EXTRACT

The Big One

a comedy

in two acts

by

Alex Broun

PLEASE NOTE:

THIS PLAY SCRIPT HAS BEEN DOWNLOADED FROM https://alexbroun.online/

BY AGREEING TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF https://alexbroun.online/ AND PAYING THE DOWNLOAD FEE YOU ARE PERMITTED TO PERFORM THIS PLAY ***ROYALTY FREE*** ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD FOR A PERIOD OF **12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF DOWNLOAD.**

IF YOU DO PERFORM THIS PLAY PLEASE VISIT OUR **RECORD A PRODUCTION** PAGE AND RECORD THE DETAILS OF YOUR PRODUCTION SO YOUR PRODUCTION CAN BE LISTED AMONGST THE THOUSANDS OF PRODUCTIONS OF ALEX'S WORK WORLDWIDE EVERY YEAR.

FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT THE AUTHOR ON
info@alexbroun.online

(c) 10 October 2001

Characters

Ken Lambert)
)- out of work actors
Lenny Brown)

Penny Lawrence a local actress

Clive Pearce a "more successful" actor

Henry Landon a Barmaid

Max McCoy an American Film Director

Burte Flanders a Chef

(Note: The roles of **Pearce** and **Burte** can be played by the same actor.)

Setting

Act 1: An inner city pub in Sydney, Australia

Act 2: Darkest Africa, on the set of "Flamingo Dawn"

Time

The action takes places over a period of three weeks.

ACT 1

Afternoon. Inner city pub.

In the corner at a table sit LENNY and KEN. They both drink beers.

LENNY: Pearce.

KEN: Pearce.

LENNY: Clive Pearce.

KEN: Clive Pearce.

LENNY: He hasn't.

LENNY: He has.

KEN: Pearce!

LENNY: He's got it.

KEN: He hasn't.

LENNY: He has.

KEN: Not Pearce.

LENNY: Pearce.

KEN: Clive Pearce.

LENNY: Clive Pearce.

PAUSE.

KEN: You're screwing me.

LENNY: I'm not screwing you.

KEN: Clive Pearce?

LENNY: Clive Pearce.

KEN: You are screwing me.

LENNY: I am not screwing you!

KEN: Pearce?

LENNY: Clive Pearce.

KEN: Bullshit.

LENNY: No bullshit.

KEN: That wanker.

LENNY: One and the same.

PAUSE.

KEN: But they can't.

LENNY: They can.

KEN: They can't.

LENNY: They have.

KEN: But it's not finished.

LENNY: Doesn't matter.

KEN: Not before it's finished.

LENNY: The right guy.

KEN: What?

LENNY: You said it yourself. When the right guy walks through the door -

KEN: Door?

LENNY: When he does - you know.

KEN: Bullshit.

LENNY: You just know.

KEN: And Pearce is the right guy?

LENNY: Looks like it.

KEN: And I'm not.

LENNY: Guess not.

KEN: But I haven't even walked through the door.

LENNY: True.

KEN: How can they decide if the right man has walked through the door when I haven't even had a chance to walk through the door. I might be the right guy.

LENNY: You might have been.

KEN: But if they don't let me walk through the door - how will they ever know. I mean they've got to let me walk through the door then they'll see that I'm -

LENNY: The right guy.

KEN: But they've got to let me walk through the door first.

LENNY: There it is.

KEN: It's alright for you.

LENNY: It is?

KEN: You had the chance. You walked through the door.

LENNY: I did.

KEN: You walked through the door and you weren't the right guy.

LENNY: You could say that.

KEN: But I never had that chance.

LENNY: No.

KEN: Door walking through had none - did I. I mean what is that?

LENNY: Unfair.

KEN: Not just unfair. It's a travesty. A bloody travesty.

LENNY: If only you had the chance.

KEN: To walk through the door. They would've seen -

LENNY: The type of guy you were. The right guy.

KEN: The perfect guy.

LENNY: The only guy.

KEN: Captain Farrelli.

LENNY: But -

KEN: I never walked through the door.

PAUSE.

KEN: I mean this is depressing. I rehearsed.

LENNY: Long and hard.

KEN: Learnt my lines.

LENNY: Line.

KEN: Explored the character's motivation. Tried to get in touch with his psyche.

LENNY: The man underneath.

KEN: I'd solved the puzzle. Found the hidden treasure.

LENNY: You were inside him.

KEN: I understood him.

LENNY: You were -

TOGETHER: Farrelli.

KEN: Breathing like Farrelli. Thinking like Farrelli. Talking like Farrelli.

LENNY: What little he had to say.

KEN: No small parts.

LENNY: Exactly.

KEN: Only small actors.

LENNY: Well said. And they weren't talking about stature.

KEN: I was Farrelli. And then -

LENNY: Heartbreaking.

KEN: And then -

LENNY: Soul destroying.

KEN: And then -

LENNY: Gut wrenching.

KEN: They wouldn't let me walk through the door.

LENNY: The way was barred.

KEN: Entry prohibited.

LENNY: Progress checked.

KEN: Slammed in my face. A travesty.

LENNY: Tragedy.

PAUSE.

KEN: Unless ...

LENNY: Yes?

KEN: Unless ...

LENNY: I'm listening.

PAUSE.

KEN: So tell me Len. How did your audition go?

LENNY: Alright.

KEN: Only alright?

LENNY: Fair.

KEN: Only fair?

LENNY: I did my best.

KEN: But you just weren't -

TOGETHER: The right guy.

LENNY: 'Fraid so.

KEN: Bad luck. (PAUSE) Of course - it may not have happened quite like that.

LENNY: What are you saying?

KEN: Maybe that's not what occurred.

LENNY: What are you trying to say?

KEN: Maybe it happened differently.

PAUSE. LENNY PUTS DOWN HIS BEER.

LENNY: I'm putting down my beer.

KEN: I can see that.

LENNY: I'm putting down my beer.

KEN: As we saw.

LENNY: You've made me put down my beer.

KEN: So I did.

LENNY: Are you insinuating ...?

KEN: I'm insinuating nothing.

LENNY: Are you suggesting ...?

KEN: Not me.

LENNY: That I would try to stop...

KEN: Your words.

LENNY: That I would try to stop you ...

KEN: You said it.

LENNY: That I would try to stop you going ...

KEN: I'm saying nothing.

LENNY: Because I was worried you might get the part instead of me.

KEN: My lips are sealed.

PAUSE. LENNY SHAKES HIS HEAD.

LENNY: Well I'm shocked.

KEN: So am I.

LENNY: I am shocked.

KEN: You and me both.

LENNY: I've put down my beer and I am shocked. To think that you - You - would think that I could stoop so low as to -

KEN: Big part.

LENNY: Good part.

KEN: Big one.

LENNY: The big one.. But that you could think that I could put a part between you and me - between our friendship - well, I'm shocked.

KEN: As you said.

LENNY: Haven't I always been supportive?

KEN: Yes.

LENNY: Caring?

KEN: You have.

LENNY: A true friend.

KEN: No reason to complain.

LENNY: And now - you think I'd be so low as to stoop to that. Pa - thetic. That's what it is. Pa - thetic. (PAUSE) Did you hear what I said?

KEN: (IMITATING LENNY) Pa - thetic.

LENNY: Pretty close. Pa - thetic.

PAUSE.

KEN: Big part.

LENNY: It is.

KEN: Big film.

LENNY: No film could ever be that big. That's how I get through this. That's how I survive - because there are certain things I just won't do. And I'm shocked you would even begin to think otherwise.

PAUSE.

KEN: Guess so.

LENNY: No guesswork.

PAUSE.

KEN: But what if it wasn't you?

LENNY: Not me?

KEN: What if someone was trying to throw me off other than you?

LENNY: I wasn't trying to throw you off.

KEN: But what if somebody was?

LENNY: Take me with you. Take me with you.

THEY LEAN IN.

KEN: Who told you?

LENNY: Told me what?

KEN: Told you it was Pearce.

LENNY: Someone.

KEN: Who?

LENNY: Someone at the casting.

KEN: Yes but who?

PAUSE.

LENNY: I think it was Brock.

KEN: Brock?

LENNY: Yeah.

KEN: Phil Brock? And you believed him?

LENNY: Why? Shouldn't I?

KEN: Phil Brock. He's almost as slimy as Pearce.

LENNY: Phil Brock?

KEN: Peas in a pod. Exactly. Peas in a pod. And they're in it together.

LENNY: Brock and Pearce?

KEN: Brock's telling everybody that Pearce has got it and Pearce is probably telling everybody that Brock has got it - that way everybody thinks somebody else has got it.

LENNY: Except Pearce and Brock.

KEN: Exactly.

PAUSE.

LENNY: Clever bastards.

KEN: That way no one else bothers to show up except -

LENNY: Pearce and Brock.

KEN: And so who gets the role?

LENNY: Pearce and Brock. I mean - Pearce or Brock.

KEN: They've probably got it so finely tuned that whoever does get the part they split the fee with the other one.

LENNY: Clever bastards.

KEN: But not anymore. We're on to them.

LENNY: We are.

KEN: We've heard they're story and we're not buying it.

LENNY: The door's still open -

KEN: And I'm walking through.

PAUSE.

LENNY: Hold on.

KEN: What?

LENNY: Wait a tic.

KEN: What?