

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Can't Wait for Love

by Bruce Shearer

EXTRACT

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Esla and Frinz go partying

Cast

Esla Esla is a cautious, careful, but enthusiastic balloon

Frinz Frinz is a more street smart, knowledgeable balloon.

Setting

The play is set at a small children's birthday party.

1 Esla and Frinz go partying

(ESLA AND FRINZ, TWO BALLOONS ARE FLOATING AROUND AT A NOISY KIDS PARTY.)

Esla: This is so wild!
Frinz: That's the territory.
Esla: Did you see Zento go up?
Frinz: At least he went out with a pop.

(LONG PAUSE)

Esla: It's not an easy business.
Frinz: Entertainment is always precarious.
Esla: But we're professionals.
Frinz: (PAUSE) Careful, watch out for the . . .!
Esla: (GASPS) Thanks for that, it could have been nasty.

(ESLA AND FRINZ BOUNCE AROUND TOGETHER FOR A FEW MOMENTS.)

Esla: Do you think it's true?
Frinz: What?
Esla: You know.
Frinz: I don't.
Esla: The story they told us about the little girl in a yellow dress who takes us home and loves us forever more.
Frinz: It's both a matter of belief, and a magical metaphor for our existence.
Esla: But will it happen? Has it happened?
Frinz: (PAUSE) It could conceivably happen.
Esla: It's got to!

2 Esla and Frinz go partying

Frinz: This is your first tour of duty?
Esla: You know it is.
Frinz: I'll look after you.
Esla: What about you, have you been out before?
Frinz: (PAUSE) No, I haven't actually, but I've done a lot of reading up on it.
Esla: Where from?
Frinz: I've got good sources.
Esla: You don't mean the little cardboard blurb on our packet?
Frinz: It might be succinct, but it's very heartfelt!
Esla: (QUOTING) To enhance parties, weddings and special events, with a view to generally brightening your world.
Frinz: That's powerful.
Esla: But what does it really mean?
Frinz: That we're special.
Esla: (PAUSE) Does it mean we have a future?
Frinz: That's all part of the great mystery.
Esla: You're right.

(THE PARTY NOISE SUDDENLY INCREASES.)

Frinz: I think they're doing something.
Esla: What?
Frinz: The big ones are herding the little ones.
Esla: Is that possible, they seem so fast and chaotic?
I bet they bite, those little ones.
Frinz: Look, they are gathering them.
Esla: But one is still free.
Frinz: She's running this way.
Esla: She's dangerous.
Frinz: Float, Float!
Esla: Gain altitude!