

# EXTRACT

# The Big One

a comedy

in two acts

by

Alex Broun

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## Characters

<b>Ken Lambert</b>	)
	)- out of work actors
<b>Lenny Brown</b>	)
<b>Penny Lawrence</b>	a local actress
<b>Clive Pearce</b>	a “more successful” actor
<b>Henry Landon</b>	a Barmaid
<b>Max McCoy</b>	an American Film Director
<b>Burte Flanders</b>	a Chef

(Note: The roles of **Pearce** and **Burte** can be played by the same actor.)

## Setting

**Act 1:** An inner city pub in Sydney, Australia

**Act 2:** Darkest Africa, on the set of “Flamingo Dawn”

## Time

The action takes places over a period of three weeks.

**ACT 1****Afternoon. Inner city pub.**

In the corner at a table sit LENNY and KEN. They both drink beers.

LENNY: Pearce.

KEN: Pearce.

LENNY: Clive Pearce.

KEN: Clive Pearce.

LENNY: He hasn't.

LENNY: He has.

KEN: Pearce!

LENNY: He's got it.

KEN: He hasn't.

LENNY: He has.

KEN: Not Pearce.

LENNY: Pearce.

KEN: Clive Pearce.

LENNY: Clive Pearce.

PAUSE.

KEN: You're screwing me.

LENNY: I'm not screwing you.

KEN: Clive Pearce?

LENNY: Clive Pearce.

KEN: You are screwing me.

LENNY: I am not screwing you!

KEN: Pearce?

LENNY: Clive Pearce.

KEN: Bullshit.

LENNY: No bullshit.

KEN: That wanker.

LENNY: One and the same.

PAUSE.

KEN: But they can't.

LENNY: They can.

KEN: They can't.

LENNY: They have.

KEN: But it's not finished.

LENNY: Doesn't matter.

KEN: Not before it's finished.

LENNY: The right guy.

KEN: What?

LENNY: You said it yourself. When the right guy walks through the door -

KEN: Door?

LENNY: When he does - you know.

KEN: Bullshit.

LENNY: You just know.

KEN: And Pearce is the right guy?

LENNY: Looks like it.

KEN: And I'm not.

LENNY: Guess not.

KEN: But I haven't even walked through the door.

LENNY: True.

KEN: How can they decide if the right man has walked through the door when I haven't even had a chance to walk through the door. I might be the right guy.

LENNY: You might have been.

KEN: But if they don't let me walk through the door - how will they ever know. I mean they've got to let me walk through the door then they'll see that I'm -

LENNY: The right guy.

KEN: But they've got to let me walk through the door first.

LENNY: There it is.

KEN: It's alright for you.

LENNY: It is?

KEN: You had the chance. You walked through the door.

LENNY: I did.

KEN: You walked through the door and you weren't the right guy.

LENNY: You could say that.

KEN: But I never had that chance.

LENNY: No.

KEN: Door walking through had none - did I. I mean what is that?

LENNY: Unfair.

KEN: Not just unfair. It's a travesty. A bloody travesty.

LENNY: If only you had the chance.

KEN: To walk through the door. They would've seen -

LENNY: The type of guy you were. The right guy.

KEN: The perfect guy.

LENNY: The only guy.

KEN: Captain Farrelli.

LENNY: But -

KEN: I never walked through the door.

PAUSE.

KEN: I mean this is depressing. I rehearsed.

LENNY: Long and hard.

KEN: Learnt my lines.

LENNY: Line.

KEN: Explored the character's motivation. Tried to get in touch with his psyche.

LENNY: The man underneath.

KEN: I'd solved the puzzle. Found the hidden treasure.

LENNY: You were inside him.

KEN: I understood him.

LENNY: You were -

TOGETHER: Farrelli.

KEN: Breathing like Farrelli. Thinking like Farrelli. Talking like Farrelli.

LENNY: What little he had to say.

KEN: No small parts.

LENNY: Exactly.

KEN: Only small actors.

LENNY: Well said. And they weren't talking about stature.

KEN: I was Farrelli. And then -

LENNY: Heartbreaking.

KEN: And then -

LENNY: Soul destroying.

KEN: And then -

LENNY: Gut wrenching.

KEN: They wouldn't let me walk through the door.

LENNY: The way was barred.

KEN: Entry prohibited.

LENNY: Progress checked.

KEN: Slammed in my face. A travesty.

LENNY: Tragedy.

PAUSE.

KEN: Unless ...

LENNY: Yes?

KEN: Unless ...

LENNY: I'm listening.

PAUSE.

KEN: So tell me Len. How did your audition go?

LENNY: Alright.

KEN: Only alright?

LENNY: Fair.

KEN: Only fair?

LENNY: I did my best.

KEN: But you just weren't -

TOGETHER: The right guy.

LENNY: 'Fraid so.

KEN: Bad luck. (PAUSE) Of course - it may not have happened quite like that.

LENNY: What are you saying?

KEN: Maybe that's not what occurred.

LENNY: What are you trying to say?

KEN: Maybe it happened differently.

PAUSE. LENNY PUTS DOWN HIS BEER.

LENNY: I'm putting down my beer.

KEN: I can see that.

LENNY: I'm putting down my beer.

KEN: As we saw.

LENNY: You've made me put down my beer.

KEN: So I did.

LENNY: Are you insinuating ...?

KEN: I'm insinuating nothing.

LENNY: Are you suggesting ...?

KEN: Not me.

LENNY: That I would try to stop...

KEN: Your words.

LENNY: That I would try to stop you ...

KEN: You said it.

LENNY: That I would try to stop you going ...

KEN: I'm saying nothing.

LENNY: Because I was worried you might get the part instead of me.

KEN: My lips are sealed.

PAUSE. LENNY SHAKES HIS HEAD.

LENNY: Well I'm shocked.



KEN: So am I.

LENNY: I am shocked.

KEN: You and me both.

LENNY: I've put down my beer and I am shocked. To think that you -  
You - would think that I could stoop so low as to -

KEN: Big part.

LENNY: Good part.

KEN: Big one.

LENNY: The big one.. But that you could think that I could put a part  
between you and me - between our friendship - well, I'm shocked.

KEN: As you said.

LENNY: Haven't I always been supportive?

KEN: Yes.

LENNY: Caring?

KEN: You have.

LENNY: A true friend.

KEN: No reason to complain.

LENNY: And now - you think I'd be so low as to stoop to that. Pa - thetic.  
That's what it is. Pa - thetic. (PAUSE) Did you hear what I said?

KEN: (IMITATING LENNY) Pa - thetic.

LENNY: Pretty close. Pa - thetic.

PAUSE.

KEN: Big part.

LENNY: It is.

KEN: Big film.

LENNY: No film could ever be that big. That's how I get through this. That's  
how I survive - because there are certain things I just won't do.  
And I'm shocked you would even begin to think otherwise.

PAUSE.

KEN: Guess so.

LENNY: No guesswork.

PAUSE.

KEN: But what if it wasn't you?

LENNY: Not me?

KEN: What if someone was trying to throw me off other than you?

LENNY: I wasn't trying to throw you off.

KEN: But what if somebody was?

LENNY: Take me with you. Take me with you.

THEY LEAN IN.

KEN: Who told you?

LENNY: Told me what?

KEN: Told you it was Pearce.

LENNY: Someone.

KEN: Who?

LENNY: Someone at the casting.

KEN: Yes but who?

PAUSE.

LENNY: I think it was Brock.

KEN: Brock?

LENNY: Yeah.

KEN: Phil Brock? And you believed him?

LENNY: Why? Shouldn't I?

KEN: Phil Brock. He's almost as slimy as Pearce.

LENNY: Phil Brock?

KEN: Peas in a pod. Exactly. Peas in a pod. And they're in it together.

LENNY: Brock and Pearce?

KEN: Brock's telling everybody that Pearce has got it and Pearce is probably telling everybody that Brock has got it - that way everybody thinks somebody else has got it.

LENNY: Except Pearce and Brock.

KEN: Exactly.

PAUSE.

LENNY: Clever bastards.

KEN: That way no one else bothers to show up except -

LENNY: Pearce and Brock.

KEN: And so who gets the role?

LENNY: Pearce and Brock. I mean - Pearce or Brock.

KEN: They've probably got it so finely tuned that whoever does get the part they split the fee with the other one.

LENNY: Clever bastards.

KEN: But not anymore. We're on to them.

LENNY: We are.

KEN: We've heard they're story and we're not buying it.

LENNY: The door's still open -

KEN: And I'm walking through.

PAUSE.

LENNY: Hold on.

KEN: What?

LENNY: Wait a tic.

KEN: What?