

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Heads in the Sand

by Geoff Dobson

EXTRACT

© 2004 Geoff Dobson



This script is distributed by The Australian Script Centre
77 Salamanca Place Hobart 7004 Tasmania Australia
email admin@ozscript.org
www.ozscript.org
ph +61 3 6223 4675
fax +61 3 6223 4678

Heads in the Sand

Character 1 (C.1)	Convicted Paedophile. (Second Sentence)
Character 2 (C.2)	Convicted of Accessory to Armed Robbery. (Short Term)
Character 3 (C.3)	Convicted Murderer. (Long Term)
Character 4 (C.4)	Convicted Paedophile. (First Sentence)

The play is set from inside a local prison. Giving the impression that this could occur in any community. C.1 and C.4 talk to the audience as if they were talking to a counsellor. C.2 and C.3 act oblivious to C.1 and C.4.

C.4 You want to know when it started?

C.1 You think being in here is really going to help us?

C.4 What do you mean when it started?

C.1 No one wants to help.

C.4 You don't understand at all.

C.1 Do you really think you're helping?

C.4 You're not helping.

C.1 How do you help people like us? You're asking me?

Has it occurred to you people that maybe we don't want any help. Maybe we don't need any help. Maybe I am perfectly happy just the way I am.

Yeah I believe you. I really do. But maybe people like us can't be helped.

C.4 And this is your answer? Incarceration. Nice.

C.1 It's not much fun, no. But you get use to it, like anything. Don't suppose they will let me out now, being a danger to society and all. You've got no idea have you?

C.2 Enters space with linen and clothing.

C.2 G'day. I'll be your new live in maid. Where can I put me stuff?

Silence.

Oh this room here looks nice, (*indicating any appropriate set piece*) I might have this one. If that is O.K. with you, I mean?

Pause

I'm inmate G210, see it's printed right here on me shirt, right here with some shitty spray paint. Anyway what's your name? Me friends call me...

C.3 Turns away before C.2 can finish what he is about to say.

C.2 Yeah, no worries. I've just come up from the remand centre you see. Yeah, spent bout three weeks in that holiday house. You know what it's like. It takes time for the judge to work out which is the front door to the courthouse and which is the back. Not bad place to live though, the centre, bit draughty though, hay. You ever been there? Probably a bit more colourful than this joint.

Pause

Tell you what, I am a bit hungry after that bus ride, how about I ring down to room service and get them to send us something up. No, no just joking mate. I think you and me are going get on great.

C.1 You've got no idea what it is like to be in here, have you? They didn't give you the guided tour or the complementary service booklet on the way in, did they? No, when you leave here you just go back to your regular Mickey Mouse lives. No problems for you.

Seeing you missed the tour let me fill you in on the basics.

Do you know that every inmate is entitled to three meals a day, and at least one should be hot.

Pause

That's better than anything I got at home.

Every mainstream prisoner should be permitted eight hours a day outside their cell, at least one hour a day outdoors. Cells should be kept at minimum