

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Melinda

by John Upton

EXTRACT

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MELINDA PLANT

The Life of the Barbie

(MELINDA enters, wheeling a trolley piled with dirty plates from a barbecue. Plus cutlery, glasses, soiled paper serviettes etc).

(She's wearing a yellow jumpsuit with matador legs. She's good humoured, bubbly - quick fire delivery).

Next consignment, Shirl! Talk about knocking off work to carry bricks! Not that I'm complaining, love. All muck in, that's my motto. It's the school that counts. But next time I'm having a barbie, you're invited. Hahahahaha! Don't worry, love, we'll be laughing. Yeah, Shirl, he's down by the pool, him and my Tone and half a dozen of the buggers. Last seen behind the big mound of tinnies. Pack o' bludgers, snags and chops cooked, they've downed tools and got stuck into it. Telling yarns. Like bloody schoolkids. I just grabbed their plates. Never change, men. Tone'll tell me when we get home. (PICKS UP A PLATE). Yuk, look at this gunk! Stay clear, you two, I've got a system! I use this newspaper, Shirl? (SCRAPING PLATES). He's a dirty bugger, my Tone. Bloody shocking, he is. Knows some good ones, but. God knows where he hears 'em. The minds that make them things up. I mean, you'd have to live in the gutter, dead set. Pounds to peanuts it's uni students. They're useless buggers, uni students. Not that I've got anything against uni students. You should hear my Dad on the subject. Tone's a bit the same but I want Andrew to go to uni, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em, that's my motto. Whole damn country's run by uni students, Tone reckons, that's why we're going down the gurgler. Anyhow, talking about dirty yarns, know who's leading the pack down there? Biggest yobbo of the lot? Bloody Father Collins! Dead set. All that hellfire on Sundays, but comes to the yarns, tinny in his claw, bum in a banana chair, can't shut the bugger up. I mean, what an