

Yell (ow)

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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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.

LEE: We don't know it was him.

SIAN: Oh come on LEE.

LEE: Nobody proved anything.

SIAN: They got the text messages from his phone.

LEE: It might've been stolen.

SIAN: And you believe that ?

LEE: Yes - I believe that.

SIAN: Then why has he been hiding from the police?

LEE: I don't know okay ? I don't know. (PAUSE) You remember that night when we first moved here ? He came over for dinner. You made Pad Thai.

SIAN: Very bad Pad Thai.

LEE: We sat at this table - the three of us . He was drinking that cheap Chinese beer.

SIAN: It was awful. Almost made you sick.

LEE: That's what I can't get out of my head. There was a time before this. Before all this ... shit happened.

SIAN: And ?

LEE: It just seems ... weird. That's all. There was a time when things were normal.

SIAN: Your brother was never normal. Hanging around the city all night, playing those stupid war games at the internet store.

LEE: I use to play those stupid games.

SIAN: Not all night ?

LEE: Yes I did. Before ...

SIAN: Before what ?

LEE: Before I met you.

SIAN SMILES. THE KETTLE WHISTLES. SIAN TAKES IT OFF AND MAKES TEA IN TWO CUPS.

LEE: Melbourne just never seemed to be okay for him. I don't know. When I came here everything just seemed to work out. Got into the course I wanted, found somewhere to live, met you. It just wasn't like that for him.

SIAN: Maybe he didn't try.

LEE: He did try. He got that job at that video store and they sacked him for nothing. He's older than me. My elder brother and then I start doing better than him. That's hard for him.

SIAN: Still doesn't mean ...

LEE: What ?

SIAN: He had to kill Kali.

LEE: He didn't kill Kali. It was that other guy okay ? They were just going to kidnap her and that stupid guy got all crazy. My brother didn't kill her.

SIAN: That's not what the police said ?

LEE: The police are wrong.

PAUSE.

SIAN: How do you know all this ?

LEE: I don't know. It was in the papers.

SIAN: What paper ?

LEE: I just heard it okay ?

SIAN: Who told you ?

LEE DOES NOT RESPOND.

SIAN: You've spoken to him, haven't you ?

LEE: No.

SIAN: Then how do you know what happened ?

PAUSE.

LEE: He rang me. He just rang me.

SIAN: Did he tell you where he was ?

LEE: No.

SIAN: Lee, where is he ?

LEE: He's my brother. Okay, he's my brother. He looked after me back home. Now I've got to look after him.

SIAN: Why didn't you tell me he rang ?

LEE: Because it has nothing to do with you. He's my brother. Mine. I know what he did. I know - not you. I owe him.

SIAN: What do you owe him ?

LEE: He's my brother.

SIAN: And what am I ? (PAUSE) Stop blaming yourself.. It's his fault - not yours.

LEE: It's not his fault.

SIAN: People like him ...

LEE: What ?

SIAN: People like him make it hard for us. All of us.

LEE: What are you talking about ?

SIAN: Don't you see the way people look at us on the street ? "It's them. They're the ones who killed that girl and put her body in the boot of her car." They ... brand us.

LEE: That's their problem.

SIAN: No, it's my problem. The way people looked at me. No one would sit next to me in class. She was my cousin and no one would sit next to me.

LEE: They'll get over it.

SIAN: But I won't. Just tell me one thing. You're his brother so you should know ? Why did he park the car on our street ?

LEE: I don't know.

SIAN: No Lee. Don't look away. You tell me - why did he park her car with her dead in the boot on our street ? Fifty metres from our house. Come on, he's your brother. You know him so well. Answer me. And why did he send text messages to her friends afterwards, bragging about it ?

SIAN: (CONT) Tell me that. You know how they found out she was dead ?

LEE: I know.

SIAN: Two days after she disappeared they were still using her mobile phone. They killed her and they were still using her phone. And still hanging out at that stupid internet shop. Someone saw the phone and remembered Kali had brought this shiny pink phone a couple of weeks ago. That's how they caught him.

LEE: I said I know !

SIAN: Then how can you defend him ?

LEE: I'm not defending him. I don't even know if it was him outside okay ? It could've been anybody.

SIAN: Then why did you think it was him ?

LEE: I didn't think it was him. I don't who it was okay ? It was just some Lebo Rev heads. That's all. Hooning their car around at two in the morning, waking everybody up. Screaming at us slapheads to go back to Cabramatta. That's who it was. It wasn't Chik at all. Okay. It was just some guys saying "Go back to Vietnamatta." It didn't even sound like him.

PAUSE.

SIAN: You heard him, didn't you ? That's why you think it was Chik.

LEE DOESN'T RESPOND. HE GOES TO THE CD PLAYER AND PRESSES PLAY. THE ANNOYING POP SONG STARTS AGAIN. HE STOPS IT AND TAKES OUT THE CD. HE FUMBLES WITH THE OTHER CD COVERS, TRYING TO PUT AEROSMITH BACK IN.

SIAN PURSUES HIM.

SIAN: You heard him didn't you ?

LEE: (MOVING AWAY) Get out of my face.

SIAN: Didn't you ?

LEE RATTLES AROUND AMONGST THE CD COVERS, SEARCHING.

SIAN: (PURSUING HIM) What did he say ? Tell me LEE.

LEE: He didn't say anything.

MORE CD COVERS CLATTER TO THE FLOOR.

SIAN: Tell me !

LEE: No !

ANOTHER CD COVER CRACKS AGAINST THE HARD FLOOR.

SIAN: Tell me what he said or I'm picking up the phone right now. Right now !

SUDDENLY LEE IS STILL. THERE IS SILENCE.

LEE: He said "Help." Okay ? That's what he said. "Help LEE. Help me."

PAUSE. LEE AND SIAN SLIDE TO THE FLOOR. THEY HUDDLE TOGETHER.

LEE: I was asleep. I heard this car stop under the window. Then I heard Chik. He yelled out: Then I heard the car door slam and the car drive away. Chik was asking his little brother to help him.

PAUSE. SIAN GOES TO THE PHONE. SHE BEGINS TO DIAL.

LEE: What are you doing ? O - what are you doing ?

SIAN: We have to call. We have to call before -

LEE: Put the phone down.

SIAN: We have to call.

LEE: SIAN - put the phone down.

SIAN: We have to - before ...

LEE: Put the phone -

SIAN: Before he -

LEE: Put the -

LEE GRABS THE PHONE. SIAN CLINGS TO THE PHONE AND THEY WRESTLE.

SIAN: He killed my cousin.

LEE: You don't know that.

SIAN: He killed my cousin.

LEE: You - don't - know - that.

SIAN: Admit it. He killed my cousin. He killed my cousin.

LEE: I don't know that.

LEE OVERPOWERS SIAN AND PULLS THE RECEIVER FROM HER HAND.

SIAN: He killed her. He killed Kali..

LEE REPLACES THE RECEIVER.

SIAN: He killed her.

LEE: Get away.

SIAN: Admit it. He killed her.

LEE: Go to bed.

SIAN: Say it. He killed her.

LEE: I - don't -

SIAN: Say it. He killed Kali.

LEE: I don't care ! Okay ? I know he killed Kali but I don't care. He's still my brother. He's still my brother and I must look after him.

SILENCE. SIAN HEADS FOR THE DOOR.

LEE: O, I didn't mean it.

SIAN TRIES TO GET PAST HIM.

LEE: O, I said I was sorry.

SHE KEEPS TRYING.

LEE: Please O. Listen to me.

SIAN: Let me go.

LEE: Just listen to me.

SIAN: Let me go !

LEE GRABS HER.

LEE: Please O. I'm sorry !!! Just listen to me.

SIAN GOES LIMP IN HIS ARMS. SHE HAS BEGUN TO CRY. LEE LEANS AGAINST THE WALL, CRADLING HER.

LEE: I know what Chik did was a terrible thing and I know I should hate him. I know. And I've tried - but I can't. Where we came from it wasn't like where you grew up. It was very hard. People getting killed all the time. Chik watched over me. He protected me. He saved my life so many times. Now I must watch over him. In my heart I know that is what I have to do.

PAUSE.

SIAN: But I will walk out that door now unless you pick up the phone and tell them where your brother is.

LEE: I can't do that.

SIAN: Yes you can.

LEE: I can't O.

SIAN: You have to. You have to call them.

LEE: But I can't.

SIAN: Then I will.

SIAN GETS UP. SHE GOES AND PICKS UP THE PHONE. SHE DIALS.

SIAN: (INTO PHONE) Hello ? / Yes. There's someone here who wants to report something. Hold on please.

SIAN HOLDS OUT THE PHONE.

SIAN: She's waiting.

LEE LOOKS UP AT THE PHONE. HE DOES NOT MOVE.

LIGHTS FADE.