

script sample

No Island is a Man.

No Island is a Man
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SCENE 7

Evening. A public place. LINDA and JESSE enter.

LINDA:

...and there was this huge truck right in the middle of the doorway, well, it took up the whole of the doorway, and then I saw Cassandra walking over from the other building, and just as she's coming past the fountain, the horn blows, and she literally jumps and falls into the water, and this voice just starts laughing from the other side of the truck! It was so... I guess you had to be there.

JESSE

I guess so.

LINDA

But it was funny.

JESSE

Cassandra would have been upset I guess?

LINDA

I was scared when she got out. I was trying not to laugh, but she was just silent. And I giggled and she just glared at me, and walked away, with water dripping on the concrete, and when she got to the door, there was Kane, and he said 'you're not coming in here like that', and she just walked past him and he yelled at her, but she wouldn't stop, and I just stood there and laughed until Kane yelled at me to go back to my desk, but I still couldn't...

SOMEONE walks past, and exits again.

LINDA

I'm being very loud, aren't I?

JESSE smiles an acknowledgement.

LINDA

I've just had such a good day, I can't keep quiet. Where are we going?

JESSE

I thought we might sit down at Padre's for a while.

LINDA

Is that all? I'd like to go dancing.

JESSE

I'm not...

LINDA

It's alright. As long as I'm with you, I'm happy. Let's dance to Padre's. (*she takes his hand and spins around him*)

JESSE

Linda, I...

LINDA (singing)

I could have danced all night, I could have danced all night / and still come back for more. / I could have spread my wings, and done a thousand things / I've never done before...

JESSE has not responded positively to LINDA's dancing or singing, and she stops.

LINDA

Sorry. I'm just a bit silly tonight. I promise I'll be good.

JESSE smiles.

LINDA

What is it? You're so quiet. Bad day?

JESSE

Not really.

LINDA

What then? What did you do today?

JESSE

I bought a new stereo for the car.

LINDA

I didn't see it.

JESSE

It hasn't been installed yet.

LINDA

When's that happening?

JESSE

I have it booked in. Tuesday.

LINDA

I have to wait until Tuesday?

JESSE

It's not for your car.

LINDA

It's our car, isn't it?

JESSE

It's my car.

LINDA (*well-humoured*)

Well, fine then.

JESSE

Can I talk to you?

LINDA

Not sure. Try and see if you can. I'll give you a lolly if you do it!

JESSE

Linda.

LINDA (*sitting on the bench*)

Okay. I'll be good. Talk.

JESSE sits beside LINDA, at a short distance. LINDA puts her legs over his lap and lies down.

JESSE (*awkward about her position*)

I have thought about this for a while.

LINDA

Excellent. I like things that are well thought-out. Like that truck at work today.

Perfect timing.

JESSE

This might not be quite such perfect timing.

LINDA

We can always work through that. I'm flexible. I have leave owing.

JESSE

You don't need leave.

LINDA

Oh, I thought you were going to take me to Disneyland like you promised!

JESSE

No, I...

LINDA

Well you've been thinking about that for a long time.

JESSE gets up abruptly, LINDA stays lying on the bench.

JESSE

This isn't about that, I can't...

LINDA

Well?

JESSE (*looking away from LINDA*)

I haven't achieved what I wanted to. For me. I set high standards, I know, but...

LINDA

You're quitting your job? That's great! No more shift work!

JESSE, getting frustrated, goes to the end of the bench where LINDA's head lies, and drops to his knees.

JESSE

Linda! Would you listen!

LINDA (*sitting up suddenly*)

You're trying to ask me to marry you, and I just won't stop talking. Just... (*she fixes her hair*)

JESSE

No, Linda! I am not trying to ask you to marry me! I'm trying to break up with you.

Silence. JESSE stands and walks away and stops.

LINDA

Why?

JESSE

I just... I need my space. I need to be able to set my own agenda once in a while.

LINDA

I don't let you do that?

JESSE

No, you don't.

LINDA

What do you mean, I don't let you set your own agenda? You always decide where we're going. You never let me pick any clothes for you.

JESSE

And you never let me just sit.

LINDA

Who wants to just sit? There's nothing good about sitting. There's no living...

JESSE (*interrupting*)

Me! What's wrong with that?

LINDA

I don't like just sitting around doing nothing. There's nothing fun about just sitting around.

JESSE

That's where we're different.

LINDA

It's not the only way we're different! I treat people with respect!

JESSE

Since when did I fail to treat you with respect?

LINDA

Since... now!

JESSE

I am putting an end to something that is going to hurt you much more later if it doesn't hurt you now!

LINDA

Who says I'm hurt? Maybe I'm just relieved!

JESSE

You don't look relieved.

LINDA

I'm relieved I don't have to spend another night pretending to like you!

JESSE

You weren't pretending!

LINDA

Like Hell I wasn't! You're rude, you're selfish, you don't like any of my friends, and you've got a big nose.

JESSE

Where is that coming from?

LINDA

It always gets in the way. I'll be glad I can look for a man with a smaller nose!

JESSE starts to giggle.

JESSE

Linda...

LINDA

Don't...

JESSE

I'm sorry.

LINDA (*she melts*)

Well you should be. (*pause*) I thought we had something good happening here. We can try again.

JESSE

I...

LINDA

I can be less clingy. You can hang out with your mates more.

JESSE

I don't have any mates.

LINDA

Well you can stay home with your mum and dad, then.

JESSE

Linda, that is not going to be enough for you.

LINDA

Maybe I could have two boyfriends then.

JESSE

I don't think that's going to be enough for me.

LINDA

You want me to have three?

JESSE

That's not what I meant.

LINDA

What do you want, Jesse?

JESSE

I... I don't want this. I need more space.

LINDA

I can give you space.

JESSE

No, you can't.

LINDA

Why not? I've never tried! Give me a chance!

JESSE

I don't want to give you a chance!

LINDA

You don't want to give me a chance?

JESSE

No, I don't!

LINDA

Well fine, then!

Silence.

LINDA

Fine!

Silence.

LINDA

Fine!

JESSE stands still for a moment, then exits.

LINDA

Fine!

LINDA stands watching the spot where he left.

LINDA (yelling)

I'm going to have seven boyfriends! Seven!

LINDA moves towards the spot where JESSE exited. She turns on her heel and exits in the opposite direction.

LINDA (on her way)

And they're all going to have smaller noses than you.

Lights fade.

SCENE 8

Morning. The pool. JESSE enters wearing board shorts, thongs, and a t-shirt, with his backpack on one shoulder. He sits, takes off his thongs, and takes a towel out of the backpack. His mobile phone rings. He answers it.

JESSE

Where are you? (pause) Oh. (pause) No, I... (pause) Last night? I... (pause)
Whatever. (pause) Whatever! (he hangs up)

JESSE sits for a moment, dejected. He decides to go for a swim anyway. He stands and takes his shirt off. Some random guy enters.

RANDOM GUY (yelling)

I'm coming in! (he runs and exits)

SFX of a splash as the GUY jumps into the water followed by much laughter. JESSE watches where he went. He puts his shirt back on, puts his towel back into his pack and exits in the other direction.

Lights fade.

SCENE 8a

Darkness. The sound of lapping water, as before. On the screen, an image of the lake surface, this time some distance from the bank, but not showing the bank. There is the sound of a man heaving as he jumps from the right, followed by a splash breaking the surface. A foot re-emerges from the water, and stays above the surface for a few moments while the man steadies himself, then it follows the rest of the body into the water. Fade to black.

SCENE 9

JESSE enters the kitchen, and takes an orange from a fruit bowl on the bench, and a knife from a knife block. He sits at the kitchen table with it in front of him, but only gets as far as cutting it in half before he stops. GEOFF enters, carrying a pair of large fishing poles. He is struggling with them and eventually gets them down onto the table.

GEOFF

Give us a hand, Jay.

JESSE does not move.

GEOFF

Don't you want to know where I got them?

JESSE

A garage sale?

GEOFF

Nup. Borrowed them from old man Helsing up at number fourteen. He never uses them, would you believe that?

JESSE (*unenthusiastic*)

And now you want me to go fishing with you, I guess?

GEOFF

Well there's no need to sound so enthusiastic.

JESSE (*sarcastic*)

Oh, sorry. Woopie! I get to go fishing with my old man.

GEOFF

Don't make a song and dance about it. Waz was wanting to go, 'cause he hasn't been in years, and I thought I'd seen these when I did old Helsing's drain a couple of months back, so I went and asked about them. Hasn't used them in ten years, would you believe that?

Pause. GEOFF looks at the lines on the rods.

GEOFF

Lines show it, too. D'yer know where we put that reel we got last time?

JESSE

No.

GEOFF

No idea?

JESSE

Dad, the last time we went fishing was the week the World Trade Center fell down.

GEOFF

Yeah, I remember that trout. Out near Griffith, wasn't it?

JESSE

Narranderra.

GEOFF

Do you remember how big that cod of yours was?

JESSE

No, dad, I remember coming home and finding out that the world had been turned upside down.

GEOFF

It was a good week, though.

JESSE

It was a shit week.

GEOFF

Oh, steady on. (pause) So you don't know where we left the reel?

JESSE

No, dad, I do not know where we left the reel.

GEOFF

Well someone got out of bed on the grumpy side this morning. Where's your mother?

JESSE

Church.

GEOFF

Oh, that's what all those cakes were for, I guess.

Pause. GEOFF examines the rods again. JESSE takes his orange back to the kitchen.

GEOFF

Do you want to come, son?

JESSE

No, I don't want to come.

GEOFF

Oh, c'mon. We'll have a ball: just the boys.

JESSE emits a low laugh.

GEOFF

Well maybe next weekend. Just the two of us. Without Warren.

JESSE

Dad, I don't like fishing.

GEOFF

You used to love fishing.

JESSE

No, dad, I never liked fishing.

GEOFF

But you always looked forward to our trips.

JESSE

Yes, I always looked forward to our trips, but not for the fishing.

GEOFF

Your mum used to pack us some good feeds, didn't she?

JESSE humps and goes to dump his breakfast things on the bench, then exits.

GEOFF

What's up your nose?

JESSE (OS)

Nothing! I just don't want to go fishing!

GEOFF

Little lady got you wrapped around her little finger has she? No time for your old man?

JESSE (returning)

No, she does not have me wrapped around her little finger, dad. She doesn't have me wrapped around anything! We broke up!

GEOFF

Broke up?

JESSE does not respond.

GEOFF

Well what did you do? Why did she dump you?

JESSE (angrily)

She didn't dump me, I dumped her!

GEOFF

What on Earth did you go and do a stupid thing like that for?

JESSE

I don't know, maybe because I'm stupid!

GEOFF

Well that much is obvious. (pause) I think you'd better come fishing, in that case.

JESSE

Yes, well I guess that's what stupid people do!

GEOFF

Eh, eh, eh. Enough of that. I meant you should come out with the boys. Do you good.

JESSE

I am not going fishing with you and Warren, dad. (he exits)

GEOFF

We'll have a ball! Get your mind off things!

GEOFF struggles to collect all the rods.