

EXTRACT

CAR GODS BURN!

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NOTE ON THE SCRIPT

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CHARACTERS

KIRSTY DAVIDSON ... 17 going on 18, dreaming of fame as a super model.

ADAM WHEELER ... 18 year-old apprentice mechanic, into modified cars.

CHARLES 'HARLEY' DAVIDSON... Kirsty's father, a highway patrol cop.

STEVE WHEELER ... Adam's dad. A panel beater, separated from his wife.

FRANK SUTTON ... an older man who just wants to sleep in peace.

MC ... Compere of the *All Fours & Rotary Car Spectacular Super Show Babe*

[HARLEY, STEVE, SUTTON and MC can be played by the same actor.

VOICES OFF: [Various 'Voices off' can also be played live by the actors.]

DRAG RACE COMMENTATOR

FASHION REPORTER/ AUDITION V.O.

TALK BACK RADIO ANNOUNCER

TALK BACK RADIO CALLERS

MACCAS' STAFF (KYLIE & KATE)

TV CURRENT AFFAIRS HOST

TV FATHER

RAILWAY STATION ATTENDENT

SETTINGS: The play is set in multiple locations:-

STEVE'S Smash Repair workshop.

KIRSTY'S house

SUTTON'S house

VARIOUS SUBURBAN STREETS & HIGHWAYS

A STAGE at the SPEEDWAY.

At the COAST

A RAILWAY STATION PLATFORM

The central action happens around, in and on ADAM's car, a souped up '84 Holden Gemini. Several scenes call for the car to be in motion (the test drive, the drag race, the chase). This can be achieved at a basic level with lights and sound effects and physical performance. If video and multi-media can enhance these effects, so much the better.

SCENE 1 - A SUBURBAN STREET

The sound of a speeding car.

A spot light fades up on a cross, placed on the roadside, maybe nailed to a telegraph pole, in memory of a loved one who died in a car crash. The sound of a revving engine grows louder and louder climaxing in panicking voices, squealing brakes, a woman's scream - the sound of a car crash.

The spot fades out.

SCENE 2 - A FANTASY DRAG TRACK/SUBURBAN STREET

The space begins to fill with the smoke of burning rubber. As lights fade up on the figure of a young man, ADAM, driving a car in the cloud of smoke.

We hear the call of the 'fantasy' COMMENTATOR over a PA.

COM. I tell you this guy is on fire! This is the best burnout we've seen here all night! All season! Probably the best we're ever likely to see! He's breaking all the records! This guy - this Adam Wheeler - he's the new kid on the block and he's hot! He's frying his tyres like there's no tomorrow! The kid must eat burning rubber for breakfast, lunch and dinner! Wow! The crowd loves him and I bet he's on cloud nine! I bet he feels like he's floating on the clouds, there's so much smoke out there. And look at that! He's gone into a 360 - he's going all the way around - and he's coming out sideways! Listen to that crowd! I tell you this guy is going to be hard to beat. This guy is a legend. He is one of the car gods of our time, there is no doubt about it. A fair dinkum Car God!

The cheering crowd fades out as a police siren fades up.

A flashing blue and red light of a cop bike is refracted in the fog of burning rubber as it starts to disperse. ADAM is brought back to reality. He stops doing his wheelies. He sees the police on his tail.

ADAM Oh, shit!

SCENE 3 - A SUBURBAN BEDROOM

Fade up the sound - magnified and distorted - of revving engines, squealing tyres, and a thumping bass beat.

FRANK SUTTON, a man in 60s, in his pyjamas and/or a dressing gown, is soaked in his own glistening sweat as he stands by or sits up in his bed. Spots of light dance over him, menacingly. He stares out into the source of the lights like a frightened rabbit caught in the glaring headlights of an oncoming cars.

He screams in despair and buries his head in his pillow.

SCENE 4. A FANTASY CATWALK

KIRSTY is a glamorous model looking extremely hip, cool and sexy as she moves, vogueing and posing sexily to techno-pop music on a catwalk. She is starring at an international fashion show. Photographers are flashing their cameras. The music fades out a little as a current affairs REPORTER'S V/O fades in.

REPORTER From Western Sydney to the catwalks of New York, London and Paris in less than a year. From suburban schoolgirl to top international fashion model, in a matter of months, Kirsty Davidson has been thrown in to the rock and roll lifestyle of a supermodel, appearing on the catwalks of the world dressed by some of fashion's biggest names. See the way she moves, see her poise, her grace, her natural beauty, I'm sure we'll be seeing a lot more of this young lady before too long...

KIRSTY's glamour garb seems to transform as the hi-fashion glam lighting is replaced with something more low-key, more work-light-ish. The music fades out, as another, REAL LIFE VOICE addresses her.

V/O Thank you. That's all, dear. ... Excuse me, Kristy, Kristy, Kristy ... That's all dear. Thanks very much for your time. Next please.

KIRSTY is left standing in her more mundane street wear.

KIRSTY It's Kirsty.

V/O Next please!

SCENE 5 - SUBURBAN STREET

A motorcycle highway patrol officer, 'HARLEY' DAVIDSON is getting off his motorbike, and walking towards ADAM who is getting out of his car. ADAM walks to the front of his car and stands there, blocking the number plate.

HARLEY Stand away from the number plate. Over there – and don't move.

ADAM All the mods are legal. I've got the engineer's certificate.

(HARLEY walks around the vehicle inspecting it.)

HARLEY Can I see your licence please?

(ADAM offers his wallet.)

HARLEY Take it out of your wallet. Turn around.

ADAM does so, hands it to HARLEY who radios base.

HARLEY (*Backgrounded*) 252 Penrith. Licence check on licence number 2006263214, a Mr Adam Wheeler. 84 Gemini, rego number

HARLEY listens as Base gives him the details. The list of offences is a long one, and Harley greets each one with a 'Ah-ha'.

ADAM You got your quota for the day, or what? Motorbike cops are the worst. See a modified car and you're after it like a greyhound after a bunny.

HARLEY (*into radio*) Uh huh.....Uh huh.....Uh huh

HARLEY finishes his radio call. Approaches Adam.

HARLEY Looks like you've got a bit of a history with us. Don't you move from that spot, son. ... I could confiscate your vehicle.

ADAM Aw, come on...

HARLEY starts writing tickets.

HARLEY Reckless driving.

ADAM What?

HARLEY Burnouts are illegal. You know that. That'll be three points. (*Hands him a ticket.*)

ADAM I wasn't – my foot slipped off the clutch.

HARLEY Excessive noise. That's another two points. (*Hands him another ticket.*)

ADAM No!

HARLEY Damage to public property.

ADAM Eh?

HARLEY You put a hole in the road.

ADAM That pot hole was already there!

HARLEY Another two points. (*Hands him the third ticket.*)

ADAM No, no – you bloody --- (*ADAM stops himself.*)

HARLEY Those demerit points can sure add up, can't they?

HARLEY Looks like you've just done your licence.

ADAM Oh, shit.

HARLEY You'll get a notice in the mail. You might not care about the safety and amenity of the people who live around here, but it's my duty to do so. I'll be watching you closely, son, I'll be watching you.

HARLEY exits. ADAM gives him the finger, then starts kicking his tyres.

ADAM Fuck it, fuck it fuck it!

SCENE 6 - KIRSTY'S PLACE

KIRSTY sits despondently cutting pictures of models out of fashion magazines, then cutting off their heads and other body parts. She is 'auditioning' the models. She's been doing this a while from the amount of waste paper she has created around her

KIRSTY *(Mock posh voice)* Thank you! Next! Next please! Next! *(snip, snip, snip)* Oh, no your bum's way too big for what we're looking for! And you move like a drunken hippopotamus! *(snip, snip, snip)* Oh, and you'll have to lose a few kilos around the hips! And get your teeth straightened! *(snip, snip)* Oh, you won't go anywhere with tits like that! Here, let me fix them for you! *(snip, snip. In her own voice:)* Ah, that's better - Bitch! Next! Next! Next! Fucking Next!

KIRSTY works herself up into a frenzy of cutting and creates a shower of paper as HARLEY enters, home from work, in his police uniform. He stares at her for a few moments, till she looks up at him.

HARLEY No luck with your interview?

KIRSTY Oh, no, it went fine. I'm off to Paris tomorrow for a photo shoot for Vogue, and then to on to London to launch the new line by Calvin Klein and New York for a show for Versace... I would've flown out tonight actually, but I had to get your tea. It's in the fridge. Just pop it in the microwave.

HARLEY You've got to get used to knock-backs. You can't let it get to you like this. Otherwise...

KIRSTY No otherwise! You promised you'd let me try...

HARLEY But you can't rule out other options. You got good marks in the HSC. You could be a nurse like your mum.

KIRSTY Dad, I want to be a model. To dance. To act. To be something. Someone.

- HARLEY You're good at artwork. Designing clothes and stuff.
- KIRSTY Yes, I know, but I don't want to just design stuff. I want wear it, too.
- HARLEY You need something solid to fall back on.
- KIRSTY Besides my arse, you mean.
- HARLEY I think it's important to take risks in life. But not stupid ones.
- KIRSTY And what I'm trying to do is stupid?
- HARLEY I'm not saying that at all. But you've already given it a bloody good shot.
- KIRSTY It takes time to break into the industry.
- HARLEY And money. That agency's charging you an arm and a leg. Those photos... I could've done a better job myself
- KIRSTY Oh yeah. Mug shots.
- HARLEY Jesus, girl, you know your mother and I always wanted to see you happy.
- KIRSTY Please, don't talk for Mum.
- HARLEY What you're doing now doesn't seem to be making you happy. Eh?
(He kicks at the cut up fashion models)
- KIRSTY It *will* make me happy. When I get a decent break. This is what I love.
- HARLEY Listen. You're eighteen next month. Your big one-eight. And I promised you something special. A special present.
- KIRSTY No you didn't.
- HARLEY I made a promise to myself, that if you did well in your final exams, that I'd get you ... something ... special.
- KIRSTY You never told me.
- HARLEY I didn't want to get your hopes up.
- KIRSTY You didn't think I'd do any good?
- HARLEY I didn't want to put pressure on you.
- KIRSTY What am I getting?

HARLEY Your own car.

KIRSTY Really?

HARLEY But there'll be a price limit. And you'll be paying for the petrol and maintenance. So you'll have to keep your shift at Woollies.

KIRSTY Till I get a decent break.

HARLEY Yeah. Or --

KIRSTY 'Or'? What's the catch?

HARLEY No catch. But in six months...

KIRSTY In six months, what?

HARLEY If you don't have any luck in -- if you don't get your big break you will give it away. Enroll in a course. In something ... proper.

KIRSTY 'Proper.'

HARLEY I'm sure your Mum would've wanted you to -

KIRSTY Please, you don't know what Mum would've wanted for me.

HARLEY I know she'd want you to be happy.

(End of that discussion! HARLEY starts to leave. Pause)

KIRSTY What's the price limit?

Fade out.

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