing of – as  
though we're not rational and they're so  
rational and bullshit just is and you've got to  
deal with it.

JUDY

Like when they won't fight back.

SARAH

Exactly!

JUDY

And you just want to have it out and clear  
the air and they're just like, this is **irrational**,  
conflict is a waste of energy, I don't even  
know where this is coming from –

SARAH

Exactly! Vic did that too?

JUDY

I'm sure they all do it... I'm glad you called  
me.

SARAH

Me too. Cheers!

JUDY

Cheers!

## **FIVE: TRIVIA**

Sarah, Vic and Miles play pub trivia.

VOICE (TRIVIA HOST)

And question fifteen, final question for this  
round: Which jazz artist's most famous  
album is called 'KIND OF BLUE?'

MILES

Got that one!

TRIVIA HOST

I'll give you a hint:

MILES

(CALLING OUT) No!

TRIVIA HOST

He was a trumpet player. Which jazz artist's most famous album is called 'KIND OF BLUE?'

MILES

(CALLING OUT) Too many hints!

TRIVIA HOST

Must have a jazz aficionado over there.

MILES

(CALLING OUT) No, it's just easy.

VIC

Who is it?

MILES

Miles Davis.

VIC

Ahh...

TRIVIA HOST

That's it for round one, folks.  
I'll be around to collect your answer sheets in just a minute.

MILES

I reckon we've done pretty well. My round?

VIC

Yep.

MILES

You'd say that anyway, wouldn't you?

Vic just shrugs: "What, me?"

Miles gets up and goes for beers, taking six empties with him.

SARAH

So why'd you break up with Judy, Vic?

VIC  
(UNCOMFORTABLE) Oh, you know... it  
just came to a natural close. Mutual thing.

SARAH  
Oh, really?

VIC  
Yeah. You know... (ABOUT THE ANSWER  
SHEET) We did pretty well...

SARAH  
I had a drink with her the other night.

VIC  
Who, Judy?

SARAH  
Uh-huh.

VIC  
(SLIGHTLY DISTURBED) Huh. How is  
she?

SARAH  
She's okay.

VIC  
Good.

SARAH  
You haven't spoken to her?

VIC  
Not really.

SARAH  
You mean no.

VIC  
Well yeah, no.

SARAH  
You don't feel like you need to find out how  
she is...

VIC  
Nah, Judy's cool, I'm sure she's fine. I  
mean, she's fine, right?

SARAH

Oh yeah. She's totally fine. Really really fine. You know, she's got this guy...

VIC

(COMPLETELY SURPRISED) Guy?  
What guy?

SARAH

You know... I thought maybe that's why you broke up... This Todd guy.

VIC

Todd guy?

SARAH

Yeah, this guy... Todd that she's seeing.

VIC

Judy's seeing someone?

SARAH

Yeah – Todd.

VIC

Fuck. That was fast.

SARAH

Well, that's why I thought... But obviously not.

Vic looks away, stewing.

VIC

(TURNING BACK TO HER) 'Todd?'

SARAH

Don't tell Miles I told you. He'd hate that.

VIC

Why?

SARAH

(SEEING MILES COMING, QUIETLY BUT SHARPLY) Just don't!

Miles arrives with a new round of beers.

MILES

Here we go! Let's kick some ass!

**SIX: PHONE**

Sarah and Judy in their offices on their phones.

SARAH

...And I told him... you were already seeing this... guy... named Todd.

JUDY

Why?

SARAH

I don't know. It just came out.

JUDY

Who's Todd?

SARAH

Nobody. I invented him.

JUDY

Yeah but... Why?

SARAH

I don't know. I guess to teach him a lesson.

JUDY

What, for breaking up with me?

SARAH

Oh, he was being a shit. He was saying like it was a mutual thing-

JUDY

Hardly.

SARAH

Exactly, and that he hadn't called you, and I just thought, I mean he was lying to me, and I just thought fuck you... and I'd had a few drinks, you know, it was trivia night... and I just...

JUDY

Right. Well. 'Todd.'

SARAH

You don't have to do anything about it.