

EXTRACT

Yell(ow)

a short play

by

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Characters

SIAN early 20s

LEE early 20s

Setting

A kitchen in a unit in Sydney's inner west.

Time

1am on a hot summer evening

Kitchen.

I am on a steamy summer night.

LEE enters. He has been woken from an uneasy sleep and he goes to the sink and pours himself a glass of water. Pause. He sits at the kitchen table and opens a nearby packet of cigarettes. It's empty. Pause.

He gets up and goes over to a portable CD player in the corner. He finds a CD and puts it on - Aerosmith blares loudly from the speakers. **LEE** quickly turns it down.

He goes back to the table and sits, listening to the music.

SIAN enters. She stands at the door watching **LEE**.

SIAN: I'll never completely understand your attraction to Aerosmith.

LEE: (STANDING) Sorry. Didn't mean to wake you.

LEE MOVES TOWARDS THE CD PLAYER.

SIAN: It's okay. Leave it. I'm up now.

BUT LEE TURNS THE CD PLAYER OFF ANYWAY.

SIAN: Lee, I said it's okay.

LEE: I'll put on something else.

**LEE FUMBLES FOR ANOTHER CD AND PLACES IT IN THE PLAYER.
SOON WE HEAR AN OLD POP SONG.**

LEE GOES BACK TO THE TABLE AND SITS.

**SIAN GOES TO THE SINK. SHE POURS HERSELF A GLASS OF
WATER. SHE STANDS AT THE SINK LISTENING TO THE MUSIC.**

SIAN: I always hated this song. Reminds me of home.

LEE: This is my home.

SIAN: Mine too.

SIAN GOES TO LEE. SHE LEANS DOWN AND HUGS HIM.

SIAN: Are you okay?

LEE: (HOLDING UP PACKET) Forgot to pick up smoko.

SIAN: Do you want to go for a drive? We can pick some up at the Seven-Eleven.

LEE: Smoke too much anyway these days. Go back to bed. I'll be there in a minute.

SIAN: You sure?

LEE NODS. SIAN KISSES HIM AND STARTS TO EXIT.

LEE: I thought I heard something.

SIAN: (STOPPING) When?

LEE: Someone yelling. In the street.

SIAN: Who?

LEE: I don't know. Just someone. Probably drunk.

SIAN COMES BACK INTO THE ROOM.

LEE: Can you turn that off ?

SIAN TURNS OFF THE CD PLAYER. SILENCE.

SIAN: What did they say?

LEE: Just ... yelling.

SIAN: Yelling what?

LEE: I don't know. I was asleep. (PAUSE) I think it was him.

PAUSE.

SIAN: Are you sure?

LEE: No.

SIAN: What exactly did you hear?

LEE: A voice. I don't know. It just sounded like ... He was yelling and then there was a noise like a door slamming and then a car -

SIAN: There was a car?

LEE: I don't know. I think so.

SIAN: Outside our house?

LEE: (IRRITATED) I'm not sure.

SIAN: Why would he come here?

LEE: I don't even know if it was him.

SIAN: To where we live!

LEE: I said I don't know. I was asleep and then I woke up and I heard this voice. It sounded like him. But I'm not sure if it was him, okay? Okay?

SIAN: (BACKING OFF) Okay. (PAUSE) I'm making tea.

LEE: I thought you were going to bed.

SIAN: I don't feel like sleeping now.

LEE: It's too hot for tea.

SIAN: I know but I just feel like tea.

SIAN FILLS AN ELECTRIC KETTLE AND TURNS IT ON.

SIAN: So what are we going to do?

LEE: Nothing.

SIAN: We can't just -

LEE: I don't even know if it was him.

SIAN: But what if it was?

LEE: What do you want me to do?

SIAN: I don't know! Maybe we should -

LEE: What?

SIAN: I don't know. I'm just ...

LEE: He's my brother.

SIAN: I know he's your brother but I'm still ... I'm sorry but that's how I feel.

LEE: What do you think he's going to do?

SIAN: I don't know.

LEE: He's family.

SIAN: And she was my cousin. That didn't stop him.