

# EXTRACT

# Lazy days in Magenta

a play

by

Alex Broun

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### **Cast**

MICHAEL – a lover, 30-40s

AURORA – a wife, 30-40s

BOYD – a husband, 30-40s

### **Time**

The play takes place in the recent past, over the period of one year.

### **Setting**

A hotel room in a small town on the North Coast of NSW.

### **Scenes**

1. April
2. June
3. July
4. September
5. The next morning
6. February, the following year
7. April

## 1. April

Hotel Room. The curtains are open. Sunlight streams in.

AURORA: This room is beautiful. Five stars?

MICHAEL: Four and a half.

AURORA: Pricey?

MICHAEL: You're worth it.

AURORA: And the view. The sea?

MICHAEL: The lake. The sea is on the other side.

AURORA: I like the sea.

MICHAEL: I can get the sea next time.

AURORA: Who says there's going to be a next time?

SHE MOVES AWAY TO THE WINDOW, LOOKS OUT.

MICHAEL: If there is a next time I'll organise the sea.

AURORA: Lake is fine. I already have the sea at my place.

MICHAEL: Surrounded by water on all sides. Do you ever feel trapped?

AURORA: I like the water. (BEAT) Didn't you see the sign on your way in? Magenta isn't a place. It's a state of mind.

MICHAEL: I thought it was a colour.

AURORA: That too.

BEAT.

MICHAEL: Is this making you feel uncomfortable?

AURORA: I agreed to come. (BEAT) I thought you'd forgotten all about me.

MICHAEL: Pretty hard to forget someone called Aurora.

AURORA: Sleeping Beauty. Waiting for a kiss from her Prince Charming to wake her from her slumber.

MICHAEL MOVES TOWARDS HER. SHE MOVES AWAY.

AURORA: Is that the only reason you remember me?

MICHAEL: Of course not. I remember your ...

AURORA: My what?

MICHAEL: Your eyes. Your smile.

AURORA: Do you forget all the women you sleep with?

MICHAEL: We didn't ...

AURORA: I'm clearly not very memorable.

MICHAEL: Did we ...?

AURORA: Yes, we did.

MICHAEL: When?

AURORA: It was afterwards. I came around to your flat one night. In that ugly apartment block.

MICHAEL: Really?

AURORA: Clearly not very memorable.

BEAT.

MICHAEL: I remember kissing on the stairs when I lived in that old terrace in Paddington. Between the second and third floor, for hours. But you didn't want to ...

AURORA: Not then. But later, we did.

MICHAEL: I don't remember.

AURORA: I'll be going now.

SHE MAKES TO LEAVE. HE GRABS HER AND PULLS HER TOWARDS HIM.

MICHAEL: Was is good?

AURORA: Not particularly.

MICHAEL: Then why are you here?

AURORA: Why are you here?

MICHAEL: You're a very attractive woman.

AURORA: I was nineteen when we met.

MICHAEL: But you're even more attractive now.

AURORA: Liar.

MICHAEL: And you're intelligent. And creative. And passionate.

AURORA: There must be plenty more.

MICHAEL: But they're not special.

AURORA: And I am? Or is that because I'm the only one standing in this hotel room with you?

THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. THEY IMMEDIATELY BREAK APART.

AURORA: (HUSHED) Who's that?

MICHAEL: I don't know. (BEAT) It's not ...

AURORA: He went to Sydney for the day. Unless he ...

MICHAEL: Unless he what?

AURORA: Didn't.

THE KNOCK AT THE DOOR LOUDER.

AURORA: Well?

MICHAEL: What?

AURORA: Answer it.

MICHAEL: What if it's ...?

AURORA: It won't be.

MICHAEL: But what if it is?

AURORA: Then I'll hide in the closet.

ANOTHER KNOCK. LOUDER MORE URGENT.

AURORA: Answer the door.

BEAT. **MICHAEL** GOES TO THE DOOR. BEAT. HE OPENS IT. WE HEAR A MUMBLED CONVERSATION. **MICHAEL** CLOSSES THE DOOR. HE RETURNS.

AURORA: And?

MICHAEL: It was him.

AURORA: What did you tell him?

MICHAEL: Come back later. We haven't finished yet.

AURORA: Bad joke.

MICHAEL: Sorry.

AURORA: Very bad joke.

MICHAEL: Sorry.

HE GRABS HER AGAIN AND PULLS HER CLOSE.

MICHAEL: It was house cleaning. They wanted to know if they could make up the room.

AURORA: And you told them you were *busy*.

MICHAEL: I said they could come back later.

AURORA: When?

MICHAEL: A few hours.

AURORA: I'm not some girl you meet for a quick shag in a motel room.

MICHAEL: It won't be a quick shag. It will be a slow shag. A slow shag, then a quick shag, then slow again. And this is a *hotel* room.

AURORA: (BREAKING AWAY) Now I really am going.

MICHAEL: Stay.

AURORA: I think I should take that as a sign.

MICHAEL: The cleaner knocking on the door?

AURORA: Yes.

MICHAEL: A sign of what? The room needs a service?

AURORA: That what we are doing is wrong.

MICHAEL: According to who?

AURORA: According to me.

BEAT.

MICHAEL: Okay. Go. Walk out the door.

BEAT. **AURORA** HEADS FOR THE DOOR.

MICHAEL: But just answer one question first?

BEAT.

AURORA: One.

MICHAEL: Why did you come? (BEAT) Why did you come?

AURORA: I wanted to see you again.

MICHAEL: Why?

AURORA: That's two.

MICHAEL: It's the same question.

BEAT.

AURORA: Because I enjoyed seeing you that day at the art gallery.

MICHAEL: Even though I said you *didn't* look forty.

AURORA: Which was kind of interesting because I'm not.

MICHAEL: I meant it as a compliment.

AURORA: Do you often tell women they look forty?

MICHAEL: *Didn't* look forty.

BEAT.

AURORA: Apart from that I enjoyed seeing you.

MICHAEL: Why?

AURORA: You said *one* question.

MICHAEL: Why did you enjoy seeing me?

AURORA: Because it reminded me of when I was young, attractive,

MICHAEL: You still are.

AURORA: Free.

MICHAEL: So you do feel trapped?

AURORA: It reminded me of when I was wild.

MICHAEL: And now?

AURORA: Now I'm a mother. With two kids. And a part time school teacher.

MICHAEL: A very sexy school teacher.

AURORA: And mother.

MICHAEL: Still sexy.

AURORA: Who makes salad sandwiches in the morning.

MICHAEL: Still sexy.

AURORA: And the most exciting thing I do all day is make up Tweets for my dog.

MICHAEL: Still sexy. You have a dog?

AURORA: Henry.

MICHAEL: With a Twitter account?

AURORA: All the best mutts do.

MICHAEL: Mongrel?

AURORA: I'll have you know - he's a border terrier.

MICHAEL: On the border of what?

AURORA: Middle age. And some days I look into the mirror and wonder where did she go. That wild child. What happened to her? How did *she* become *me*

**BEAT. MICHAEL GOES TO HER.**

MICHAEL: You are still wild. And amazing. And sexy. Even if you do have a dog on Twitter.

AURORA: Then how come I don't feel it?

MICHAEL: Maybe someone isn't making you feel it.

AURORA: Don't talk about Boyd. Boyd is an amazing man.

MICHAEL: Then I'll ask you again ... why are you here?

**BEAT. AURORA KISSES MICHAEL.**

AURORA: It's such a cliché. The lovers in a tawdry motel room. A steamy embrace. All we need now is the private dick to jump out of the closet with a camera.

MICHAEL: This room isn't tawdry.

AURORA: It's still a cliché.

MICHAEL: You rang me.

AURORA: I didn't ring you.

MICHAEL: You made contact.

AURORA: On Facebook. That doesn't count.

MICHAEL: You suggested we meet?

AURORA: After some prompting from you.

MICHAEL: Not how I remember it.

AURORA: We have already established your faulty memory.

**BEAT. THEY KISS AGAIN.**

MICHAEL: I never forgot that.

AURORA: What?

MICHAEL: What an amazing kisser you are.

AURORA: At least I've still got that.

**THEY KISS.**

AURORA: You too.

THEY CONTINUE TO KISS AS THEY FALL BACK ON THE BED.

LIGHTS FADE.

## 2. June

Hotel Room. AURORA and MICHAEL lie together in the bed.

MICHAEL: So how did you ever get a name like Aurora?

AURORA: My parents were Greek.

MICHAEL: Is that your only excuse?

AURORA: And mad. Well that's not completely true. My mother wasn't mad. My mother was wonderful. But Dad was mad. Completely bonkers. Still is. Do you know once, he detonated a bomb in our backyard?

MICHAEL: I'm sorry. I thought you just said -

AURORA: Bomb. I did. But just a small one.

MICHAEL: Glad to know.

AURORA: It blew a crater between the back shed and the fig tree.

MICHAEL: Why did your father detonate a bomb in your backyard?

AURORA: He had an interest in amateur explosives.

MICHAEL: That's nice.

AURORA: He used to make them in his shed.

MICHAEL: As Dad's do.

AURORA: Then one day he thought he'd test one out. And guess what? It worked.

MICHAEL: Did he get arrested?

AURORA: Surprisingly no. Though several neighbours did comment on the crater.

MICHAEL: And the ear shattering boom?

AURORA: I remember that. It was like the whole house was caving in.

MICHAEL: Probably lucky it didn't. Still doesn't explain the name.

AURORA: Well if you must know the truth I was conceived in the Arctic. Under the aurora borealis.