



Wonthaggi
Theatrical
Group Inc
EST 1969

“Home, I’m Darling” – 2026

Script extracts for audition – FRAN (Judy’s friend)

Age: 30s-40s

pp. 12 – 15

pp. 49 – 53

See Audition Information for details

Sorry I said penis.

JUDY: Fran, look – the Johnny thing,

FRAN: I'm sorry, I didn't mean to suggest

JUDY: I don't want to hear anything like that, I don't want it in the house.

FRAN: OK, sorry.

Sorry.

JUDY: No, it's OK.

FRAN drinks her tea, looks around.

How'd you get your taps so shiny?

JUDY: Um, half a lemon. Rubbed round.

FRAN: Huh.

JUDY: Old ways are the best.

FRAN: Marcus says that.

JUDY: It's all there on the internet, all the hints and tips. You can do most things with lemon juice, vinegar, soda crystals. Better than all the chemicals people use now.

FRAN: I don't know anything about

JUDY: There's a book if you're interested.

FRAN: Yeah?

JUDY goes to a drawer, pulls out a book and hands it to FRAN.

JUDY: It's my bible, this.

FRAN: "How To Ruin Your Home Without Help"

JUDY: *Run.* How to run your home.

FRAN: Sorry, it's very small writing.

JUDY: 1949, so it's a bit early. Middle-class women doing without servants for the first time, after the war.

FRAN: Wow, this is Terrifying.

JUDY: No, she splits it all down into daily tasks, weekly things, Every room gets a light going-over every morning, air the bedrooms, make the bed, then each afternoon you do one or two rooms properly – behind things and under things, vacuum, dust, wipe, polish. Then dinner cooking. Plus Monday is your washing day and Friday is baking.

FRAN: So much to do.

JUDY: It's manageable when you break it down. Plus we're not dealing with all that coal dust anymore.

FRAN: You've been talking to me for an hour, you should have been ironing the door handles. You really do all this?

JUDY: Have a borrow if you like.

FRAN: Can I? Thank you.

FRAN gets up to leave.

Best get started.

JUDY picks up the dress they were looking at and holds it up.

JUDY: Maybe not this one, it's a good dancing dress I'll need it next month, won't I? Kicks out really nicely when you spin.

FRAN: Need it for?

JUDY: Jivestock?

FRAN: Yes.

JUDY: You haven't forgotten?

FRAN: No no.

JUDY: 28th to the 30th.

FRAN: Yes no absolutely. No, very excited.

JUDY puts the dress back on the pile. They walk to the front door.

I'm sorry I upset you

JUDY: I'm not upset.

FRAN picks up some letters from the mat.

FRAN: Post for you.

JUDY: Can you believe how late they come now? Four o'clock, look.

FRAN: See you next week?

JUDY: Yes, and you're coming for tea on Sunday, yes?

FRAN: Yes of course. 'Bye.

JUDY: Bye bye.

JUDY closes the door and comes back down the hallway looking through the pile of letters. She sees one that looks serious and opens it, standing by the kitchen table. She reads it, putting a hand to her mouth.

The doorbell rings, making JUDY jump. She stuffs the letter back in its envelope then opens the cupboard under the sink and puts the letter right at the back.

JUDY goes down the hallway and opens the front door. There's nobody there, but she calls to a figure retreating down the path.

JUDY: Hello?

SYLVIA: Oh hi.

Didn't think you were in.

JUDY: No, I had to wash my hands I was just

SYLVIA: Hello darling.

SYLVIA has reached the front door and she and JUDY hug hello.

How are you?

JUDY: Yeah I'm fine

Come in.

JUDY leads SYLVIA through to the kitchen.

SYLVIA: I didn't think you were in I thought you were out.

JUDY: No, well I'm in.

SYLVIA: I thought maybe you'd started a new job.

JUDY: No.

SYLVIA: I was just going to get a pen and paper from the car. Can't text you, can I?

JUDY: Is that why you didn't tell me you were coming? Because I haven't got a mobile phone?

SYLVIA: I didn't know I was coming today but yes, I do think it's bloody-minded of you when the entire rest of the world has accepted a basic level of

JUDY: Tea?

SYLVIA: Yes please.

Anyway I was just in the area, thought I'd pop in.

JUDY goes to put the kettle on. SYLVIA takes off her coat to reveal a colourful dress underneath.

JUDY: We do have a landline. Why were you in the area?

SYLVIA: I've been to a funeral, actually.

JUDY looks at SYLVIA's clothing.

It said 'no black'.

JUDY: Who, um

Is it sugar at the moment or not sugar?

MARCUS: There's only one window coming up where I'd be safe to leave the office, and the Jivestock weekend directly clashes.

JOHNNY: Where are you going?

MARCUS: Cuba, we think.

FRAN: Marcus wants to go to Havana, see all the old cars.

JOHNNY: No, of course, amazing.

FRAN: We're really sorry.

MARCUS: Obviously we'd love you to borrow the Airstream and

FRAN: Yes, please take the Airstream.

JUDY: I don't know if we'll go if you don't.

FRAN: Oh don't say that.

JUDY: I mean we won't know anybody without you.

JOHNNY: We'll talk about it.

FRAN: You're one of the best dancers there.

JUDY: But if Johnny doesn't dance, I won't have a partner, we normally take turns with

MARCUS: Oh, there's better partners there than me.

FRAN: I thought you were having lessons, Johnny.

JOHNNY: Yeah, there's not been much time recently, work's been really busy and

JUDY: Sorry, I'm just going to go and
Fill up the tea.

JUDY goes out to the kitchen.

FRAN: Is she

JOHNNY: Yeah yeah, she's fine, she's fine, don't worry.

MARCUS: We never really said we'd go this year.

JOHNNY: No, we probably just assumed, 'cause we'd been two years running.

MARCUS: We thought maybe we could find a weekend later in the summer, all go for a caravan weekend together.

JOHNNY: Whatever, yeah, whatever you want to do.

Back in a sec.

JOHNNY goes out to the kitchen. JUDY looks at him in silent distress.

FRAN: I feel terrible.

MARCUS: They can still go, they don't need us.

FRAN: They do, though, don't they? They're shy. And you've seen Johnny dancing.

JOHNNY goes to hug JUDY, but she steps back, afraid she'll cry.

JUDY: Not now.

MARCUS leans close to FRAN, speaking quietly.

MARCUS: D'you want to change our minds, forget about Cuba?

FRAN: No, of course not.

MARCUS: It was you who said we needed to get away, talk about things. Preferably somewhere incredibly expensive.

FRAN: Cuba's not

MARCUS: To stay in the places we like, yes it is.

JUDY: Go back in, I'll be there in a minute.

JOHNNY goes back into the living room.

FRAN: She OK?

JOHNNY: All fine. She'll be back in a minute.

MARCUS: How's the Austin holding up?

JOHNNY: Broke down again the other day, Wednesday.

MARCUS: Oh no.

JOHNNY: Had to pull over on the side of the A414, smoke puthering out.

MARCUS: I don't know how you manage. I love the Chevy for weekends, but I couldn't do without the Audi for work, just need the reliability, you know?

JOHNNY: Yeah, I don't know. I like having a car I can fix myself – mostly, anyway – open the bonnet and know what everything is, it feels honest. Modern cars it's just a computer on wheels, isn't it?

JUDY comes in, carrying the cake on a plate.

What's that?

JUDY: It's a cake, Johnny.

JOHNNY: I know it's a cake, why's it

JUDY: I'd completely forgotten I made a cake too.

MARCUS: Looks tremendous.

JUDY: Johnny's favourite. It's called Chocolate Chiffon Cake.

JOHNNY's phone rings in his pocket. He takes it out to look at it.

I didn't bring it out earlier because Johnny's been on at me about over-catering, but we'll never get through it by ourselves.

JOHNNY: Sorry, I've got to take this, it's work, 'scuse me.

JOHNNY goes out of the room.

(Into phone) Hi, how are you?

JUDY: Will you have a slice, Marcus?

MARCUS: Yes please.

JOHNNY heads up the stairs.

I don't think I've ever seen Johnny with a phone.

JUDY: No he doesn't have it normally, he puts it in the drawer in the hallway.

JOHNNY: Yes yes, yes great. How's yours?

JUDY: We didn't really want him to have one at all, but the way that business works, he can't really do his job without it.

JOHNNY: Right yeah. Oh, OK, that's very

JUDY hands MARCUS his cake.

JUDY: He's got this new boss, I think she might be a workaholic. Fran?

JOHNNY: Yes, we've been wondering when the news might land.

FRAN: Just a little bit, yeah.

JUDY: Had her over for drinks the other night. Never off her phone.

JUDY hands cake to FRAN. MARCUS tucks into his.

JOHNNY: No, obviously you've got to take your time, make sure everyone feels they've had a fair crack.
Right. Yes.

Toby, right. Toby.

MARCUS: Oh my god that is *incredible*.

JOHNNY: Yes no of course. The numbers don't lie, do they?
MARCUS: I mean that is like, *wow*.

JOHNNY: Yes yes, great qualities. Leadership
MARCUS: Don't you think?

JOHNNY: Oh no, I wasn't expecting

FRAN: It's very nice.

JOHNNY: If there are things I can do to, um, improve
No sure yeah, you've got other people to call, we can talk about it on

Yes yes, no I appreciate it.

Alright yeah, thanks bye.

Yes you too, yeah bye.

JOHNNY hangs up.

MARCUS: You know, this might be the best chocolate cake I've ever had. Johnny's a lucky man.

JOHNNY sits on the bed. He looks around the room.

FRAN: Have you guys got a holiday planned?

JUDY: No, um. Jivestock was going to be

FRAN: Oh god I'm so sorry.

JOHNNY comes down the stairs and into the living room.

JUDY: Everything alright?

JOHNNY: Yes, just. Just work stuff.

JUDY: Cake?

JOHNNY: I'm alright, thanks.

MARCUS: You know you have to take a firm line with these people if you don't want them ringing you at the weekend. Set your boundaries. I have to be very clear with everyone at the agency.

JOHNNY: Right.

MARCUS: They respect it, in the main, don't they?
FRAN: Yes.