

*script sample*

# THE INCIDENT AT FUGUE BAY

by Trevar Alan Chilver

## **The Incident at Fugue Bay**

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## SCENE ONE

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*DOCTOR SAM BATES enters and places a glass of water and a pre-packed sandwich on the table, yawns, and exits. ANNA HEALEY enters, hair messy and dressed casually. SAM returns with a blanket and puts it on a chair.*

**ANNA**

This better be good, Sam.

**SAM**

Don't look at me. Your friend at the police station rang and told me to get the psych in.

**ANNA**

Mikey's coming?

*ANNA uses the window to check her hair.*

**SAM**

Want a brush?

**ANNA**

Nup. He's seen it worse.

**SAM**

I don't want to know the details.

**ANNA**

I didn't mean that.

**SAM**

I bet you didn't.

**ANNA**

We've worked together, Sam.

*SAM smiles.*

**ANNA**

So what did you get me out of bed at 3am for?

**SAM**

Mikey's picked up some guy down in the national park. Out on a ledge above the ocean, he said. Half naked, shivering, and he hasn't said a word since they found him.

**ANNA**

How'd they get him in?

**SAM**

Apparently your Mikey climbed out around the rocks and led him back.

**ANNA**

But he doesn't talk?

**SAM**

No. Responds to whatever they tell him, but hasn't said a word.

**ANNA**

Couldn't it have waited another six hours? What's he want me to do this time of night?

**SAM**

Probably doesn't care as long as you're here.

**ANNA**

Look, if you must know, we've only been on three dates.

**SAM**

That's not what Peter said.

**ANNA**

Going to the pub does not count as a date.

**SAM**

Maybe not, but going to the bistro at the pub counts.

**ANNA**

Whatever. So this guy understands what they're saying to him but doesn't talk?

**SAM**

That's right. Mikey said they need his name, so they wanted you to come in.

**ANNA**

I'm a psychiatrist, not a miracle worker.

**SAM** *(with a smile)*

No, there must be another reason why Mikey wants you here. I wonder what that could be...

**ANNA**

Don't you have patients to see?

**SAM**

It's 3:30 am on a Tuesday; and this isn't exactly the Royal Melbourne.

**ANNA**

It's Monday.

**SAM**

It's Tuesday.

**ANNA**

I haven't woken up yet; therefore it is still Monday.

**SAM**

Would you like a coffee?

**ANNA**

I should probably think about what I'm going to do with this guy.

**SAM**

Just talk to him. See whether you can find out who he is. That's all they really need.

**ANNA**

I think it would be best if I could just observe how he reacts to you examining him. Get an idea how he responds. Can I sit in there with the light off? Will he see me clearly?

**SAM**

Probably not.

**ANNA**

I'll go and do that. *(she goes to leave)*

**SAM**

Do you want a coffee?

**ANNA**

It's 3:30am and I've just been called in to work. Do you think I want a coffee?

**SAM**

I'll get someone to bring one in there for you.

*ANNA exits. SAM smiles and starts to leave. Just at that moment, MIKEY stands at the doorway.*

**MIKEY**

Hi Sam. Can we turn the lights down for this guy? He's a bit sensitive.

*SAM adjusts the lights, then MIKEY leads in TODD WILLIAMS. TODD is filthy. He is covered in dirt and mud from head to foot. He is wearing torn shorts and MIKEY's police jacket. SAM picks up the blanket immediately.*

**SAM**

Right, here's that blanket, let's get that around him.

*They both put the blanket around TODD and lead him to the seat.*

**SAM**

We've got something for you to eat.

*TODD opens the sandwich eagerly and eats.*

**MIKEY**

Heath, this is Doctor Bates.

**SAM**

Heath? Have you found out who he is?

**MIKEY**

Nah, just a name we're using. The Serg called him 'ledger' because he was out on the ledge so we thought we'd call him Heath Ledger, eh?

**SAM**

Isn't that nice of the constabulary, Heath? To give you a name? Do you have a real one?

*TODD says nothing. He continues eating.*

**SAM**

Do you understand what I'm saying to you? I'm going to have a look at you; make sure you're okay. Then we'll get you another sandwich.

*TODD does not respond, but continues eating.*

**SAM**

Do you think he's from overseas? Maybe he just doesn't understand us.

**MIKEY**

Maybe.

**SAM**

Sprechen ze Deutsch? Habla Espanol? Parlez-vous Francais?

**MIKEY**

I didn't know you spoke other languages, Sam!

**SAM**

You've just witnessed the full extent of my linguistic prowess, Mikey.

*SAM looks intently into TODD's eyes using a small torch, then checks his pulse and capillary refill.*

**SAM**

Can I have a look at your toes?

*TODD raises his foot towards SAM, who tries to check capillary refill in his toes.*

**SAM**

He obviously understands English. Now I'm going to have a look at your head.

*SAM looks through his hair closely, stopping at a few points for a closer examination.*

**SAM**

Can you stand up for me, Heath?

*TODD stands.*

**SAM**

Right, that's the way. Now, can you cope without the blanket for a minute?

*TODD does not respond, and SAM gently takes the blanket and jacket off him, handing them to MIKEY. SAM looks TODD up and down, paying close attention to his back.*

**SAM**

Okay, let's get that blanket back on you. Sit down, Heath.

*TODD does not respond to the verbal instruction, but conforms with it as MIKEY puts the blanket back on him and leads him back to the seat. He takes the glass of water and gulps thirstily.*

**SAM**

Look at this, Constable. *(parting TODD's hair and showing MIKEY)* Burns. There are three on his head, and three down his spine, at the top, halfway down, and just above the tailbone.

**MIKEY**

How old are they?

**SAM**

Well they're not painful; he doesn't respond to me touching them. And they're not severe; probably won't even leave a scar. I'd say about three weeks.

**MIKEY**

Can you tell what they're from?

**SAM**

Well, no, but I've seen a few electrical burns, and they're similar. I've never seen such a mild electrical burn though. If someone got something like that accidentally, they wouldn't present at a hospital, they'd just put a band-aid on it or do nothing, and it would heal by itself. And there's these little scars on either side of his neck, which are both the same, and are probably from a slightly more severe burn, but; several weeks earlier.

*TODD sits still, staring into space.*

**SAM**

And there are two, Mikey. The same; and on opposite sides of his neck.

**MIKEY**

Do you think someone did it to him deliberately?

**SAM** *(quietly)*

Well he could be doing it to himself, but the back is a hard place to get at, especially right on the spinal cord like that. And if they're electrical, that could mean memory loss or loss of speech. I think someone has been doing this to him, and they've been doing it to him for some time.

**MIKEY**

Crikey.

**SAM**

Is Mal still up?

**MIKEY**

Nah, went back home.

**SAM**

Well you better get him up again, it's not normal. I'm going to ring the other hospitals in the district to see if they can match up any of these burns to their patients for you, and I'll get someone to clean him up and get him some clothes.

**MIKEY**

So can he stay here for the night?

**SAM**

Well he seems generally fine.

**MIKEY**

But I can't put him in a cell.

**SAM**

Of course not. No, well, look, he's generally fine, a bit malnourished and dehydrated, but he seems relatively healthy. We have a bed now, but you'll have to find somewhere for him to go tomorrow, because he's not really entitled to it.

**MIKEY**

But he seems unstable. Like he's lost something of his mind, you know. *(he draws SAM away from TODD and speaks quietly)* Is Doctor Healey coming?

**SAM**

She's in the next room.

**MIKEY**

So can she have a look at him? Maybe you can give him a bed?

**SAM**

Well we'd have to transfer him on to the Base Hospital, technically. That's if he can be submitted to the psych ward. But that's Anna's call. She's has been making observations and will come in to see him when he's cleaned up.

*MIKEY smooths his hair with his hand.*

**MIKEY**

So she's been watching?

**SAM**

You let Mal know what's going on. I will find a nurse to give Heath Ledger here a shower and some clean clothes, and then Anna will talk to him. When she's done that, you might have some more information, and...

**MIKEY**

...and we can start looking for whoever did this to him.

**SAM**

See? That's not so hard, is it?

**MIKEY**

Can you get me a blood sample and bag whatever he's wearing, we might need some DNA.

**SAM**

Yes, sir!

**MIKEY**

I'll call Mal.

**SAM (to TODD)**

Can you come with me?

*SAM leaves with TODD. MIKEY takes out a mobile phone and dials. ANNA enters the room during this call.*

**MIKEY**

Yeah, boss, Mike here. *(pause)* Yeah, I know it's late; but it's a bit out of my league. Doctor Bates says it looks like he's been burnt, and it looks deliberate and he might have suffered brain damage and there's a lot of... *(pause)* Well that's all we've got; he's showering, and... *(pause)* No, apparently he's in great health, apart from not being able to talk. *(pause)* Well we can't lock him up in a cell, but that's not the point, these guys could be nearby, we should be out looking for them. *(pause, he pulls the phone away from his ear)* See you.

**ANNA**

Didn't expect to see you so soon.

**MIKEY**

I can't say I'm disappointed by the surprise.

**ANNA**

Neither can I.

*ANNA kisses MIKEY on the lips.*

**MIKEY**

Dinner was great.

**ANNA**

Are you on the graveyard shift again tonight?

**MIKEY**

'Fraid so.

**ANNA**

So shall we have dinner again, like last night?

**MIKEY**

Love to, if you're up to it, after working all night.

**ANNA**

It's alright. I'll have your Heath Ledger sorted out by mid-morning, and I'll take the afternoon off to catch up on some sleep, then I'm all yours.

**MIKEY**

I like the sound of that. How about we go out to the bistro tonight. Save you cooking.

**ANNA**

I like cooking. Besides, people are starting to talk.

**MIKEY**

Who?

**ANNA**

Apparently Peter's been talking about our dates down the pub.

**MIKEY**

Going to the pub's not a date.

**ANNA**

According to Sam, it is a date if you eat in the bistro.

**MIKEY**

That's crap. *(pause)* So let them talk.

**ANNA**

I don't care about them talking, I just don't want to be stared at all night.

**MIKEY**

Well what about Zigfried's?

**ANNA**

Oh, Ja! German cuisine is so romantic, Herr Mikey!

**MIKEY**

Und zen I will tack you back to mine submarine und smooggle you oot of Auztralia.

*ANNA laughs.*

**MIKEY**

So iss zat a yes?

**ANNA**

Oh, ja. Das ist einen grosse ja!

**MIKEY**

Huh?

**ANNA**

That's a yes.

*ANNA gives MIKEY a peck on the cheek as SAM enters.*

**SAM**

Good, both hard at work I see. You've worked it all out then.

**ANNA**

Well we've worked out that we have to go somewhere other than the pub if we want some privacy in this town.

**SAM**

You'll have to go somewhere other than this town if privacy is what you want. Anyway, our Heath Ledger is having a shower with one of our lovely nurses.

**MIKEY**

Lucky him.

**ANNA**

You could at least pretend to be professional, Mikey.

**MIKEY**

I'm too honest for that.

**SAM**

I was lucky enough to get Ken to have a look as he was going past, and he said that the burns are consistent with mild electrical burns, like I said.

**MIKEY**

It's not something that would happen by accident, is it?

**SAM**

No, of course not.

**ANNA**

They're in exactly the right place: the crown and just behind it, so if he's been electrocuted in that area, it would likely be effecting his orientation, language, judgement. If you don't want someone to pass on information or to get back to where they belong, that's where you should zap them.

**MIKEY**

Nice. I will remember never to listen to any sensitive information you give me. *(to SAM)* How long is he going to be? I want to get looking for these guys.

**SAM**

Good luck; he's been outside for days. I'd say more than a week, judging by the smell. And the most recent burns are older than that. Most likely the people you want aren't even in the area.



**MIKEY**

Yeah, but we need to have a team ready to go through the National Park before dawn when all the tourists come in.

**SAM**

Sounds like fun. I'll go check on Heath Ledger. *(to ANNA)* You want me to bring him in when he's ready?

**ANNA**

Oh, give me some warning. He's used to you two and the room, so I'll get you to bring him into the same environment he left, and when he's settled I'll come in. Maybe bring him that sandwich you promised.

**SAM**

I promised him a sandwich?

**ANNA**

He's responding to kinetic signals. While you're waiting for me, introduce yourselves again. And tell him his name's Heath so he knows we're talking to him.

**SAM**

Is that wise?

**ANNA**

I think it's better that we find some way to communicate first. I'm going to try to connect some kinetic cues with verbal cues and see if we can get some more consistent responses.

**SAM**

Okay.

**MIKEY**

I'm glad you know what that means.

**ANNA**

Use gestures. If you can use pictures that's great, but even if you just make friendly gestures I think you'll get somewhere. I don't know that it will work, but it's our best bet. He is responding to some cues, just not the ones you would expect.

**SAM**

I'll go check on him.

**ANNA**

Can you get me some paper? A form maybe, I'll ask him to sign something. If we do it without building it up, often the signature just comes out as a kinetic memory.

*SAM nods and exits.*

**MIKEY**

You think you can find out who he is?

**ANNA**

Anything's possible, Mikey. Let's just start with the basics; see if we can communicate at all.

**MIKEY**

And if we can't?

**ANNA**

We just keep trying. It's likely to heal, but it might take a long time.

**MIKEY**

We don't have much of that.

**ANNA**

It could take years, Mikey, and the things that are least useful for you will probably be the ones to come back first.

*SAM enters with another pre-packed sandwich and a jug of water, placing them both on the table.*

**SAM**

He's just about ready.

**MIKEY**

So you want us to try talking to him?

**ANNA**

Maybe just try introductions. If we're going to get anywhere, we need names to use. Introduce yourself, and let him know you're going to call him Heath. I won't leave it long before I come in.

**SAM**

Well stop talking about it and go.

*ANNA exits, followed by SAM. ANNA appears again in the window. SAM leads TODD back into the room. He is clean and dressed and looking very civilised and normal.*

**SAM**

Here you go. Are you still hungry?

*SAM holds the chair out, but TODD resists sitting. He takes the sandwich and begins to eat, less eagerly than the last time. He stands with his back to the window. ANNA leaves the window.*

**MIKEY**

Mate, do you mind if we call you Heath? It would make it a bit easier for us to figure out who you are.

*TODD looks intently at MIKEY and slowly nods.*

**MIKEY**

Well there you go. Heath it is. Hi Heath; I'm Constable Michael Addams.

*MIKEY slowly holds out his hand for TODD to shake. TODD looks at it, and instinctively goes to shake it.*

**SAM**

And I'm Doctor Bates.

*SAM also holds out a hand for TODD to shake, which he does. ANNA enters behind him, knocking on the door as she does.*

**MIKEY**

And this is...

**TODD**

Anna!

**ANNA**

Todd!

*TODD takes ANNA's head in his hands and kisses her passionately.*

**SAM**

Oh, you two know each other?

**TODD**

Where have you been?

**ANNA**

Todd, where have you been?