

5 rooms

This play is free to download and perform. The only condition is that you must **email Alex at abroun@bigpond.net.au** and let him know **where and when you produced his script**, listing the **director, cast and theatre**. If you have any production photos send them along as well and they may just end up on this website.

a short play

By

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Written for the 2009 Graduates of
Actors College of Theatre & Television

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Cast

X

JANELLE

ZARA

LAURA

KALIAH

MATT

DIMI

CELIA

LOUISE

AARON

ANT

VICTORIA

Time

The present

Settings

Bar.

Bedroom

Massage Clinic

Lounge Room

Office

5 rooms
By Alex Broun

BAR 1

X: My name is X.

JANELLE: But what is it really ?

X: X.

JANELLE: What did your parents call you ?

X: X.

JANELLE: When they weren't stoned.

X: It's short for Exiles.

JANELLE: Where were you exiled from – the land of sanity ?

X: I'm originally from Haiti.

JANELLE: Is that in South Australia ?

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BED 1

ZARA's head emerges from the sheets at the foot of the bed.

ZARA: (PANTING) Well that was ...

LAURA's head pops up from the other end.

LAURA: Intense.

ZARA: I was going to say unexpected.

LAURA: But good ?

ZARA: Great, just ...

LAURA: Unexpected.

BEAT.

ZARA: I'm Zara by the way.

LAURA: Laura.

ZARA: Nice to meet you.

LAURA: And you.

THEY SHAKE HANDS.

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MASSAGE ROOM 1

MATT lies on the massage table. **DIMI** enters.

DIMI: My name is Dimi. I'll be your massage therapist.

MATT: I'm Matt.

DIMI: I know. (SHOWING MANILLA FOLDER) It's right here on your folder.

MATT: Where's ...?

DIMI: She's on leave.

MATT: But I like her.

DIMI: You'll like me too.

MATT: I don't know. I'm pretty sensitive and she used to do it just right.

DIMI: I'll do it just right too.

MATT: I'm not sure. I'm pretty fussy.

DIMI: Relax Matt. Dimi will take good care of you.

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LIVING ROOM 1

LOUISE about to bite in to a hamburger.

CELIA: Louise ! Stop. What are you doing ?

LOUISE: Celia ...

CELIA: Don't bite that.

LOUISE: I didn't know you were home.

CELIA: What are you doing ?

LOUISE: It's late. Only thing I could buy.

CELIA: It's a hamburger.

LOUISE: It's all they had.

CELIA: When you moved in here I told you – this space is strictly vegan.

LOUISE: I know – and I am vegan. Usually.

CELIA: Louise – it's like being pregnant.

LOUISE: Right ...

CELIA: You can't be half vegan. You either are or you aren't.

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OFFICE 1

ANT AND AARON WAIT.

VICTORIA: (ENTERING) Gentlemen – thanks for coming. I'm Victoria.

AARON: Aaron.

ANT: Ant.

AARON: (LAUGHS) Ant.

ANT: Something funny ?

AARON: It's just a funny name. Ant – watch out I don't step on you.

ANT: It's short for Anthony. But I prefer Ant.

AARON: Okay Ant – (treading on ground) squish squish. I can't really shorten my name. If I did it would be Aar or On or Ron – and that's like a whole other name.

VICTORIA: Gentlemen.

AARON: Sorry – Vicks.

VICTORIA: Actually it's Victoria.

AARON: You see that's funny too.

VICTORIA: Is it ?

AARON: He shortens his name while you make your name longer.

VICTORIA: What do you mean ?

AARON: Well your name's Vicki right.

VICTORIA: No it's Victoria.

AARON: Vicki.

VICTORIA: My full name is Victoria. And I choose to use my full name.

AARON: Pity. Quite like Vicki. Or Tori's nice. Ever tried that ? Sorry. Just call me Aaron. Or Aar. Or Ron. Don't really mind. Whatever you like. Feel free.

VICTORIA: If we could get down to business.

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BAR 2

X: And what is your name ?

JANELLE: Janelle.

X: And that is a good name ?

JANELLE: Better than Outcast.

X: Exiles.

JANELLE: Close enough.

X: And how would you be spelling – Janelle ?

JANELLE: The way it's spelt.

X: Which is ?

JANELLE: J – a – n – e – l – l – e.

X: That does not spell Janelle.

JANELLE: Look Mr X – I know how to spell my own name.

X: That spells Jane – Lee.

JANELLE: J – a – n – e – *double* – l – e.

X: Exactly. Jane – *Lillee*.

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BED 2

ZARA: I loved the part where you ... and then you ...

LAURA: Thanks. I've been practicing.

ZARA: The way you ... with your tongue and then you got your little finger and ...

LAURA: I didn't use my little finger.

ZARA: What was it then ? You know when you were ... and you ...

LAURA: Zara - that wasn't me.

KALIAH appears from under the blanket in the middle of the bed.

KALIAH: Hello.

ZARA: Who are you ?

KALIAH: I'm Kaliah.

ZARA: Have you been there all the time ?

KALIAH: Yeah.

LAURA: I'm sorry. She does this.

KALIAH: All the time.

ZARA: So when I thought Lara was ... that was actually you ?

KALIAH: Uh – huh.

ZARA: I was wondering how she could seem to be in two places at once.

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MESSAGE ROOM 2

DIMI is massaging **MATT**.

MATT: That's it right there.

DIMI: Is that the spot ?

MATT: A little to the left.

DIMI: There.

MATT SUDDENLY SCREAMS OUT IN AGONISING PAIN.

MATT: What are you doing Dimi ? Don't you know my Thoracolumbar Fascia is very tender ? It's right in my file.

DIMI: I didn't think I was anywhere near your Thoracolumbar Fascia.

MATT: Well you were.

GROANS IN PAIN.

DIMI: Are you okay ? Please be okay. It's my first day and if you're not okay then I'll probably get the sack.

MATT: (SUDDENLY) No I'm fine. Just kidding. Had you going there. "Oh my Thoracolumbar Fascia. Ow ow"

DIMI: Oh right. It was a joke.

MATT: Pretty funny huh ?

DIMI: Hilarious.

MATT: So – shall I roll over now ?

DIMI: I thought you wanted a back massage.

MATT: With a happy ending ?

DIMI: What ?

MATT: You know – rub and tug ?

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LOUNGE ROOM 2

LOUISE: I am vegan Celia. Always. Nearly always. Nearly almost always.

CELIA: Except on Tuesday nights when you ciao down on a double dead cow burger with a side order of baby pig.

LOUISE: I thought bacon came from adult pigs.

CELIA: Great so spare junior but eat mum and dad.

LOUISE takes another bite.

CELIA: Stop eating it.

LOUISE: It's just so yummy.

CELIA: And I suppose that makes Factory Farms okay.

LOUISE: What's that ?

CELIA: A place where mother pigs are confined in metal cells so small they can't even turn around.

LOUISE: Okay - I won't eat the bacon.

CELIA: And their children endure the agony of having their teeth clipped and tails cut off, while male baby pigs are castrated – without any form of pain relief. Do you know what that feels like Louise ?

LOUISE: Do I know what it feels like to be castrated ?

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OFFICE 2

VICTORIA: Now Ant and Aaron – (TO **AARON**) no more jokes about names please - I believe you're both here about the job.

ANT: That's right.

AARON: I'm your man.

VICTORIA: Excellent. Well I'll just open the window and we can get on with it.

ANT: Some fresh air. That's very thoughtful.

VICTORIA: I'm opening the window so you can jump out.

BEAT. **AARON** LAUGHS.

AARON: Sorry. I just thought I heard you say you wanted us to jump out the window.

VICTORIA: That's right.

ANT: We're 16 stories up.

VICTORIA: It's actually only 15. Level one's underground.

ANT: That's comforting.

SHE OPENS THE WINDOW.

ANT: I didn't think the windows actually opened this high up.

VICTORIA: As you see – they do.

AARON: Okay – this is officially weird.

VICTORIA: Nothing weird about it Aaron. Now when I say three – you both jump out the window. First man to hit the pavement – gets the job.

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BAR 3

JANELLE: This is got to be the worse speed date I've ever been on.

X: That makes two of us. Would you like me to autograph your score card for you ?

JANELLE: No thanks.

X: I've autographed mine. I put a big X in the column right next to the name Janelle. (SHOWING CARD) See ?

JANELLE: Well I definitely won't be ticking 'yes' to you either. I am so putting an 'x' next to X.

X: Is that so ?

JANELLE: I'll do it right now. (MARKING CARD) There we go. I'm putting X in the "Definitely not" column.

X: Well I'm putting Janelle in the "No way" column.

JANELLE: Well I'm moving X to the "Never in a million years" column.

X: "Not if I was drunk" column.

JENELLE: "Not if I was blind drunk."

X: "Not if I was blind and drunk."

JENELLE: "Not if I was blind and drunk and couldn't hear or talk."

X: You mean "*dumb*" ?

JENELLE: Just like you.

WE HEAR A BELL.

X: Is that six minutes already ?

JENELLE: Pity. I was just starting to get warmed up.

THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

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BEDROOM 3

KALIAH: You were great too.

ZARA: Thanks. Hey Kaliah, you're kind of cute ?

KALIAH: So are you Zara.

ZARA: That's Zara – with a Z.

KALIAH: As in Zoom Zoom let me take you to the moon moon.

ZARA: And Kaliah – with a K.

KALIAH: As in I have the key to your heart.

ZARA: That's not the only thing you've got the key too.

ZARA AND KALIAH LAUGH. KALIAH AND ZARA MOVE TOWARDS EACH OTHER.

LAURA: No Kaliah. You always do this. I bring them home and you steal them.
(TO KALIAH) Go back to your own bedroom.

KALIAH: Okay.

ZARA: Wait. I'll come with you.

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MASAGE ROOM 3.

DIMI: Matt - I don't do that.

MATT: Sure you do.

DIMI: This isn't that sort of massage parlour.

MATT: The other girl doesn't mind. Pay you extra.

DIMI: Where did you say it was really tender ?

MATT: My Thoracolumbar Fascia

DIMI: Which should be right about here –

SHE PRESSES DOWN HARD.

MATT SCREAMS IN PAIN.

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LOUNGE ROOM 3

LOUISE: So I guess the lamb chops I just put in the fridge are a no-no.

CELIA: Look Louise, if you aren't vegan then you're just going to have to move out.

LOUISE: Oh – did the ad say Veg-*an* household ? I thought it said Veg-*un* household.

CELIA: Veg-*un* ?

LOUISE: As in un-veg. Meaning no vegetables at all. You just eat meat. And bacon. Lots and lots of bacon.

CELIA: Alright then – if you don't care about animals then chew on this.

LOUISE: (BITING) I am.

CELIA: Raising beautiful, intelligent animals for meat produces more greenhouse gas than all the world's trains, planes and cars combined. So when you eat that burger – you're just not killing them, you're killing me as well.

LOUISE: You ? Then I guess I'm okay.

CELIA POINTS TO THE DOOR.

CELIA: I'll go pack my stuff.

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OFFICE 3

AARON: But we'll be dead !

VICTORIA: We've had some problems with employee commitment lately so this is the CEO's way of only hiring people who are totally committed to the company.

ANT: I get it. You want your potential employees to prove that they would die for the company.

VICTORIA: That's the plan.

ANT: But there's only one problem – in proving that we would die for the company – we will actually die for the company.

VICTORIA: You've got me there. We're still working out some teething problems. Of course if you'd rather go elsewhere. I'm sure there's lots of other companies looking for –

AARON: No. I'll do it.

ANT: Me too.

VICTORIA: That's the spirit.

AARON: This isn't cause I made fun of your name is it ?

VICTORIA: Just company policy, A-ron.

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LIGHTS UP ON ALL ROOMS

X: Janelle.

JANELLE: X.

THEY EMBRACE AND KISS.

KALIAH AND ZARA ARE VERY CLOSE.

KALIAH: Zara.

ZARA: Kaliah.

LAURA: (LEFT OUT) Laura.

DIMI PRESSES DOWN ON MATT'S BACK.

MATT: (IN PAIN) Dimi !

DIMI: (ENJOYING IT) Matt.

LOUISE IS STILL CHEWING.

CELIA: Louise!

LOUISE: Celia.

ANT AND AARON SHAKES HAND.

AARON: Ant.

ANT: Aaron.

AARON: (NODDING TO **VICTORIA**) Vicky.

BEAT. **AARON** AND **ANT** RUN AND JUMP OUT THE WINDOW.

WE HEAR THEIR CRIES FADING BELOW AS THEY FALL.

VICTORIA WATCHES THEM. WE HEAR A TINY THUD.

VICTORIA: My name is Victoria.

SHE SMILES. BLACKOUT.