

EXTRACT

The Dead Sun

a short play

by

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Cast

KE-LO

TUNG

TWAN

Setting

Kitchen.

Time

Dusk.

The Dead Sun

Fairfield, Sydney. Kitchen. 7pm.

A kettle is boiling on a table. **KE-LO** enters.

She turns the kettle off and takes a cup. She scoops some green tea leaves into a metal strainer and holds them in a cup. She pours some boiling water onto the strainer.

She leaves the strainer in the tea for a few moments then she removes it. She picks up her tea and blows on it, waiting for it to cool. She sips her tea.

TUNG enters, unseen by **KE-LO**. He stands watching **KE-LO**. **KE-LO** sips her tea.

KE-LO turns and sees **TUNG**. Surprised, she gasps and drops her tea. The cup smashes on the floor.

KE-LO sways and stumbles towards the table. She sits. **TUNG** moves towards the broken cup.

KE-LO: No. Leave it.

TUNG: I should ...

KE-LO: I will do it later.

TUNG: But your back ...

KE-LO: My back is fine. (PAUSE) Sit with me.

TUNG moves to the table. He sits. **KE-LO** looks at him.

KE-LO: You scared me.

TUNG: Scared? You should know my face by now.

KE-LO: Surprised. You surprised me. You appeared so ... suddenly.

TUNG: The gate was open.

PAUSE.

TUNG: No tears now. You have cried enough.

KE-LO: I think I shall never stop crying.

TUNG: You have cried enough.

KE-LO: You have been away so long ... this time. Where have you been?

TUNG: No questions.

KE-LO: So long. Why?

TUNG: No questions.

KE-LO: Who are you to say 'no questions'?

TUNG: We have this time. Let us share it.

KE-LO: Share? But what shall we do?

TUNG: Talk. Say things that need to be said.

KE-LO: But Twan should be here.

TUNG: I came when I knew.

KE-LO: You always come when ...

TUNG: Knew that he won't ...

KE-LO: Be here. (BEAT) He has suffered too.

TUNG: You have suffered most. (BEAT) How is he?

KE-LO: Better. He works.

TUNG: So do you.

KE-LO: He is busy.

TUNG: He was always busy. You made time for me.

KE-LO: I always made time for you.

TUNG: You loved me.

KE-LO: I loved you.

TUNG: More than anything.

KE-LO: Even more than ...

TUNG: I knew. I always knew.

KE-LO REMEMBERS SOMETHING. SHE STANDS, SUDDENLY.

KE-LO: Did you see your lilies? I have looked after them.

- TUNG: I saw them.
- KE-LO: You came in through the garden. You must've have ...
- TUNG: They are beautiful.
- KE-LO: But the garden is so small.
- TUNG: Big enough.
- KE-LO: I know what they are called now. Stargazer lilies. I thought if I looked after them, kept them alive, then you would know that we were always here. Always ...
- TUNG: And I do.
- KE-LO: (SUDDENLY DARKER) But there is no sun now.
- TUNG: It shines still.
- KE-LO: Just clouds and rain. Your flowers stare up at a grey wall. The sun is dead where we live.
- TUNG: But it is shining right now.
- PAUSE.
- KE-LO: How long will you stay ... this time?
- TUNG: More questions.
- KE-LO: You have been away so long.
- TUNG: I am here now.
- KE-LO** SUDDENLY GOES TO A DRAW. SHE TAKES OUT A SMALL BELL. SHE RINGS IT. A DELICATE TINKLE.
- KE-LO: Here is your bell. Remember you must keep it by your bed. The Doctor said -
- TUNG: Enough now.
- KE-LO: In the night, if ever you need us, you can just ... (SHE RINGS THE BELL)
We are in the next room.
- TUNG: Enough.
- KE-LO: I will hear the bell and come to you. I will ...
- TUNG: I remember.
- KE-LO: He said that if you had the puffer - you would be alright.
- TUNG: And I am.