EXTRACT

blue gold

a play in one act

by

Alex Broun

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Characters

THE DISCIPLE

GAIL LIMES	50s
KEN LIMES	her husband, 50s
SPRUCE	An Executive, 30 – 40s
READING	His assistant, 30s
RACHEL	His secretary

Setting

An underground cave
An office in the city

Time

The present.

1. A cave, deep underground. Blue light shimmers.

DISCIPLE: Deep beneath the earth the body shimmers. The body glows. The body speaks – and I listen. Here in this sacred space – gouged out over millions of years deep within the rock, carved in ages from sand and stone - the body and I are one. Nothing separates flesh from form. The body from my body. The body whispers. The body teaches. The body warns. Something is coming. A shadow, a sceptre, a night cloaked demon. It creeps towards the body and the body calls to me for succour, sacrament, salvation. The body calls on me for sacrifice, allegiance, blood. It calls on me for rescue. The body speaks and I hear.

LIGHTS CHANGE.

2. Office, city.

READING and **SPRUCE**.

SPRUCE: So, how'd we go?

READING: Okay.

SPRUCE: And?

READING: Five.

BEAT.

SPRUCE: Say again.

READING: Five.

BEAT.

SPRUCE: That's good.

READING: Yes.

SPRUCE: Very good. Do they …

READING: No.

SPRUCE: Sure?

READING: Three.

SPRUCE: Really?

READING: At the utmost.

BEAT.

SPRUCE: Well, that is fantastic news. You gotta love this country.

READING: Do you?

SPRUCE: Australia – where the strong look after themselves and the weak can fuck off.

READING: My sentiments precisely.

SPRUCE: Show them in.

READING EXITS. **SPRUCE** ALONE.

READING RETURNS WITH **GAIL** AND **KEN**.

READING: Here they are.

SPRUCE: Welcome, welcome.

READING: This is Mr and Mrs Limes.

GAIL: Gail.

KEN: Ken.

SPRUCE SHAKES THEIR HANDS WARMLY.

READING: This is Mr Spruce.

SPRUCE: Gregory, please.

KEN: That's a type of goose ain't it?

GAIL: Ken. Haven't been here two minutes and he's calling you a "goose".

KEN: It's true.

SPRUCE: Your husband's right Mrs Limes.

GAIL: Gail.

KEN: Told you. Goose.

SPRUCE: But this was a very special type of goose. During the war –

GAIL: Which one?

SPRUCE: Two. The Americans were trying to get supplies across the ocean to their troops in Europe but slight problem. Torpedoes. So Howard Hughes –

KEN: Who?

SPRUCE: Hughes.

GAIL: You know silly? Leonardo di Caprio played him in that movie.

KEN: Which movie?

GAIL: The Terminator. Go on Greg.

SPRUCE: Greg*ory*. Hughes' plan was to build a giant flying boat to haul in the supplies.

GAIL: Flying boat?

KEN: But if it's flying – in the air - it's a plane ain't it? Not a boat.

SPRUCE: They called it a flying boat because of its size. Wing span - 320 feet - tail over 80 feet.

GAIL: That's big.

SPRUCE: Made entirely of wood. They needed all the iron for the war.

KEN: The "wooden goose"? Thought that was a horse.

GAIL AND **KEN** LAUGH.

GAIL: So it was a

KEN: success?

SPRUCE: Actually it was a flop.

GAIL: Really?

SPRUCE: Never got off the ground. Too big.