

1 AUDITION SUE + ROGER

SUE: Try and be nice to her.

ROGER: [staring at SUE in horror] She's not coming? I thought you were supposed to make sure ...

SUE: She insisted.

ROGER: On what grounds?

SUE: She's made it clear to Emily that if they're going to marry she expects to be accepted as one of the family.

ROGER: I don't want her as part of the family.

SUE: Short of murder, it's about to happen. For God's sake, don't tell her how you voted.

ROGER: She knows.

SUE: How?

ROGER: Emily asked me if I was voting yes. I told her I may be old-fashioned but I still believe marriage should be between a man and a woman.

SUE: The yes vote does still allow that to happen.

ROGER: How do all those trendy 'yes' voters feel now as their wives leave them and marry women.

SUE: [*incredulous*] What?

ROGER: It's happening. I read it.

SUE: Where? Miranda Devine?

ROGER: Some of what she says makes sense.

SUE: That's grounds for divorce.

ROGER: Emily's marriage was perfectly fine. What was wrong with Neville?

SUE: He's the only anaesthetist in Sydney who doesn't need drugs to put his patients to sleep.

ROGER: Okay, Neville can drone on a bit, but to dump him for a pit bull like Noeline? I just don't get the attraction?

SUE: Apparently Neville never worked out his penis wasn't just for urination.

ROGER: Sex? It's about sex?

SUE: When you haven't had it for six years it's a plausible reason.

ROGER: She likes it better with ... Noeline?

2 AUDITION LISA + SABA + SUE + ROGER

LISA: You don't need to know.

SUE: If you're wanting to hide her in our holiday house, perhaps we do.

LISA: You don't need to know.

ROGER: Do you realise the consequences of what you're doing?

LISA: Yes.

SUE: What's happening to Daniela sounds awful, but did you have to do this on your father's birthday?

LISA: I'm the only one in my group without any known links to her that Border Force can trace.

SABA: I'm sorry to disrupt this special occasion, Justice Collins. I really am.

LISA: Call him Mr Collins. He's retired.

ROGER: Most people still accord me the respect of Justice.

LISA: Dad, this is scarcely the situation for formalities.

SABA: I'm happy to call your father Justice Collins.

SUE: Don't you dare. He's retired. He can learn to be human again.

LISA: Dad, I need the keys to Killcare.

ROGER: Hasn't anyone told you .harbouring an illegal resident is a criminal offence?

LISA: Ten years jail or a fine of 180,000 dollars or both, but what our government is doing is nothing short of barbarous.

SABA: I can't go back there, Justice Collins.

ROGER: I understand your distress, Daniela, but I can't possibly be party to a serious offence.

LISA: I'm committing the offence.

ROGER: I give you those keys and I'm aiding and abetting it.

SUE: She can say she had a copy of the key. Nobody will know.

ROGER: I'll know, and if I'm questioned I won't perjure myself. [To SABA] Surely it can't be that bad on Nauru. You're housed, you're fed, you're free to travel anywhere on the island. Gary Duckett said you're all buying Armani jeans.

SABA: [*indicating her jeans*] I wish. Target. Twelve dollars.

LISA: Dad, you can't possibly believe anything Gary Duckett says!

3 AUDITION MICHAEL + LISA+ SUE+ROGER

ROGER: Thanks, son.

ROGER *takes the present.*

SUE: [*kissing him*] Glad you could make it. You're looking very well.

MICHAEL: And have been ever since I allowed the Lord to enter my soul.

*He looks defiantly at his sister LISA as he says it.*

[*Indicating the present*] It's a box set of DVDs of our most popular songs of worship. [*Defiantly to both LISA and SUE*] I defy anyone to listen to those and not feel something stir inside.

LISA: Nausea.

ROGER: Lisa, don't bait your brother. The last thing I need on my eventieth is a re-run of the near lethal hostility we've endured between you two or twenty years!

MICHAEL: [*looking at SABA with a disapproving frown*] So, hello. I'm Michael. You are?

SABA, LISA and SUE: [*together*] Daniela.

MICHAEL: And Daniela? Your reason for celebrating my father's birthday?

LISA: Daniela's a close friend.

MICHAEL: I understood this was family only. If I'd been told otherwise I would have brought a close friend of mine. Monica.

SUE: Who's Monica?

MICHAEL: A lovely Christian mother of four I've formed a friendship with.

SUE: Mother of four?

MICHAEL: Why the tone of disapproval?

SUE: You've got children of your own.

MICHAEL: Who I rarely see due to my ex-wife's vindictiveness. When I found the Lord I hoped Deidre and the kids would follow, but it wasn't to be and I've accepted that it's all part of the Lord's plan.

LISA: Your divorce was part of the Lord's plan?

MICHAEL: He plans all lives.

4 AUDITION MICHAEL + ROGER +SABA

ROGER: You're being too hard on yourself, son. Your matchstick models were not senseless. The Taj Mahal was quite special.

MICHAEL: The hardest was the Colosseum. All the wrecked bits.

ROGER: They were all great.

MICHAEL: Thanks, Dad.

ROGER: The Eiffel Tower. How many hours went into that?

MICHAEL: Nearly two hundred. But Deidre probably had a point. Building an extra room to house them all was excessive.

ROGER: I really liked it. You went in there and came out feeling like you'd just been on a world tour.

MICHAEL: Without the hassle of airports and customs. Exactly.

ROGER: You needn't apologise for them.

MICHAEL : Thanks, Dad. I 've always been grateful for your encouragement.

*By this stage SABA has sunk into a trance on the sofa.*

ROGER: [*going across and sitting next to SABA*] If I could possibly help I would, but you have to realise what you're asking

SABA: I didn't want this to happen, Justice Collins.

MICHAEL: My sister seduced you?

ROGER: Michael, please, just relax. Relax.

MICHAEL: Daniela, it's obvious you're regretting what you've done and regret is the pathway to redemption. Let the Lord enter your heart and you will know the joys of eternal life.

*SABA looks at him with bewilderment. She goes to join SUE and LISA.*

I think she can be saved.

5 AUDITION NOELENE + EMILY + ROGER

ROGER: Ah, thank you, Noeline. Emily.

NOELINE: I know you two voted no, which I do find, I have to be honest, deeply upsetting.

MICHAEL: It's Dad's birthday!

EMILY: Noels –

NOELINE: Birthdays were no cause for celebration for me, Michael. Another year of living a lie. .Another year of guilt and self-hatred. So excuse me if I feel it necessary to confront this honestly and make it clear that the 'vote no' campaign caused me, and others like me, intense pain.

EMILY: Noels, it's Dad's birthday.

NOELINE: Ems, I did warn you that if I came today, I had no intention of pulling any punches.

ROGER: And you certainly aren't. Is it possible a little wine might have a ... mellowing effect? I'd be very happy to pour your some.

NOELINE: The sarcasm's unnecessary, Mr Collins. I'll pour my own wine.

*She goes across to the opened bottles of wine and pours some for herself and EMILY.*

EMILY: Noels, I'd prefer the white.

NOELINE: It's chardonnay. You don't like chardonnay. I'll pour you some red. [*Tasting*] No. Too heavy. Shiraz soup. [*To ROGER*] Would you have any pinot?

ROGER: Yes, it's in the rack over there.

*He gets up to get it, but NOELINE gets it herself unscrews it, pours and tastes.*

NOELINE: Better. I'll pour you some, Ems.

EMILY: Maybe I'll just try the chardonnay first.

NOELINE: You hate chardonnay, and this is a very drinkable pinot.

EMILY: Okay. Pour me some pinot.

*EMILY accepts the pinot NOELINE puts in her hands, then quaffs it with the air of someone who desperately needs some dulling alcohol in her system.*

ROGER: That's a lovely dress you're wearing, Emily.

NOELINE: I know what suits her.

6 AUDITION EMILY + LISA + MICHAEL + SUE + ROGER

EMILY: Ridiculous. That all the praise and all the kudos always went to the brilliant Lisa.

LISA: Shut up, for God's sake.

EMILY: Or to Michael whose Lego structures started to engulf the whole house to choruses of huge acclaim.

MICHAEL: Maybe I just might have deserved a little praise. I was four years ahead of my age in spatial visualisation.

EMILY: Whenever I tried to say something at the table Lisa just said, 'Shut up, stupid', and completely overrode me. And neither of you did anything to help.

ROGER: I continually told her to stop it.

EMILY: Yes, at least you tried, but not Mum!

SUE: [*hurt*] I did. Many times.

EMILY: I sure as hell can't remember. It was all about the wonderful Lisa! Lisa, Lisa, Lisa!

SUE: Darling you're imagining this!

EMILY: Do you know how I felt in those years? That it was a mistake I was ever born.

SUE: It may have been a surprise but not a mistake. You were greatly loved.

EMILY: Well, I never felt it. Not for one tiny instant of my life.

NOELINE: I've held her in my arms and listened to her sobbing for hours at the memory of it.

LISA: Oh migod. Where are the violins?

EMILY: I cried for a few minutes, Noeline. Don't bloody exaggerate.

NOELINE: As well as not knowing what I'm talking about, I exaggerate?

SUE: [*to EMILY*] We probably didn't pay you enough attention, but in our hearts –

EMILY: In your hearts? In your hearts? How was I supposed to bloody well know what was in your hearts when it never actually made it out of your mouths? All I ever heard was that Lisa was going to be a judge like her father, and that Michael with his phenomenal Lego skills was well on the way to becoming a ground-breaking architect like Frank Gehry. Frank Gehry? My God, Michael was so wedded to the right angle that the only thing he could ever have designed was a beachfront toilet block!

7 AUDITION MICHAEL + EMILY+ LISA

MICHAEL: Joke? What they did to me in front of the first girl I ever took out was a joke?

EMILY: Yes it was.

*LISA and EMILY look at each other.*

MICHAEL: You told her not to worry if I farted a lot as it only happened when I was anxious.

*LISA and EMILY can't help smiling. Neither can SUE.*

LISA: And then you did!

MICHAEL: Because I was anxious! See, a big smile on your face. Like back then.

SUE: Okay. I'm not perfect! And yes, you were different. You were difficult. But believe me, I loved you and still do.

MICHAEL: I never felt it! Not once! It was always the girls with you.

EMILY: The girls? It certainly wasn't me. It was Lisa who was Mum's favourite by leaps and bounds.

*This ignites a furious shouting match between the three siblings which is muddied, muddled, fast and loud.*

LISA: Will you both just fucking get over it!

EMILY: Easy for you, because you didn't –

MICHAEL: There you go. Pretending it didn't happen!

LISA: I am so sick of all your whinging! It makes me –

MICHAEL: It's just so easy for you to minimise –

EMILY: Bloody easy. You just swanned around in the glow of

LISA: It makes me feel sick to hear all this pathetic –

EMILY: What's pathetic to you isn't to us –

MICHAEL: It's just so easy for you to minimise –

EMILY: You just swanned around in the glow of parental adoration –

MICHAEL: Just so easy to minimise what happened to me!

LISA: Jesus. My heart bleeds for you.

EMILY: Ridicule. Always your weapon.

MICHAEL: Yes, always ridicule

LISA: Jesus fucking Christ!

MICHAEL: Unlike him, you never suffered

## 8 AUDITION SABA

NOELINE: Saba give yourself up and don't make it tough for everyone.  
Nauru can't be that bad.

SABA: No? Then let me tell you. It's an ugly wreck of an island stripped bare of most of its vegetation by phosphate mining. We are housed in mouldy tents. The heat is unbearable.

You love the sun in Australia? We hate it. It is our enemy. We would love to be able to rip it out of the sky.

In Australia you do not allow pigs to be housed like we are. Yes, we can go out into the towns, but so many of us have been molested and harassed so we do it as little as possible. END 1

We have barely enough money to buy enough food and there are no fresh vegetables or fruit.

And the hopeless feeling of not knowing when this torture will end, of day after hellish day with nothing meaningful to do, is unbearable.

Your life has a purpose, Noeline.

Think of a life totally without purpose and with no future hope of any purpose. Think of it.

The thing that makes me angry, so angry that it eats me from the inside, is that my life could easily have had purpose. I could have been a doctor in Australia by now. Before the mullahs declared that women should not pursue medicine any longer, I had topped my year in medical school two years in a row. END 2