

EXTRACT

Television Man

a monologue

by

Alex Broun

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Cast

ADRIAN

Setting

TV Room

Time

Evening.

TELEVISION MAN

TV Room. 6.15pm.

ADRIAN ENTERS. GAME SHOW THEME.

ADRIAN: Today I have watched eleven hours of television. Tonight I will watch six more.

ADRIAN BEGINS TO STRETCH.

ADRIAN: I'm on my break. It's important to have a break. A quick half an hour before the last of the game shows and the start of prime time. I don't watch the news. Too depressing. So six o'clock is my break time. A quick snack and stretch and then it's back to the action.

I prefer frozen foods. TV dinners. Or lunches as the case may be. Less interruptions. During one commercial break I take it out of the freezer and put it in the oven. Set the timer, then I come back a couple of commercial breaks later and whammo - instant satisfaction. No washing up either.

(BEAT)

I'm a Television Man. That's my job. I even write it on official documents. Last week I was sent a survey of some kind and where it said "Occupation" I filled in "Television Man". Notice, not "Television Repairman". But "Television Man". I'm a watcher. Not a fixer. Been that way since I did me back at the factory. On compo, you know. Guy at Human Resources said "Find yourself a hobby. Can't just sit around doin' nothing all day. Develop a passion." So I did. I watch. I watch with a passion.

People look at you strangely when you tell them what you do, so mostly, I don't tell them. Except for that form. I didn't have to tell them, did I ? Not face to face. Just had to write it down. So I did. It's a full time job - watching. Seventeen hours a day. Tell me somebody else who works seventeen hours a day - seven days a week. 120 hours a week I'm in my chair, control in hand watching. Only time I'm not watching is when I'm in bed, or when I'm in the bathroom. Although I do try to restrict that to the commercial breaks. Got it well timed matter of fact. Number one's a breeze. Number two's a bit tricky at times. So I'm training to speed up, gradually.

I used to eat three meals a day in front of the television, but now I've decided to leave my post for dinner. You do need a break, sad to say but you do. Nothing good on anyway. News - "Doom and gloom in your lounge room." Not for me, thank you very much. I'll grab my chance, take a break and stock up on