

## **SET**

The play takes place in one room. Two doors and a window are required. The room represents an area within a Mental Health Community House - almost a half-way house for de-institutionalised patients. In an abstract/surreal sense the walls and floors are brilliant white. However, the room is permanently being painted white by the 'inmates' throughout the play. Perhaps two metre high flats (white) lining the walls will suffice with painting drop sheets everywhere.

## **STYLE**

Over the top, almost surreal, definitely expressionistic satire - at times machine-gun speed building to moments of outrageous crescendo.

## **CHARACTERS**

**GLEN**, a cross-dresser with multi-personality disorder, continually changes wigs and costumes. The more bizarre the better. Uses male and female voices.

**PETER**, suffering obsessive compulsive disorder, continually washing his hands and cleaning the inside of a vacuum cleaner.

**HARRY** believing he is the Messiah fears the devil is everywhere and often edges around the room, his back to the wall. He also holds his arms round his waist as if they were restrained by a straight jacket. Performs weird arm gestures. (Remember the serial pest?)

**THELMA**, anti-social and delinquent in past behaviour, is unable to face the world. She sits alone, reading medical journals.

**CAROLINE** is a social worker/counselor whose objective is to integrate her 'patients' back into the community. There are two Carolines, played by the same actor. The second **CAROLINE** kidnaps the first and replaces her so she can use the patients to test a new drug and record footage for a reality TV show.

The play opens with GLEN, PETER and HARRY painting the set. HARRY, naked from the waist up, uses an artist's brush and

palette. THELMA is reading. PETER interrupts his painting to make himself a coffee.

GLEN

Glen'll have a cup, sweetie, if you're making. Then if you're a good boy, a really good boy, Glenda'll let you run your tongue up and down her two moons. Make that two spoons, Sweetie.

PETER turns the kettle on.

HARRY

(delicately dabbing)

And God spoke I am the Lord thy God. I have brought thee out of the land of Egypt. Egypt is a Jewish conspiracy...

GLEN surreptitiously turns the kettle off, then puts black marks on the wall where PETER was painting.

PETER

Shut-up, Moses, you Egyptian fraud!

THELMA

I saw that, Glen.

GLEN

(lighting a cigarette)

Jesus wore a dress and size sixteen sandals. That's how he walked on water you know.

(to THELMA)

You only see what you want to. That's why you're in here.

GLEN playfully touches HARRY on the bum. HARRY snaps his teeth at GLEN then performs a series of animated wild arm gestures, almost dance-like, resembling crucifix images. PETER notices the kettle is off.

PETER

(to HARRY)

You turned it off!

GLEN laughs.

HARRY

I did not!

PETER

I saw you!

GLEN indicates THELMA to PETER.

PETER

(to THELMA)

I saw you!

GLEN

(to THELMA)

I saw you too!

PETER

I saw her first!

GLEN

I did.

GLEN and PETER gnash their teeth at each OTHER. GLEN pulls a knife, threatens PETER who growls.

THELMA

Put it away!

GLEN gnashes his teeth.

THELMA

You're not crazy so put it away!

GLEN

Don't say that!

PETER notices the black marks.

PETER

Who did that?

(to THELMA)

You did. I saw you.

GLEN howls like a wolf. HARRY joins him. Howling savagely, the three advance on THELMA, who, although concerned, continues reading.

The door opens and CAROLINE enters. GLEN, HARRY and PETER

immediately become docile puppies, almost falling over themselves for CAROLINE'S attention. CAROLINE dabs a recent cut above her eye with a hanky, puts her handbag on the table. She gently pushes HARRY away. HARRY immediately adopts his straight jacket pose. GLEN attempts to sympathetically touch the cut.

CAROLINE

(flustered and avoiding GLEN)  
Idiot driver nearly ran me off the road. I'm sure she did it on purpose.

CAROLINE exits.

CAROLINE (O.S.)

Where's Neville?

THELMA

Talking to a mirror.

GLEN

I don't trust mirrors. You never know who's been looking in them.

GLEN offers THELMA a drag of his cigarette.

THELMA

You must be joking!

GLEN

No *small* vices, have we, darling?

CAROLINE returns dragging a large box of costumes and folders. PETER closes the door and wipes the handle. He follows CAROLINE, cleaning everything she touches.

CAROLINE

And would you believe it? She gave me a false name and address.

PETER

That's a bad omen. My mother did that.

GLEN checks the costumes.

GLEN

Oh my. Deceased estate?

CAROLINE

Put that out, please!

(taking the cigarette and slapping GLEN'S  
wrist)

Everybody present? Harry, Peter, Glen, or is  
it Glenda today?

CAROLINE puts the cigarette in an ashtray.

GLEN

You'll just have to wait and see.

HARRY acts as if someone's following him.

CAROLINE

Harry, what is it?

HARRY

He's everywhere. I can feel him?

CAROLINE

Who?

GLEN

Lucifer of course. The wolf of fishes.

HARRY snaps at GLEN.

HARRY

The demon of sinful pride.

CAROLINE

Okay, that's enough! Have we been outside  
today, Peter?

PETER

I didn't mean to wander off.

CAROLINE

I'm not accusing you. I want you to go  
outside.

PETER

I didn't mean to wander off.

CAROLINE

You haven't done anything wrong.

PETER

(closing the window and whispering)  
I've never told anyone, you know.

CAROLINE

That's very good, Peter. Very good. Thelma  
are we participating today?

THELMA

Get stuffed.

THELMA continues reading. PETER, GLEN and HARRY glare are  
her.

CAROLINE

I'm not continuing unless we have one hundred  
percent participation.

(THELMA remains where she is but watches)

Good. Today we'll be doing a different,  
special workshop...

(no one responds)

...so important your very futures may depend  
upon it.

GLEN

What! Why?

THELMA.

Ours or yours?

CAROLINE

As you know this place costs a small fortune  
to maintain....

GLEN

I'll sell my jewelry.

PETER

Are you sending us back?

HARRY

I'm not going back!

CAROLINE

Goodness no.

PETER

It wasn't my fault.

HARRY

(falling to his knees)

Bless me father for I have sinned.....

CAROLINE

You're not going back.

THELMA

Tell the truth, Caroline. Where are we going?

PETER

You're leaving us?

CAROLINE

Of course not. We recognise the need to treat you as normal people, because that's what you are, normal people....

(She puts PETER'S soap away, closes HARRY'S bible, which he reopens. PETER opens the vacuum cleaner)

...with slightly exaggerated behavioral disorders. The right treatment and medication can manage those disorders, allowing you to lead normal lives in the outside world.

THELMA

Running for Parliament, are we, Caroline?

PETER

Outside?

CAROLINE

(preparing their medication)

You're ready to return to the normal world.

PETER

This is our normal world.

CAROLINE

Your world is outside.

THELMA

Since when?

HARRY

I'm not going out there.

(furiously painting)

I have too much work to do in here!

Caroline hands them medication which they automatically take

CAROLINE

Today we're re-defining our self image,  
exploring the notion that the reality of our  
so-called problems is a myth, a social and  
cultural invention created by.....

THELMA

Drug manufacturers?

CAROLINE

No...

THELMA

Psychiatrists?

CAROLINE

By well meaning but often misguided experts.

THELMA

Like who? Politicians?

CAROLINE smiles, shakes her head.

THELMA

Like who?

CAROLINE

Like yourselves.

ALL

What!

CAROLINE

With a little help from film makers and  
writers. The tea-lady analysis of mental  
illness, replacing genuine psycho-therapy

with cafeteria babble. We watch the evil husband trying to get rid of his wife by driving her out of her mind and we start believing there is a clear cut line between sanity and insanity.

(GLEN fluffs his wig)

There is no dividing line between sanity and insanity. Is there, Glen?

GLEN

It's Glenda.

CAROLINE

You've allowed yourselves to become egocentric and as we explored in our last workshop being egocentric is selfish. Right? Right? Peter?

PETER

Hmmmmm.

CAROLINE

Neville is an egocentric. That's why he's not here.

THELMA

Maybe you pushed him too far.

CAROLINE

But being selfish is normal.

THELMA

There's no such thing as a normal person.

Behind CAROLINE'S back the others ridicule THELMA.

CAROLINE

Good, Thelma. We read that today did we?

(THELMA doesn't respond)

That's a very normal response to something you obviously don't understand.

GLEN

We all have something queer about us. To be normal seems repellent to me. I have no intention of sinking that low.

PETER cleans the inside of his vacuum cleaner.

CAROLINE

Then let's talk about being average. Hmmmmm?  
Don't you want to be average? Lead average  
lives? Harry?

HARRY

Hmmmmm?

THELMA

Nobody is average.

CAROLINE

I assure you, Thelma, you are nothing if but  
average.

THELMA

Wrong, Caroline, wrong. I am unique,  
Caroline. Unique!

CAROLINE

And what makes you unique, Thelma?

THELMA

I'm female...

CAROLINE

For a while there I was beginning to wonder.

THELMA

...and I have a one in two chance of being  
that. I'm poor, and thanks to people like  
you, I have a one in three chance of being  
that. I'm adult...

CAROLINE

Debatable.

THELMA

A three in four chance. Unmarried, thank  
Christ...

HARRY

My pleasure.

THE END

No children, unemployed. Multiply those attributes....

HARRY

Thirty four thousand, three hundred and sixty-eight.

THELMA

I have one in a thirty-thousand chances of being myself. I hardly consider myself average, Caroline.

CAROLINE

Oh that's very good, Thelma. Been watching Playschool again, have we?

THELMA

I don't watch television, which makes me even more unique.

CAROLINE

You forgot to add exceptionally sarcastic, lazy and superficial.

THELMA

(throwing her book at GLEN)

Don't forget highly strung, temperamental and a bitch. That's what you think, isn't it, Caroline the perfect?

CAROLINE

If you want to remain a burden on the taxpayer.

THELMA

You are a bloody politician!

CAROLINE

To change things, Thelma, one has to participate.

THELMA

Become one of you, one of them!

CAROLINE

Without us, without good politicians, without people prepared to participate, the world would be, well, chaos.

THELMA

It's because of you the world is chaos.

CAROLINE

I don't have to listen to this nonsense!

CAROLINE exits in a huff. GLEN, PETER and Harry glare at THELMA who continues reading her book.

HARRY

Where's she going? I don't trust anyone who leaves. Judas was a leaver. Moses was left floating.

GLEN

What was that all about, Thelma? Hmmmm?  
Tell me, Thelma.

THELMA

Shut-up!

HARRY

Um...

THELMA

You too.

GLEN smiles. Harry erupts into a series of arm gestures representing swastika images. A mobile phone in CAROLINE's bag rings. GLEN angrily searches the bag for the phone which stops ringing. GLEN removes cigarettes. PETER puts the vacuum cleaner together.

THELMA

Yuk!

GLEN

At least she's human. Lookie here.

GLEN holds condoms, removes perfume, dabs some on his wrists and returns it to the bag. GLEN hands THELMA a crumpled letter.

GLEN

This is addressed to you.

THELMA

It is not!

THELMA reads the letter. PETER attempts to read the letter over THELMA'S shoulder but she prevents him.

HARRY

When the Jews were ready to leave I had them celebrate their first Passover....

(suddenly slams the bible)

Oh shit, they're not bringing Jews here! Is she? I'll kill them. I've got a punch like the kick of a mule, you know.

GLEN takes the double adapter from the socket and hides it.

PETER

Tell me.

(THELMA shakes her head)

Tell me. Tell me.

(screaming)

Tell me! Tell me!

THELMA

(returning the crumpled letter to the bag)  
Caroline's broken up with her boyfriend.  
Okay?

PETER

Why? Why? Why?

THELMA

Because, because, he thinks she's been spending too much time with us.

PETER

Oh. Has she?

HARRY

Where's my commandments.

(searching his back pocket)

I promised my editors they'd be finished this morning. Who's got my commandments?

HARRY searches everywhere. PETER goes to plug in the vacuum cleaner but can't find the double adapter.

GLEN

Look in the flesh pots of Egypt.

HARRY snaps his teeth like a wild dog. GLEN quickly backs.

HARRY

The wild dog shall flesh his tooth on every innocent. Where are they?

PETER

Where's the plug?

GLEN

The what?

PETER

The plug! The plug! The plug!

GLEN

Don't ask Glen. Glen's more concerned with the future for transgender people. I told him just get a scalpel, divide us into transvestites and transsexuals.

(responding to a voice in his head but talking to HARRY who backs around the room)

Don't have to shout at me, you bastard! You are a bastard, Glen. A weak snivelling gatekeeper in frilly lace trying to get his rocks off. It won't work, Glen baby because Glenda's going for the Betty Bobbit chop right now. I will I promise. Never made a decision in my life, haven't I? Inferior because I'm female? See myself as a castrated man?

(GLEN pulls out a carving knife. HARRY desperately tries to open the window. GLEN sticks the carving knife down his pants and threatens to sever his penis. HARRY drops to his knees whimpering.)

Let's see who's superior now, Glen!

THELMA

Glenda!

PETER

Do it. Do it.

Suddenly a brick smashes through the window. F/X of glass shattering is heard. The brick lands in the centre of the room. Everyone is momentarily stunned. GLEN hides the knife.

HARRY

It's a sign, a message from my father.  
(HARRY wrings his hands as if drying them.)  
Ichor. Ichor.

GLEN

(staring at the brick)  
I who?

HARRY

The colourless blood of the gods...Ichor  
through my apostolic skin....Liquor of Satan.  
Are you a Jew?

GLEN

(thrusting his pelvis)  
Want to find out? Meet Ichabod the headless  
oarsman. He's expecting you.  
(singing)  
*Row, row, row your boat....*  
(CAROLINE, still dabbing her eye, enters. She  
looks at the brick, carefully walks around it  
then goes to HARRY)

HARRY

Don't touch me.

CAROLINE

It's raining. Can't even trust the weather  
report these days. Offending behaviour has  
a message, Harry, but often the message is  
difficult to read. What's the message,  
Harry? Peter? Glen? Thelma? HMMMMMM,  
Thelma?

(THELMA doesn't respond)

Would you clean this up please, Peter?

(PETER cleans the mess.)

Naturally one's first response at such  
outrage is to protect oneself. Wouldn't you  
agree, Harry?

(She throws Harry a towel. HARRY wipes his  
hands Pontius Pilate-like and nods)

HARRY

I was on duty the night of the crucifixion.

GLEN

Then you shouldn't have been asleep at your post.

CAROLINE

Or is it to feel angry about the mess and inconvenience?

(PETER nods)

Or maybe to get hold of the culprit? Glenda?

GLEN

(GLEN smiles, continues with his make-up)  
It's Glen.

CAROLINE

They are all valid responses. In fact the average person would experience all three. But the exceptional person, the unique person, they experience another response. What do you think they experience, Thelma? Hmmmmmm?

(THELMA doesn't respond)

Anger? Perhaps it's retribution or is it your game of sanctuary? Is Thelma hiding again? Isn't she just an average mixed-up, confused little adult searching for meaning in an understaffed and under funded world, who hasn't come to terms with the notion that the world doesn't owe her a living.

THELMA

And what are you looking for, Caroline?

CAROLINE

Solutions of course, through participation.

THELMA

And if we end up abandoned?

CAROLINE

You won't if you join in. That's what our workshop's for. You have lost touch with the outside.

(CAROLINE removes costumes from the box)  
Harry, you can't play Pontius Pilate forever.  
If you really are the Messiah then you should  
be out there preaching the gospel.

HARRY  
The Lord acts in mysterious ways, my dear.

CAROLINE  
Think of what you're denying your flock.

HARRY  
The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh.

CAROLINE  
Peter you haven't touched a door handle in  
ages.

GLEN  
Nor a lamppost.

CAROLINE  
How many times do you wash your hands a day?  
Three hundred?

(PETER washes his hands using the kettle)  
Yet your bedroom is filthy, full of dust.

PETER  
I can't clean the floors because of the germs.

CAROLINE  
You're afraid of trains, spiders, people.

THELMA  
People are spiders.

PETER  
Nup. Nup. Nup...

CAROLINE  
I watched you escape to the front door and  
immediately return to a darkened room.

PETER  
The X-rays of light. Light can destroy even  
the son of god. Ask Harry.

(HARRY NODS)

It can destroy your whole being.

CAROLINE

You escape into the blackness of extreme anxiety.

PETER

I might catch an incurable disease. Look what's happened to rabbits.

CAROLINE

You're afraid of stairs.

PETER

I'm scared of falling.

CAROLINE

Of confined spaces....

PETER

Walls without windows.

CAROLINE

....and open spaces.

PETER

Of getting lost.

CAROLINE

Running water.

PETER

(dream-like)

I was lost..I fell...wedged among rocks at the bottom of a garden. I saw mother pick up the long and dirty frog.

(mimes putting a whole frog into his mouth)

Protect my mother from the frogs.

CAROLINE

Your mother's dead.

PETER

(walks in circles)

Pick up the frogs. Pick up the frogs.

(picks up lint and puts it into his pocket)

Pick up the frogs...Pick up the frogs...

CAROLINE

Your phobias are a protection from pain.  
It's normal. You feel you are at the mercy  
of others. Your anxieties result from being  
rejected.

PETER

I'm bad, dirty.

CAROLINE

You're the cleanest person in the world.  
You've suffered, that's all.

PETER

I was told.

CAROLINE

You're not bad. You're not mad.

PETER

I am. I am. I am.

CAROLINE

You're a normal average person who has learned  
to believe you're bad. You've locked  
yourself away. It's time to unlock the past,  
enter the world of normalcy. Right? Am I  
Right? Hmmmm?

PETER

If you say so. Mmmmm.

CAROLINE

And you, Glen, you're a cross dresser and  
that's....

GLEN

Normal?

CAROLINE

Is it abnormal to want to integrate cross  
dressing comfortably into your life? To want  
to understand why you do it? To want to  
control it? That's all normal behaviour.

GLEN

(lighting a cigarette)

What about when I want to get rid of *it*?

CAROLINE

(extinguishing the cigarette)

It becomes abnormal when you play victim to your guilt and shame. I see it as a compulsive type of thing that seems to overwhelm you, more than an expression of who you are. I'm sure it'll change.....

THELMA

When will it change, Caroline?

CAROLINE

When he falls in love.

THELMA

Hah! And you're an expert on love are you?

CAROLINE

You've never been in love, have you, Thelma?

THELMA

Love is just another form of selfishness.

GLEN

(looking at his reflection)

I'm already in love, darling.

PETER

With who?

CAROLINE

(correcting)

With whom.

GLEN

(slowly walking around HARRY who is disgusted)

The woman within me.

(GLEN puts false eyelashes on.)

GLEN

My anima. The female soul within the man. When a man falls in love he projects his own

anima out. Anima Mundi. I am the soul of the world.

(to HARRY)

The source of your light, my freckle.

HARRY - HITLER

Get away, you ass!

GLEN

There are animas in heaven, you know, Harry.

HARRY

Animals don't have souls, you soulless bitch!

GLEN

Jonah's whale had a soul. Noah's dove had a soul. The ram sacrificed by Abraham.

Hmmmm? Do you like my hat?

THELMA

Your talk about being cured when he falls in love is nonsense.

GLEN

(fluttering his eyelashes)

How do I look? Tell me about me. Look at my nails. My anima is highly aroused. The world is no longer black and white.

Everything is in colours. Beautiful flowers. Thankyou, my beautiful mirror. What a nice sweater you have on today, Glenda. Do you like my hat?

CAROLINE

Time to start. Now, we're all going to re-define our self image.

GLEN

I'm very happy with my self image, thankyou.

CAROLINE

I have here character studies and costumes of people...

PETER

What type of people?

CAROLINE

...who have from time to time been subjected to pressure and criticism, such as yourselves, and as a result have exhibited unacceptable behaviour, as you have all done from time to time.

PETER

Who?

CAROLINE

I'm coming to that. You will adopt their persona by dressing as them and improvising from the research material I've provided. You will each in turn highlight aspects from your character's past that caused your character to be vilified as bad or mad, while the others, including myself, will argue the opposite, that you, that is the character you are playing, does not deserve vilification. That you were not really bad or mad. It's very simple and straightforward.

GLEN

Would you repeat that again?

THELMA

What's the point, Caroline?

CAROLINE

By playing the roles of people who were really normal, but were perceived as abnormal, you will realise that likewise you are normal, but you have learned to accept you are, well, slightly mad.

PETER

Who? Who? Who are we playing?

THELMA Picks up the brick.

CAROLINE

You can choose from, let's see, Bob Browne, John Saffron, Peter Hollingsworth, Barry Jones...

PETER

Who?

CAROLINE  
Bert Newton, Peter Costello, Russell Crow...

HARRY  
Never heard of any of them!

GLEN  
Do any of them wear a dress?

CAROLINE  
Bronwyn Bishop, Wendy Harmer...

PETER  
How can we do this when we don't know who they  
are?

CAROLINE  
It's all in the notes.

THELMA  
Who are you playing, Caroline?

CAROLINE  
The messenger, of course.

THELMA  
And what are you looking for, Caroline?

CAROLINE  
I thought that was obvious.

THELMA  
Well it isn't.

CAROLINE  
The message on the brick, silly.

PETER  
Is there a message?

CAROLINE  
There's always a message.

HARRY

What is it?

GLEN takes the brick from THELMA, turns it over looking for a message. PETER takes it, looks for the message. HARRY grabs it, looks for the message.

CAROLINE

Sometimes you don't need to know.

HARRY drops it and erupts into his wild arm gestures. GLEN lights a cigarette but the flame from the lighter singes his eyelashes.

GLEN

(running round the room)

Shit! Shit! Shit!

PETER throws coffee over GLEN.

CAROLINE

Stop it!

CAROLINE checks GLEN's eyebrows.

CAROLINE

Let's start.

GLEN

I think I've got bad period pain.

HARRY

I have an appointment with the Holy Ghost.

PETER

What if we don't want to?

THELMA

What then, nurse Ratchet?

CAROLINE

I was up all night preparing the costumes.

Won't you at least give it a go?

(they don't respond)

It could be a major breakthrough.

PETER, HARRY and GLEN stand behind THELMA.

THELMA

People don't just change overnight, Caroline.

CAROLINE

People can change in the twinkling of an eye.

THELMA

Bullshit!

CAROLINE

Okay. I'm not going to force anyone.

CAROLINE

This is not about me. I'm sorry if I upset anyone. I've had one of those days. I thought I was...I'm sorry. If you don't want to participate you don't have to.

GLEN

Do we still get to wear the costumes?

There's a loud knock at the door. HARRY, terrified backs to the wall. PETER begins his washing ritual. CAROLINE indicates she has no idea who it is. The knock is heard again. CAROLINE takes her bag, opens the door and closes it behind her.

PETER

Who is it? Her boyfriend?

HARRY

Why'd she take her bag?

THELMA shrugs her shoulders. PETER goes to the door but can't bring himself to open it.

CAROLINE O.S.

(screaming)

Help! Help!

Shocked, they slowly approach the door. PETER freezes.

PETER

It's locked. It's locked

(screaming)

I can't get out!

THELMA

You don't want to get out.

PETER

Oh! Then I don't want to do this workshop.

THELMA

Then don't. She can't make you.

The sounds of a struggle outside can be heard all around the house. A gunshot is heard.

CAROLINE O.S.

Help me, please.

They look at each other, scared to leave the room.

HARRY

(grabbing the bible)

We're doomed.

The door opens. They watch in anticipation. CAROLINE (the second CAROLINE) returns tucking in her skirt and rearranging her hair.

CAROLINE

What're you all staring at? Well?

THELMA

What was wrong?

CAROLINE

Mind your own business.

CAROLINE continues reading.

PETER

Who was it?

CAROLINE

Who was what?

GLEN

Who were you talking to?

CAROLINE

No one.

HARRY

We heard a gunshot.

CAROLINE

Bullshit! A figment of your imagination.

THELMA

(to GLEN)

Lover's tiff.

CAROLINE

(overhearing)

Shut your face, squid-lips.

THELMA

Oooouugh. Get a knock back, did we?

She drags the box outside. HARRY and GLEN attempts to help. CAROLINE indicates for them not to. She immediately drags another box in.

CAROLINE

(officious)

Right, everyone in costumes, ready to start.

PETER

But...

CAROLINE

(aggressively)

But what?

PETER

You said we didn't have to.

CAROLINE

I said no such thing!

THELMA

You did!

CAROLINE

You're putting words into my mouth.

PETER

I don't want to do it.

CAROLINE  
It's not up to you. So shut-up!

PETER  
You can't talk to us like that.

CAROLINE  
I can do what I damn well like.

She removes a bottle of pills from her bag and hands them each a pink pill. HARRY and GLEN swallow them.

GLEN  
I'll try anything twice.

PETER  
We've had our medication!

CAROLINE  
Swallow!

PETER  
What are they?

CAROLINE  
Just swallow.

PETER  
I want to know who's in this pill, I mean what's in this pill.

CAROLINE  
A mild anti-depressant.

PETER  
Am I going to be normal?

CAROLINE  
Let's find out shall we?

CAROLINE holds a pill for THELMA. THELMA snatches the bottle, checks the label before CAROLINE grabs it back.

CAROLINE  
Swallow.

PETER is ready to swallow the pill.

THELMA

FN?

PETER

FN? What's FN?

THELMA

Functional Neurosurgery.

CAROLINE

They are not!

THELMA

They make animals behave opposite to what they really are...

CAROLINE

You're a liar!

THELMA

...by releasing a chemical that burns a small hole in the frontal lobe of the brain creating an electrode that destroys the cingulate gyrus.

PETER puts the pill on the table.

CAROLINE

You've been watching too many Hollywood movies!

PETER

Where did you read that?

THELMA

Coroner's Report.

CAROLINE

They're new, a mild sedative designed to relieve severe depression, manic depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

THELMA

They create a new personality.

(to PETER)

In the old days doctors inserted a flat knife through holes drilled in the skull and swish, swish the frontal lobe was severed from the brain...

PETER, GLEN and HARRY clutch their heads, fall in agony to the floor.

PETER

Nooooooooooooo!

CAROLINE

I'm warning you!

THELMA

Then they graduated to inserting ice picks through the eye socket.

CAROLINE

(taking THELMA aside and shaking her)

Stop it!

(whispering)

They're only sugar, a placebo.

THELMA

Bullshit!

CAROLINE

Saneness is all in the mind. These wackos just think they're mad. If I give them a placebo and they act differently then we know they have the ability to alter their state of mind if they so desire. It'll be a breakthrough for them and for medicine.

THELMA

You take one.

CAROLINE

And spoil the effect?

THELMA

Sugar, my arse!

CAROLINE

I won't tell you again, Ferret-nose, mind your

own business!

PETER

Why do I have to do something I don't want to?

CAROLINE

Swallow.

PETER

Why?

CAROLINE whispers in PETER'S ear. PETER grabs his groin and backs.

CAROLINE

Now open wide.

PETER opens his mouth and CAROLINE pops a pill in.

CAROLINE

Good. Everyone in costume immediately.

She hands them each a plastic bag containing a costume. They look in the bags then slowly remove the costumes. THELMA returns hers to the box and continues reading. Bemused they dress in the costumes while CAROLINE sets up a camera and tripod to film the workshop. PETER (Stalin), HARRY (Hitler) and GLEN (Gadaffi) dress in costumes identified with their role character - Stalin Russian military uniform with red star and hammer and sickle, Hitler brown shirt and trousers, black tie, swastika armband, black dress boots and black-peaked hat and Gadaffi colorful red and black jacket and black trousers. It's obvious HARRY'S Hitler but the others are ambiguous. (The characters continue to display their behavioral abnormalities, but as they take on their make-believe characters the abnormalities disappear.)

CAROLINE

(handing out notes)

Information on your character and only for you to read. Don't reveal who you are yet.

PETER - STALIN

Why not?

CAROLINE

Part of the fun, guessing.

(applying a Hitler moustache to HARRY who  
backs away)

There's nothing to be scared of.

GLEN - GADAFFI

(reading his notes)

You'd have to be kidding!

PETER - STALIN

I don't like it.

CAROLINE

You need to look and feel like your character.

PETER - STALIN

Why?

CAROLINE

To think as they did. To act as they did. To  
become them.

THELMA

He asked why, Caroline.

HARRY - HITLER

(referring to his uniform)

This fits like a glove.

PETER - STALIN

(reading)

I'm a Russian man, responsible for the deaths  
of twenty-three million people...

CAROLINE

Shush!

PETER - STALIN

I can't pretend to be someone who did that!

CAROLINE

I said don't reveal your character. We have  
to guess.

PETER - STALIN

(charades))

One word, rhymes with marlin...

CAROLINE

Peter!

PETER - STALIN

Yes, Comrade?

CAROLINE

Right!

(gets another costume from the box)  
This was going to be Neville's. Now it's yours.

PETER - STALIN

I don't want to change.

CAROLINE

You should've thought of that before you broke the rules. Get changed.

PETER changes into Cambodian suit and fez-like hat.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I can't be a nitwit.

HARRY - HITLER

I don't want to be someone who was a psychopath.

CAROLINE

But was he?

HARRY - HITLER

Course he was. Everyone knows he was.

CAROLINE

Everyone once thought the world was flat.

PETER - POL POT

My mother had a flat tyre once.

HARRY - HITLER

Everyone hated him.

CAROLINE

Not everyone. Now there's a special prize

for the best character.

HARRY - HITLER

What is it?

CAROLINE

A secret.

THELMA

A weekend for two in a padded cell.

HARRY - HITLER

Guess who I am, Thelma.

THELMA

Albert Einstein?

CAROLINE

The idea is you become someone you don't want to be, someone you're not.

PETER - POL POT

Why?

THELMA

Yes why, Caroline?

CAROLINE

Because that's exactly what you've done with your own lives, especially you, Thelma, become someone you don't want to be.

PETER - POL POT

But I like whom I am.

CAROLINE

You don't want to spend the rest of your life washing your hands, do you?

PETER - POL POT

Yes.

HARRY

If I act this person I become the anti-Christ. How will that help me?

CAROLINE

Just as you can come out of your make-believe character so you can come out of your self-imposed real life character and become a normal person. Okay?

GLEN

I'm confused.

HARRY

What's new?

CAROLINE

I want you to use accents, body language, anything you think will help your make-believe character become real. Any questions?

PETER - POL POT

I've never heard of this person. I want to be Stalin.

CAROLINE

It's all in the notes. You'll need an Asian accent.

(demonstrating)

In Cambodia we all speak like this.

GLEN

Jackie Chan? Jackie Chan's wife?

HARRY

(indicating THELMA)

Isn't she playing anyone?

CAROLINE

She'll just have to miss out on the fun.

THELMA

Who're you playing, Caroline?

CAROLINE

Someone has to oversee.

THELMA

What accent does God use, Caroline?

HARRY.

You can't play God!

CAROLINE

I'm not playing God. Thelma's just being her disruptive, selfish self.

GLEN - GADAFFI

(looking at the notes)

Oh, this is real nudge and scream department, isn't it? I'd rather play a dame whose drawers come down.

CAROLINE

You can do a subtle woman's comment on the male, Glenda.

GLEN - GADAFFI

As subtle as a eunuch's prostate.

CAROLINE

Let's begin by intermingling as your character. See if the others can guess who you are. To help the occasion I have a little surprise.

(CAROLINE removes food, wine and beer from the box. They eagerly pour themselves drinks.)

The food has been prepared differently for each character.

She gives HARRY a large German sausage and bread, Glen a plate of figs and dates, Peter, a bowl of rice.

PETER - POL POT

Rice? What did Stalin have?

HARRY.

Where's the sauerkraut?

THELMA

Hitler was vegetarian.

HARRY

(angry)

How did you know who I was?

CAROLINE

She's only joking.

GLEN

Poor man. Fancy never knowing the joy of a good snag.

PETER - POL POT

What about Thelma?

CAROLINE

There's extra if she wants to participate.

THELMA

In your dreams.

HARRY - HITLER

(going into an over the top interpretation of Hitler)

Mein Feurer commands you participate. Centuries of migration has defiled the German race, but this can be cured once we purge the world of the archenemy of pure blood.

HARRY pokes the sausage in THELMA'S face.

HARRY - HITLER

Swallow.

THELMA snaps the book closed on the sausage. HARRY erupts into his crazy arm movements.

CAROLINE

That's enough! Everyone in character.

PETER - POL POT

What does that mean?

CAROLINE

Become your characters.

PETER - POL POT

Become? I don't know what that means.

HARRY - HITLER

(saluting)

Heil Hitler. Did you hear about the new German microwave oven? No? It seats

twenty-five.

HARRY laughs

CAROLINE

Let's start, shall we? Who do you think Harry is?

(no one responds)

Harry, give the group clues as to your identity.

THELMA

We already know.

CAROLINE

Shut-up!

HARRY - HITLER

Um....

PETER - POL POT

I like this. Are you Australian?

HARRY shakes his head.

HARRY - HITLER

(heavy German accent)

No Fritz, I'm not Australian.

PETER - POL POT

Are you a sportsman? A good sportsman?

HARRY - HITLER

The trouble with being a good sportsman, Fritz, is you have to loose to prove it. Yes?

CAROLINE

You're not a sportsman.

HARRY - HITLER

I'm not?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Are you an actor?

HARRY - HITLER

(to CAROLINE)

Am I?

CAROLINE  
What d'you think?

HARRY - HITLER  
Yes I am. I'm the world's greatest actor?

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Pamela Anderson?

CAROLINE  
Harry, you are not an actor!

PETER - POL POT  
I know who Glen is.

GLEN  
Glenda. And who're you? Pollyanna?

PETER - POL POT  
You're Michael Jackson.

GLEN gets huffy and wants to leave.

CAROLINE  
(preventing him leaving)  
No one leaves.

HARRY - HITLER  
(aside)  
The only way out is up the chimney.

CAROLINE  
Give them clues, Harry. Use your notes.

PETER - POL POT  
Are you male or female?

GLEN  
Why can't he be both?

HARRY - HITLER  
Male.

GLEN  
Perhaps he doesn't know. I didn't until

recently. Now I just strive towards  
wholeness.

HARRY - HITLER

(reading)

My favorite recipe is my special beetroot  
salad. I squash two medium sized beetroots  
into a slightly thickened lemon Jell-O....

GLEN

Charlie Manson.

HARRY - HITLER

Stir in a can of Mediterranean grapefruit  
sections, drained and half a cup of  
celery...Why am I eating sausage?

PETER - POL POT

More clues.

GLEN - GADAFI

I give up.

HARRY-HITLER

(saluting - Nazi)

Heil Hitler. I have been sent among you to  
erase this Jewish conspiracy and supplant a  
new breed, prepared to.....

THELMA

If you don't stop this immediately...  
(walking to the door)  
...I'm contacting the Department.

HARRY - HITLER

(blocking THELMA)

Let me tell a little anecdote against myself.  
Yes?

(THELMA doesn't respond)

During my early days of dominance four of my  
generals, Goring, Himmler, Hess and Goebbels  
were sitting in a coffee shop. Goring  
sighed, Himmler groaned aloud. Hess shook  
his head desperately. Goebbels choked back  
tears and in a frightened voice whispered, "My  
friends, be careful! You know it is not safe  
to talk politics in public." Ha ha ha....

THELMA

(to CAROLINE)

See what you've started! It's disgusting.

(grabbing HARRY)

Get out of that uniform!

Suddenly CAROLINE grabs THELMA'S arm forcing it up her back

CAROLINE

Hold her.

HARRY restrains THELMA while CAROLINE turns the camera off, removes handcuffs from her bag and handcuffs THELMA'S hands behind her back. THELMA screams. CAROLINE gags her, forces her through the other door. PETER and GLEN are shocked.

CAROLINE

If you choose to dress and act like a hussy we'll treat you as one. You can listen without interrupting

(to PETER and GLEN)

Well?

They enthusiastically take on their roles. CAROLINE turns the camera back on.

HARRY - HITLER

The work that Christ started but could not finish, I, Adolf Hitler, the Regent of God, light of the Bavarian squire, the cross fader eraser, will conclude.

CAROLINE

(to PETER)

Now do you understand being in character? Forget about the guessing. Just go into your characters.

PETER - POL POT

(becoming Pol Pot and holding his hand for HARRY to shake)

Sorry, I didn't catch your name?

HARRY - HITLER

Mein Fuhrer will do.

PETER - POL POT  
Solath Sar. The pleasure's all mine, Mein.

HARRY - HITLER  
What?

PETER - POL POT  
That's my name. Solath Sar.

HARRY-HITLER  
Never heard of you, Fritz. When were you  
born?

PETER - POL POT  
Nineteen seventy-five.

HARRY - HITLER  
That's impossible.  
(CAROLINE encourages them like a boxing coach  
from the sidelines as she films.)  
Tell the truth!

PETER - POL POT  
Where I come from everyone's birthday is 1975.

HARRY-HITLER  
How come?

PETER  
Because that's when I eliminated the calendar  
and the world of Solath Sar commenced.

GLEN slaps PETER hard on the back.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
You son of a gun, Pottsie.

HARRY - HITLER  
Who?

GLEN - GADAFFI  
This son of a gun is *the* Pol Pot.

PETER - POL POT  
Solath Sar.

HARRY - HITLER

Teapot? What's that, a pseudonym? Glad to meet you Pot.

CAROLINE distributes folders containing notes.

CAROLINE

Tell us about yourself. Celebrate who you are, how bad you are. Peter, you go first.

PETER checks the notes in his folder.

PETER - POL POT

(into the camera)

Solath Sar at your service. I'm a legend in my own time. I was so bad I wanted to stop and apologise. "I am sorry for my inhumanity. You must never let it happen again."

CAROLINE

(to the others)

But was he really bad? Challenge his view?

HARRY - HITLER

How d'you mean?

CAROLINE

Why didn't you stop and apologise?

PETER - POL POT

Because the world never listens.

CAROLINE

That's not your fault. It's theirs.

PETER - POL POT

Oh.

CAROLINE

You were a good man.

PETER - POL POT

Was I?

(CAROLINE angrily points to PETER'S notes.)

Oh. No I wasn't. I mean I couldn't have been, could I? I executed whole villages.

Can you imagine that?

CAROLINE encourages the others to attack PETER.

HARRY - HITLER

(aside)

Hasn't he heard of cities?

PETER - POL POT

Herded thousands into rubber plantations  
mined with explosives...

HARRY - HITLER

So?

PETER - POL POT

My doctors had to perform surgery with broken  
bottles. I ordered them at gunpoint to cease  
operations. Forced fathers to kill their  
kids with hoes....

HARRY - HITLER

A third-world do-gooder.

PETER - POL POT

I'm an Asian Hitler.

HARRY - HITLER

Just a minute, Cot-death, that's not funny!

PETER - POL POT

In two thousand and ten it won't be Attila the  
Hun it'll be Pot the Rot. I turned my country  
into a human compost heap.

HARRY - HITLER

All you did was stabilise a divided country.

PETER - POL POT

But now we're a nation of rice planters.

CAROLINE pushes GLEN forward.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Look at what you learned by what you did to  
the peasants.

PETER - POL POT

I learned I didn't want to be a peasant.

HARRY pushes PETER away from the camera and talks into the camera.

HARRY - HITLER

In 1933 I was surrounded by idiots who believed in meteorites. How can stones fall from the sky when there are none there, I asked them. Soon nobody believed in meteorites. That was the Adolf version of neo-education. Turned Marxism and all that rot inside out. The beginning of an age of expressionistic futurism. You are sick, Pot. Insanity is a perversion of the ego. Stick your tongue out.

(PETER sticks his tongue out)

Just as I suspected, furred and flabby. Can I suggest a diet rich in fish, milk and farinaceous food and a Turkish bath, some potassium bromide maybe, thrice daily, and a scruple of chloral nightly, followed by an enema. All my Generals benefited from enemas.

PETER - POL POT

Did you hear about my toe factories, Mein? No? The only things that come out are toes and screams.

(pushing HARRY aside and talking to the camera)

I never recognized Kampuchea. It was all Cambodia to me. Marx, ha, ha. Ultra Marx.

(mimes)

Ha, ha, remember Phnom Pehn and it's living skeletons fighting the birds in the fields for a single seed of grain? That was because of me.

HARRY - HITLER

Clover for the masses. We've all been guilty of altruism at some stage. Did I blow up the Eiffel Tower? Course not. You should be at Stockholm, Pot-Black, not here.

PETER - POL POT

I turned my people into human ants.

HARRY - HITLER

Give us figures.

PETER - POL POT

One million.

HARRY - HITLER

Is that all?

PETER - POL POT

I'm sorry. Let me decompose myself.

(dries his eyes)

That's better. I drove my entire population into the country in a radical disorganisation of society. Can you imagine that?

(the others are unimpressed)

Even Marx didn't suggest that. My people still suffer from PP syndrome....

HARRY - HITLER

Ha, ha, poor people. Elephant rides on Sunday.

PETER - POL POT

I gorged myself on a feast of power, like a pig with the flu. We didn't wear swastikas, we wore black armbands.

HARRY - HITLER

You're a burglar of great men's intellects. Your life's just an amended appropriation clause.

PETER - POL POT

Ha, ha how do you appropriate super famine? If you'd of seen the cripples slithering like skewered worms...

HARRY - HITLER

But you let them live!

PETER - POL POT

...to the kitchens of my soldiers. Beds with plasma drips pushed along highways. I ask you in all seriousness, can any of you claim

instant refugees?

HARRY - HITLER

But you built them shelters.

PETER - POL POT

Out of garbage bags. None of you had heard of malnutrition before my so-called economic reforms.

CAROLINE

He's running away with you. Convince him he's not as bad as he thinks.

PETER - POL POT

Ha, ha, impossible.

HARRY - HITLER

Your claims are rubbish. Dishonest exaggeration!

GLEN - GADAFFI

You turned Kampuchea into a city of peace.

PETER - POL POT

You've never been there.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I read it somewhere. A sea a tranquility.

PETER - POL POT

I wrote that!

HARRY - HITLER

Full employment.

PETER - POL POT

My guards were only twelve and thirteen.

HARRY - HITLER

Youth employment. Golf courses. Nurseries. I was going to go there myself.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Seamen's Clubs.

PETER - POL POT

Facades for the undercurrent of tension.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Mercedes Benzs, BMW's....

PETER - POL POT  
No! Bicycles.

HARRY - HITLER  
Nightclubs, discos.....

PETER - POL POT  
Curfews.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Stereos, compact discs,

HARRY - HITLER  
Digital cameras...

PETER - POL POT  
All smuggled.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
McDonalds.

HARRY - HITLER  
Chop Suey.

PETER - POL POT  
Foreign aid.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Cabanas.

HARRY - HITLER  
Bars.

PETER - POL POT  
Gathering places for the rich and famous.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Silver plated cutlery.

PETER - POL POT  
Wanta buy some?

GLEN - GADAFFI  
You take American Express?

PETER - POL POT  
Gold. You're missing the point.

HARRY - HITLER  
You're missing the point, Potash!

PETER - POL POT  
I can claim something none of you can. You, Mein, if it's all true what you're supposed to have done with your so-called ovens...

HARRY - HITLER  
So-called? I nearly had an aneurism when I received the gas bill.

PETER - POL POT  
If you were fairdinkum you'd of left corpses rotting in the fields like I did, but no, you had to burn them. You were too soft, a universal good guy. And you, who're you supposed to be?

GLEN - GADAFFI  
(looking at his reflection)  
I'm something for them to identify.

PETER - POL POT  
Neither of you would match the atrocities I achieved. Those who were responsible for making me the symbol of the revolution I put in front of teenage firing squads. Who did you slaughter, Mein?

HARRY - HITLER  
Is this guy for real?  
(charade-like)  
One word, rhymes with four-be-two...?

GLEN  
Screws?

PETER - POL POT  
Come on, who?

HARRY - HITLER

Have you ever been to Israel?

PETER - POL POT

That's my point. They were Jews. And Michael Jackson here, all he ever did was get it off with a couple of kids.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Humour that feeds on ignorance starves it's audience.

HARRY - HITLER

What about the Russians, French, Dutch? I'd need all day if I had to list all the nationalities I executed.

PETER - POL POT

You're still missing the point. You didn't do it to your own people, did you? That's the ultimate, ha, ha, ha...

CAROLINE

Do you have any idea why you did what you did?

PETER - POL POT

Should I?

CAROLINE

If you can justify to yourself your actions then it was all part of normal behaviour.

HARRY - HITLER

This is metaphysical twaddle. Anyone can claim *I did it to my own people* crap. Give us empirical evidence, Dot, or nick off.

PETER - POL POT

(sitting and smiling)

So vivid...so funny....So brilliant...

HARRY

What?

PETER - POL POT

Too difficult to put into words.

CAROLINE films PETER in close-up. PETER sucks his jumper.

CAROLINE

What do you see? Describe it.

PETER - POL POT

Missing teeth...Soldier's boots...Rifle  
butts...petrol soaked heads...Blank  
cartridges in the anus....Welding  
torches...hot tongs...This is all I need.  
I'm totally satisfied by the brilliant show  
my fancy is putting on for me.

CAROLINE turns the camera off.

CAROLINE

You'd better take a break, Peter.

PETER - POL POT

(screaming)

Solath Sar! Keep filming!

CAROLINE continues filming.

CAROLINE

You're in the dream theatre of your mind.  
It's playing a game on you.

PETER - POL POT

Hands nailed to floor boards...False  
executions...Testicles removed with spiked  
gloves...

(GLEN screams)

The evidence is all there...in supersonic  
images...

CAROLINE

What you're seeing reflects your unconscious  
imagination. Your problems result because  
the real you is in conflict with them. Your  
life is in a constant state of inner war.

PETER picks up dirt, debris, paper, etc and puts it in his  
pockets

PETER - POL POT

Nobody understands. I couldn't stop or I'd

go crazy. It was like I was the servant and some vindictive tyrant was standing over me.

HARRY - HITLER

Hah, he admits it.

PETER - POL POT

(picking lint from CAROLINE)

The bottles aren't sterile. Bang! How can the babies drink out of dirty bottles? Bang! Bang! Nappies dirty. Bang! Bang! Bang!

(PETER kicks the air)

Carpet's filthy. The country was a pigsty. What if I missed some? What if the people find a piece I missed?

(When his pockets are full PETER puts debris in his shoes, socks and finally his mouth.)

I had to obey the dictates of the inner drum. Ba boom, ba, boom, ba boom....I am the inner drum. Ba Boom, ba boom....

HARRY - HITLER

See, it had nothing to do with you. You weren't responsible. Stop trying to take credit!

PETER pulsates rounds the room.

PETER - POL POT

Ba boom, ba boom, ba boom...I am the inner drum. Ba boo, ba boom, ba boom...

CAROLINE

Glen, continue.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Me?

CAROLINE

Now.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I can't concentrate with that racket.

CAROLINE

(screaming at PETER)

Shut-up!

(PETER stops)  
Do it!

GLEN - GADAFFI  
I think I'll go outside and be recognised.

CAROLINE  
(blocking GLEN)  
Now!

GLEN  
I need to find my character. I'm an unfinished monster.

CAROLINE  
(threatening)  
Then start looking.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Oh, okay, guess who? Give up? Good. Your turn, Harry.

(CAROLINE threatens to hit him)  
Right, I an the terrible terrorist in person.

HARRY - HITLER  
Who?

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Guess. I'll give you some clues. The spoon and the fork are my favourite instruments. I always wear a set to remind the world my people eat and drink in slavery. In the foyer I have made available copies of my famous Green Book, at cost to you, my friends.

(heading for the door)  
I'll just whip out and get you some.  
(CAROLINE blocks his way. She grabs PETER and sits him in front of GLEN)  
Maybe not. Let's see. Who am I again? Yes, right. Hmmmmmm, do you like my hat?

PETER - POL POT  
What's that in your hair?

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Dog food. Want some?

CAROLINE

Get on with it.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Right, who am I? Can you put a piece of wood in the fire without thinking of hell? Hmmmmmm? In my dreams I see clearly dead elephants, headless.

(singing)

*I can see clearly now the rain is gone...* Everything I see is distorted and reduced in size. It's a mechanical talent I possess.

HARRY - HITLER

What are you raving about?

GLEN - GADAFFI

You can also purchase sunglasses and Colonel Gadaffi jackets...oops it slipped out. Now you can all go home.

(CAROLINE threatens him)

Right. And a host of talking cassettes such as, "From Here to Hegel", oops I did it again. I mean "From the Colonel to Hegel". I mean from "Hegel to the Colonel"...

HARRY - HITLER

Make up your mind!

PETER - POL POT

Who are you?

GLEN - GADAFFI

All proceeds to go to a good cause.

CAROLINE hits PETER.

PETER - POL POT

Which is?

GLEN - GADAFFI

The removal of the unwanted intruder.

(moon walking)

I am Mummuar Gadaffi, the terrible terrorist in 3D.

PETER - POL POT

No second prizes.

HARRY - HITLER

(aside)

Tell that to the Japs.

GLEN - GADAFFI

What else can I say? This is a warm and beautiful day, my very close friends.

HARRY - HITLER

Get on with it!

GLEN - GADAFFI

That's it.

HARRY - HITLER

What!

GLEN - GADAFFI

Where's my prize? What is it? A Rolls Royce? I hope it's not a weekend for two in Libya.

CAROLINE continues hitting PETER.

PETER - POL POT

Why not?

GLEN - GADAFFI

I can't stand the place.

PETER - POL POT

What is the prize?

CAROLINE

What?

PETER - POL POT

You said there was a prize.

CAROLINE

I did not. Get on with it.

HARRY - HITLER

I always thought the mumbo jumbo of Gadaffi politics was like pissing on your own leg. It seems hot to you but never to anyone else.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Remember the art of onion cutting. The closer you cut to the core the more cause you have to cry.

HARRY - HITLER

Cut to the core.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I'm heavily into Embassies.

PETER - POL POT

What we want to hear, Mummar, are the personal things that make you stand out from the crowd.

HARRY - HITLER

Not quotes from your own propaganda machine.

PETER - POL POT

Let us into your secret life. You the man.

GLEN - GADAFFI

First thing I do when I wake is I wash. Then a small breakfast for the Colonel, a piece of Gadaffi baked bread, glass of...

PETER - POL POT

Camel's milk? Hmmmmm?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Lunch is simple. Soup...

PETER - POL POT

Libyan soup? What ingredients do you use?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Dungeon-dried tomatoes, spices, a bit of wheat.

PETER - POL POT

Ah...

GLEN - GADAFFI

And then baby fillets, charcoal-grilled...

HARRY - HITLER

Enough!

GLEN - GADAFFI

Sweet tea.

PETER - POL POT

Libyan sweet tea, ah....Sugar?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Two thanks.

There is loud but muffled noise from outside.

HARRY - HITLER

I'm sick of this.

CAROLINE

Keep going. I'll be back in a sec.

(CAROLINE puts the camera down and leaves. The others stop and listen. There are sounds of a struggle then a shot is heard. CAROLINE returns, putting what could be a gun into her bag.)

I don't think we'll be disturbed again.

Where were we?

They throw themselves into the workshop with renewed enthusiasm.

HARRY - HITLER

You're just a celebrated family man!

GLEN - GADAFFI

Isn't that what we all are, family men?

HARRY - HITLER

Knitting patterns and recipes. Why don't you nick off for supper and tuck the kids in instead of confusing everyone.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Am I confusing?

HARRY - HITLER

That's an understatement, Gadfly.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
I am, aren't I? That's the cornerstone of my philosophy.

HARRY - HITLER  
What is?

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Confusion Ism.

HARRY - HITLER  
What's philosophy got to do with the price of blood?

GLEN - GADAFFI  
If it's blood you're after look for veins.

PETER - POL POT  
Surely, Adolf, philosophy and idealism have a role to play.

HARRY - HITLER  
Since when?

PETER - POL POT  
Aquinas.

HARRY - HITLER  
Never heard of her.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Have I already mentioned my third International Theory of Ism?

HARRY - HITLER  
What?

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Of course I haven't.

PETER - POL POT  
What is it?

GLEN - GADAFFI  
It's neither.

HARRY - HITLER

Neither what?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Communism or democratism.

HARRY - HITLER

Or what?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Or socialism or fascism.

HARRY - HITLER

What is it?

GLEN - GADAFFI

What happened to the music? Music hath charms to soothe a savage beast....

HARRY - HITLER

Face the music! What is it?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Life is a game of snakes and ladders. Sometimes you land on a particularly long snake.

HARRY - HITLER

You're crazy.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Only if you follow my philosophy.

HARRY - HITLER

What philosophy? I'm sick of this philosophy crap.

GLEN - GADAFFI

First you square the circle....

HARRY - HITLER

Talk sense.

PETER - POL POT

I have no trouble following. Go on, Mummar.

HARRY - HITLER

Give examples.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Then you decide what words shall mean.

HARRY - HITLER

Give examples, damn it!

GLEN - GADAFFI

(snatching Harry's drink)

Take beer. Oh, this glass has Molly Thompson's fingerprints all over it.

HARRY

Who's bloody Molly Thompson?

GLEN - GADAFFI

MT.

HARRY

What?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Empty.

(handing the glass back)

Never mind.

PETER - POL POT

But you banned alcohol. It's a criminal offence in Libya to drink alcohol.

GLEN - GADAFFI

That's where you're confused, Parking Lot.

PETER - POL POT

Drinking alcohol isn't an offence?

GLEN - GADAFFI

(drinking all Harry's drink)

Definitely not.

PETER - POL POT

I'm sorry. I had it wrong.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Possessing it is though.

HARRY - HITLER

This is gobbledygook.

PETER - POL POT

Tell us about terrorism.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Ism. See you're getting the picture,  
Night-Spots.

HARRY - HITLER

Terrorism, hah. It's been accorded official  
status. The favoured meeting place of the  
IRA, PLO, etc. etc. is the United Nations.  
Diplomatic bags. It's a game, isn't it?  
What d'you use, dice? Define terrorism.

(GLEN smiles)

Let's see you square the circle on that one.  
You can't can you? Because everyone knows it  
for what it is. Soap opera.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Oh yes. Terrorism. Terrorism is whatever  
you oppose.

HARRY - HITLER

What?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Oppose Ism.

PETER - POL POT

Pardon?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Confusing isn't it? That's the beauty of  
deciding for yourself what words shall mean.

PETER - POL POT

Very impressive, Mummar. I might've had you  
all wrong.

GLEN - GADAFFI

You were just confused. The first step in my  
theory of ism is....

HARRY - HITLER

What theory?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Whatever theory you want. Another way of saying the same thing is, the politics of ism. It's all in my Green Book. Nineteen ninety-five in paperback.

HARRY - HITLER

What're you talking about? Explain yourself.

GLEN - GADAFFI

If the people understand then you don't need politics. Now back to the question.

PETER - POL POT

What question?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Square a simple concept like terrorism and what do you have? No one. That's always been your problem, Mein.

HARRY - HITLER

Tell me what's always been my problem, Gadfly.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Your inability to create World War Three.

HARRY - HITLER

Ha, ha...Wasn't World War Two enough for you? That's just the sort of claptrap one would expect from your ism nonsense. World War Three, Son, began before World War Two ended.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Now who's confused?

PETER - POL POT

Actually, Mummar, what no one understood was that I was into creating the threat of peace.

(aside)

That's what Vietnam was all about.

GLEN - GADAFFI

(writing on the wall with chalk)  
World War three is terrorism versus  
civilisationism. Now you square terrorism  
and then raise civilisationism to the power  
of terrorism and you  
get....antidisestablishmentterrorism.

PETER - POL POT  
(painting the wall)  
I've always considered terrorism just a  
personal thing.

HARRY - HITLER  
The same as Schindler's List.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
You're both confused. Ha, ha, Schindler's  
List was a cartoon, a supermarket docket. I  
choose violence as the weapon of first resort.

HARRY - HITLER  
And the SS didn't? What's the difference?

GLEN - GADAFFI  
The difference is not in the act, but in the  
understanding. The SS acted under orders.

HARRY - HITLER  
My orders, Fraulien.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
When I gun them down it's political war. Each  
and every one of you, including the inverse  
ratio of your shadows, acted according to your  
legally constituted conventions.

HARRY - HITLER  
I passed a law making laws illegal.

PETER - POL POT  
That's deontological logic.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Ontological deism.

HARRY - HITLER  
Speak German.

GLEN - GADAFFI

You don't even know what you're objecting to.  
Take the holocaust, in inverted commas,

HARRY - HITLER

About time.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Hollow Ism. Language of high symbolism.  
Didn't you make it a crime to be a Jew?

HARRY - HITLER

Course I did.

(to PETER)

Gadfly talks about cornerstones. That was my  
whole bloody foundation.

GLEN - GADAFFI

That's my point. You were merely complying  
with legally constituted conventions.  
Designed by your society.

HARRY - HITLER

So what?

GLEN - GADAFFI

I acted in violation of my own laws.

HARRY - HITLER

What's that got to do with confusion or  
whatever?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Confusion Ism. Confusion is merely the  
explanation.

HARRY - HITLER

What's it got to bloody do....?

GLEN - GADAFFI

(shouting)

Because my people are so bloody confused they  
don't even know they're at war.

HARRY - HITLER

At war with who?

PETER - POL POT

With whom, Adolf.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Everyone. I've already said that!

HARRY - HITLER

When?

GLEN - GADAFFI

When I convinced everyone that all society is the enemy.

PETER - POL POT

I wish to raise a point of order.

GLEN - GADAFFI

First, revolution, then revolutionary confusion, then confusion. Where do you think heavy metal got it's lyrics from?

HARRY - HITLER

Anyone can theorise.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Theory? Converted to theory, let's see. That would be my famous three point plan.

HARRY - HITLER

Only three?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Actually, Hansel and Gretal, three point plan minus one. Ha, ha, First you discredit the individual. Second, you deprive him of his dignity.

NEVILLE - NIXON

How? Be specific!

GLEN - GADAFFI

Torture, deprivation.

NEVILLE - NIXON

Old hat. Where does minus one come in?

GLEN - GADAFFI

By that time everyone's scared witless and you don't need point three.

HARRY - HITLER

Read Mein Kamp if you want the rundown on Hansel and Gretal. You'll see that's one of the reasons I got rid of school kids and anyone coming out of a bookshop. Give us bodies. Something we can measure. Not airy fairy folktales of what may or may not be.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I wish to speak against Hitler's motion and I present myself as my own seconder, as to the confusion between power used to liberate and power used to enslave. Change that to the power of the Colonel. Am I making myself clear?

HARRY - HITLER

What motion?

GLEN - GADAFFI

The one against Hitler's amendments.

HARRY - HITLER

This guy's a lunatic!

GLEN - GADAFFI

And against anything anyone might say.

HARRY - HITLER

That's as square as a horse's head.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Testing, testing, one, two, three...I have here some more notes. I cheated entire generations...

PETER - POL POT

What of?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Ah, er, arts, ah, science, ah, education. That's why I can't even read myself. I forced my military leaders to sleep with the sheep.

HARRY - HITLER

Because they were sheep.

PETER - POL POT

No, because they preferred sheep.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I forced everyone to read my little Green Book.

PETER - POL POT

I've read it.

GLEN - GADAFFI

One hundred times?

PETER - POL POT

Catholics read the Bible that many times.

GLEN - GADAFFI

A week?

HARRY - HITLER

Because you were a great helmsman, Colonel.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Ha, ha, let there be chaos.

PETER - POL POT

It was your Commie mates that were responsible.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I never had any mates. That's the cornerstone of my philosophy, isolationism. How many cornerstones are there in a corner, hmmmmmm?

HARRY - HITLER

What about your missus?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Ha, ha a flower among the thistles. Did I mention I tried to reverse the system of traffic lights so red would mean go?

HARRY - HITLER

Obviously you failed?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Course I did. Nobody's got a car in Libya. It's the pillar of Gadaffi ism, to live unfettered in absolute freedom...

HARRY - HITLER

You're only a watcher on the hills.

GLEN - GADAFFI

...without thinking of any consequences. Nihilism.

HARRY - HITLER

Wait a minute!

GLEN - GADAFFI

I am the poorest and I am the richest....

HARRY - HITLER

No quoting!

GLEN - GADAFFI

Because nothing belongs to me and I belong to the whole universe and the whole universe belongs to me. Capitalism.

PETER - POL POT

That's a good joke, Mummar.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I'm sick of jokes.

PETER - POL POT

Why?

GLEN - GADAFFI

To me everything's a joke. That's why I personally funded the Fiuminico massacre. Rome Airport. School holidays.

PETER - POL POT

You publicly denied any involvement.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I did not!

PETER - POL POT

Yes you did.

GLEN - GADAFFI

It was my press secretary.

PETER - POL POT

You denied it in person.

GLEN - GADAFFI

You're half right and therefore all wrong. Idi Amin, I gave him shelter. What about Sadat? He said I was one hundred and eighty per cent mad. Work that out.

HARRY - HITLER

Flavour of the month.

GLEN - GADAFFI

What about the children I ate?

PETER - POL POT

But you're a Moslem.

GLEN - GADAFFI

That's my point. I can prove that Libyans under my regime are two centimeters shorter than they used to be.

HARRY - HITLER

You're just a television by-product whose life's a goody-two-shoes trip.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I am in short the most awesome phenomena of our times.

PETER - POL POT

You're a freedom fighter. A fast talking ad-man.

GLEN - GADAFFI

It's all body language.

HARRY - HITLER

Cradle-to-death health schemes. Assured housing.

GLEN - GADAFI  
No, no, all rubble.

PETER - POL POT  
Schools...

GLEN - GADAFI  
But no teachers.

PETER - POL POT  
You tried to unify the Arabs.

HARRY - HITLER  
Course you did.

GLEN - GADAFI  
Ha, ha, pass. Ha, ha, erratic politics.

PETER - POL POT  
You're loved, tolerated, even admired.

GLEN - GADAFI  
I'm moody and introspective, mistrusted by the Arabs, Afros, Asians...

HARRY - HITLER  
But they're all your allies.

GLEN - GADAFI  
Fair weather friends.

HARRY - HITLER  
You have a popular image!

GLEN - GADAFI  
As a lunatic. You said it.

PETER - POL POT  
What about your links with Britain? You went to school there. The Royal Signal's School. Nixon funded it.

GLEN - GADAFI  
And I thanked them with my People's Bureau in

London Square. Boom! Boom! Boom! Ha,  
ha...

PETER - POL POT  
You're about equality for women.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Some women.

HARRY - HITLER  
Which ones?

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Next question.

PETER - POL POT  
Answer the question.

HARRY - HITLER  
The Israelis treat you as a joke.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
A sick joke!

HARRY - HITLER  
They claim you're an asset.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
To them everything's an asset.

PETER - POL POT  
You're getting yourself confused.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
I'm confused?

HARRY - HITLER  
Course you are. Okay you arranged a few  
demonstrations, but against who? India?  
Bangladesh?

(Glen nods eagerly)  
Maybe Turkey...

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Go on. Go on. Teheran. Who shot the  
Lockabee?  
(singing)

*I shot the sheriff...*

PETER - POL POT  
But that was in the name of peace.

HARRY - HITLER  
Course it was.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
No. No. I'm a broker of death.

HARRY - HITLER  
Let's change the subject. You're history,  
Glad Rags. You've blown it.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
You can support something and still be opposed  
to it. The world is divided into those who  
understand me and those who don't, those who  
put vinegar on chips and those who don't,  
those who...

HARRY - HITLER  
What about me? I divided the world into  
places the Jews couldn't live and places they  
didn't want to live. You had your chance,  
Blowfly and you've blown it. We ask for  
simple examples and we get nonsense. Because  
you don't even know what you're talking about  
yourself.

Suddenly GLEN lights his cigarette lighter.

GLEN  
(screaming)  
Look out.  
(GLEN mimes being blown up in an explosion.  
The others look on stunned. GLEN acts  
half-dead)  
Somebody's just blown up the Red Cross.  
Who'd do a terrible thing like that? Oh yes,  
I forgot to mention I bankrolled the IRA,  
Bader Meinhof, Red Brigades, India Sikhs, any  
death squads who can prove they're right wing,  
South African Boarder Raiders, South Africa,  
ha, ha, ha...Must I go on? Life's too short.  
Where's the knife?

GLEN advances on CAROLINE still filming.

HARRY - HITLER

Don't be mad!

GLEN - GADAFFI

(GLEN charges CAROLINE then stops dropping to her feet.)

I am mad. Truly idiotic. If you'll excuse me I must water the camel.

(GLEN crawls to the kettle and drinks from the spout)

The world is in denial, confused about it's sexuality. Momentarily escaping into the female.

GLEN grabs CAROLINE'S ankle and runs his hand up her crotch.

CAROLINE

(backing)

You idiot!

GLEN - GADAFFI

Help them realise I'm on their side. The people need me to tear out their gonads, release their feminine side. I, Mummar Gadaffi, proudly donate myself as a female role model for the world. Three months therapy, a bomb here, a bomb there, then referral for hormones, an airport an embassy. I prepared the world for cosmetic surgery when I reached forty because the world had reached it's menopause. Now she's upset with me. What have I done wrong, Caroline?

(There is a loud knock on the door. CAROLINE crawls to the door and leaves.)

Don't leave me.

PETER and GLEN howl like wolves.

HARRY - HITLER

No wonder lunatics were the first ones I put on the trains.

PETER - POL POT

You said school children were?

HARRY - HITLER

Second then.

PETER - POL POT

You put lunatics on the trains with little school kids?

HARRY - HITLER

Someone had to look after the kids.

PETER - POL POT

I thought people who read books were second?

HARRY - HITLER

Anyone who reads a book is a lunatic.

PETER - POL POT

Then how did you....?

HARRY - HITLER

Ha, ha, I'm ahead of you, Vacant-Lot. I didn't write Mein Kamp to be read, idiot. Tell me one person who's read it?

GLEN - GADAFFI

(singing)

*Where have all the flowers gone? Gone to graveyards everywhere...A was an apple pie, B bit it, C cut it, D dug the G grave.*

(singing)

*Himmler had only one left ball.....*

HARRY - HITLER

Shut-up you fool. Have a good look at yourself. What do you see? Armchair philosophers who believe it's better to read about murders than to commit them.

(To PETER)

Who're you? I'd never even heard of you until an hour ago.

(to GLEN)

And him or her or whatever it calls itself. One minute a freedom fighter, then a terrorist. It'll be claiming it's anti-semitic next. None of you appreciate the ascetic of allowing your mind to run wild.

To value colour and lines....Red lines in the snow. When you look at blood do any of you see ash-claret? Course not! You're nothing but Stephen King inventions.

GLEN - GADAFFI

(pours lighter fluid over himself)  
Allah be praised...ha, ha...I'm ready for you, my darling. Physical liquidation and arson on planet earth. I am mad...mad...mad...Allah, here I come, ready or not.

(GLEN lights a match but HARRY throws water over him)  
You saved me. I thought I was your enemy...

HARRY - HITLER

My ability was to create *worthy* enemies.

(GLEN continues with his make-up)  
Let me hand around autographed copies of my photo collection.

(hands around photos)  
If you look hard enough you might see someone you knew.

PETER - POL POT

Someone referred to me as an Eichmann of his time.

HARRY - HITLER

Eichmann was a Jew lover merely following orders, a shaded gunman in a back room. And Himmler was a chicken farmer. I had him running the SS.

PETER - POL POT

David Irving, the name ring a bell? Though we don't need respected historians telling us the holocaust didn't happen. Everyone knows it was a Jewish invention maintained through carefully controlled media leaks?

HARRY - HITLER

Oh yes, the holocaust never happened and I suppose Article 4 of the Citizenship Act, quote "Jews have no right to vote in political affairs and cannot occupy public office."

Unquote, was a Hollywood invention?

PETER - POL POT

It was the same everywhere...unofficially

HARRY - HITLER

I achieved truly historic dimensions, even if measured by the limiting standards of our century.

PETER - POL POT

Ha. Ha. Adolf. You were nothing more than a chamber butcher, a good guy who listened to too much music. A plagiariser. You pinched your logo from the Aztecs. Then you studied the subjugation of our peasants. You were a man in a room who learned racism out of books.

HARRY - HITLER

Bullshit!

PETER - POL POT

You said as much in Holiday Camp.

HARRY - HITLER

If you read the subtext I was implying that Nazism was an extension of Judaism.

PETER - POL POT

And that the Jews were responsible for their own persecution.

HARRY - HITLER

I didn't say persecution. I said extermination. If you choose to be pedantic at least get it right. In reference to my so-called logo, is it not a ghostly disfigurement of the cross?

PETER - POL POT

Watch your blood pressure, Adolf.

HARRY - HITLER

My answer to blood pressure was to decrease blood volume. Have you ever seen a walking collarbone...

PETER - POL POT

Every day.

HARRY - HITLER

By itself? Without a head? Hah! I'm that close sometimes I can reach out and touch it. Did you know I was the first to understand Freud? I worked out civilization is based upon the suppression of man's innate murderous instincts, not that dream therapy bullshit you were mumbling about.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Body caves. Stick it up their arses. One'll get through. A suppository route I call it.

HARRY - HITLER

Ignore him.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Where's my cake? What've you done with my cake?

(singing)

*Someone left a cake out in the rain.....*

PETER - POL POT

I wasn't dreaming. What're you talking about?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Yes, Adolfie. Tell us what you're talking about.

HARRY - HITLER

You, you idiot!

GLEN - GADAFFI

Tell us about your cyanide-tipped bullets for up-market dissidents.

HARRY - HITLER

Pot, you understand me. I can talk to you. Not this Danzinger.

PETER - POL POT

You should write another book, Adolf.

HARRY - HITLER

You know what I really wanted to do? To be an artist. That's all. I wanted to sit on a hillside on a Sunday afternoon and capture spring. Beautiful spring. Blossoming magnolias, beautiful and bountiful landscapes. The holocaust wasn't born of a country of barbarians. It emerged from the most cultivated and civilized society in Europe. That's where all those post-Freudian wankers got it wrong. All those things they wrote about me, Pot. Why, Pot? Why? The Hollywood version of history. They look at my past and give it boutique treatment.

PETER - POL POT

Did you ever consider maybe you were a puppet?

HARRY - HITLER

But I held the strings.

PETER - POL POT

Maybe you dangled from the string.

HARRY - HITLER

Never. Don't make the mistake of those pseudo intellectuals, Pot. It's not important that little Adolf was hurt as a child or the Rieghstag allowed little Adolf to be insulted or some bloody jealous bureaucrat denied me entrance to an art school I didn't want to go to. The real importance is in the 'now' of the act. Eh, Pot? Surely you can see that. I was always setting events up so life was continually exciting. Think of what that meant for the beneficiaries. You might have been oven fuel but by god what an experience. Did you ever hear anyone complain life at Belsen or Dachau was boring or monotonous? Course not. They were too preoccupied making barbed wire or SS uniforms. There was always something happening. The now of the act. Let them delve into my past for entertainment but search their consciences for the truth. Keep

yourself continually in the now, Pot, like melting footprints in the snow. That's what the Final solution was all about. Melting footprints.

(PETER pats him on the back. GLEN rolls a cigar-sized reefer.)

A man's a bloody mug, you know, Pot. I should've retained the rights to my camps. Thousands of tourists daily. All those survivors of Belsen. Walking posters. I could've cleaned up. Instead of those turn-table manipulators and robot-like fat cats.

PETER - POL POT

It's no good, friend. You nailed yourself to your own cross.

HARRY - HITLER

I eliminated the word friend from the German language. Did you hear any of my speeches, Pot?

(Peter shakes his head. HARRY recites part of the Lord's Prayer in German)

Have you got a CD player? I'll send you a copy? David Irving, hah! Has he had a peek into the scared minds of the few survivors? Course not. And what about the Gypsies? I rid the worlds of Gypsies. And my secret treaty with the Vatican. What would Murdoch pay for the inside story on that? The world forgets, Pot. Did you know I was a catholic? Those famous speeches of mine...You've heard them Pot?

PETER - POL POT

You already asked.

HARRY - HITLER

I'll send you a copy. Do you have a CD?

PETER - POL POT

I said no.

HARRY - HITLER

Never mind. My good friend Cardinal Whatisname wanted to translate them into

Latin. I admire Latin for its purity.  
Anyway, the subtext of Mein Kampf is that  
genius is solitary. Genius is only related  
to its time by its defects. You like that?

PETER - POL POT

I've got no idea what you're talking about.

HARRY - HITLER

"You think, perhaps," said Jesus, "that I have  
come to bring peace to the earth? No I have  
come to throw down a sword."

(referring to GLEN)

This camel roter pinched my ideas.

(quoting from the Bible)

"In a household of five persons, three will  
be against two and two against three. I have  
come to bring division against father and son,  
between mother and daughter, between  
daughter-in-law and mother-in-law . From this  
time a man's enemies will be of his own  
household. I have come to create the  
Wunderland. Follow me, I said. "Adolf", my  
General replied, "let me first go and bury my  
father." "Son," I told him, "the dead may bury  
their dead. Go you and preach the kingdom of  
Adolf." A simple philosophy, Pot.

GLEN - GADAFFI

(dancing round the room and smoking)

You're lighting a fire of straw, Adolf, so  
easily extinguished. Your so-called  
concentration camps, Ad-Ol-Fie, were a hoax  
by the allies to extract reparations. Discos  
without music. Everyone knew that  
prisoners, in inverted commas, from Dachau  
ate first class food...

Blows smoke on HARRY.

HARRY - HITLER

Invisible bread and intestinal soup?

(aside to PETER)

I eliminated freaks like him.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Swam in Olympic sized pools...

HARRY - HITLER

Of their own plasma.

GLEN - GADAFFI

And danced the Dachau waltz. The holocaust didn't happen. It was a Goebbels's by-line.

HARRY - HITLER

Goebbels was an office boy.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Then it was written by junior reporters trying to please editors. Neatly controlled media leaks. If anything happened you must have had collaboration.

HARRY - HITLER

Never.

GLEN - GADAFFI

What about Hungry? They rounded up the Jews for you? The Rumanians? Slovaks? French, Dutch. You yourself said the Pope was a collaborator. They did far more than you expected. Mengler, Barbie, they were the real villains. The theory of collective correlation. Globalism.

PETER - POL POT

(sneering)

Cannibalism.

HARRY - HITLER

Barbie, hah, a mouse among the wheat. Mengler, a Dr Kildare. He had Austwich like a General Hospital. I won't stand for this skin-grafting of the truth. Selective amnesia. It's important the world remember the holocaust, Pot, in all it's destructive horror.

PETER - POL POT

Strange you never mentioned the word holocaust in your book.

HARRY - HITLER

Those damned editors, Pot. They wanted euphemisms. The world needs to be reminded of what we're capable of. That's my problem. I tend to be a simple and uncomplicated man. See my success was due to my ability to create enemies, not just ordinary enemies but enemies so big that everyone thinks they're your friends. My mistake was in trusting my enemies.

GLEN - GADAFFI

(giving HARRY butcher paper and paints)  
Let go, Adolf. You'll feel better.

HARRY - HITLER

(painting)  
Killing is an art, a dying art. Not a visual put-on. Splats of blood locked in protein. Fragments of bone against the sunset were like...stars at midday. Not stars and stripes on afternoon television. Real stars. That's art. That's creativity...I should've been an artist.

There is knocking at the second door (Thelma).

GLEN - GADAFFI

(singing)  
*Knock, knock, knocking on heaven's door...*

PETER - POL POT

You didn't order the holocaust. You only dreamed you did. You wanted to be an artist so you dreamed it up. You're a victim of hysteria. The first got it wrong and the rest followed suit.

HARRY - HITLER

Where did I go wrong?

PETER - POL POT

It's in your make-up. Some people are just good guys.

HARRY - HITLER

Tell me I'm bestial degradation, Pot. Tell me. I'll listen to you.

PETER - POL POT

You're a pet cat.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Full of baby talk.

HARRY - HITLER

(grabbing PETER)

It's the daytimes, Pot. And the nights. One night's rest. That's all I ask for. I can't get one night's rest. Perhaps once...when we exceeded the daily quota. I think it's because when I was a child I wanted to be a boy scout. That's it.

(knocking continues)

I keep hearing people knocking....

PETER - POL POT

(aside to GLEN)

He's cracked. Keep him going, Gadfly. Tell us about it, Adolf.

(HARRY stumbles around the room. He accidentally gooses GLEN, who's delighted, before walking head first into the wall)  
He's gone. He's looking for a scapegoat.

GLEN - GADAFFI

(going to his assistance)

Oh, I think he's hurt.

PETER - POL POT

It's a ploy to get sympathy. He did the same thing when he burned the Reichstag and blamed the Communists.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I don't think so. He's sick?

GLEN caresses HARRY.

PETER - POL POT

It won't work, Adolf, turning yourself into a scapegoat by sacrificing yourself.

HARRY - HITLER

Einstein where are you? Goldier? I need

you.

PETER laughs hysterically. HARRY sings, *The Future Belongs to Us*. GLEN and PETER howl. The knocking becomes louder. Gunshots from outside are heard. The lights fade as HARRY goosesteps around the room to his singing.

### INTERVAL

HARRY'S paintings cover the floor. GLEN assesses them. PETER circles HARRY who has resorted to his straight jacket pose. The door crashes opens and THELMA, still handcuffed and gagged, staggers in, collapsing. They ignore her.

PETER - POL POT

You're a peacemaker, Adolf. Admit it. An altruist who can't handle living with his own good deeds.

GLEN - GADAFFI

(referring to the paintings)  
These are brilliant. The work of a genius.

PETER - POL POT

Give's a look!

GLEN - GADAFFI

Simple lines, barbaric realism...

PETER - POL POT

Infantile regression.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Regression ism.

HARRY - HITLER

Do you think so? You can see that the black represents me and that's the sun. See, I'm the father of the sun. Get it?

PETER - POL POT

I don't get anything.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I see earthquakes, overthrown kingdoms, erections in the rubble...

PETER - POL POT

Where?

HARRY - HITLER

Yes, a throne among the ruins. I might have misjudged you, Gadfly. I became tired of keeping up so many armies, providing for so many lay-a-bout soldiers. I wanted to paint great landscapes and sell them to the Jews so they could redeem themselves in the eyes of my father, son and holy ghost. In return I would allow them to live forever. The poor deserve to die as useless paupers and it was preposterous I had to support so many madmen in my kingdom. Mercy killing was the only option.

PETER - POL POT

Keep him raving.

GLEN - GADAFFI

And the colours, so vivid.

HARRY - HITLER

Symbolic of calamity. Proof that the judgments I threatened, lightening, thunder, sunburn at midnight, had come to fruition.

PETER - POL POT

Let it all hang out, Adolf.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Adolf, I'll look after you. You're what I've been searching for, a gentle brute. I'm too macho. I admit it. With you I could be fulfilled. I want to have your baby.

GLEN attempts to hug HARRY who escapes.

HARRY - HITLER

Get away you fool!

HARRY trips over THELMA.

HARRY - HITLER

Einstein what have they done to you? They've killed my beautiful Einstein. You poor boy.

Let me loosen your flea collar.

HARRY removes the gag from THELMA and hugs her. THELMA struggles to breathe.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I think I love you, Adolf.

(singing)

*So what am I so afraid of? I'm afraid that  
I'm not sure of. A love there is no cure  
for...*

(GLEN does a mad 'Arabian' dance)

I've never said that to another man. Does  
that make me queer, Adolf? I'm not mad.  
Tell me I'm not mad. I trust you, Adolf.

HARRY - HITLER

You're a bloody disgrace to the human race.  
Water. I need water.

PETER gives HARRY a glass of water. HARRY drinks it.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Don't spurn me, my darling. Don't you feel  
anything? Look at my sebaceous glands.  
They're producing beautiful sebum, just for  
you, Adolf.

(opens his jacket. His nipples are painted  
red)

My tender nipples are covered in copious  
rosettes of lactose. Touch them, Adolf.  
Touch the vermilion borders of my lips with  
yours, Adolf. I love you, my darling. My  
buds are bursting, my pet. Springtime in  
November. My sap is rising. I'll be gentle  
with you...

HARRY drops THELMA and grabs his paint brush.

HARRY - HITLER

Get back or I'll castrate you, you pervert.  
I always had my suspicions about you. Never  
trust an eastern playboy Eva kept telling me.  
Let's see how you feel about making copious  
love with one ball.

PETER - POL POT

(singing)  
*Himmler had only one left ball.....Hitler  
had two but they were small....*

HARRY erupts into his crazy arm gestures.

GLEN - GADAFFI

My darling, my 1938 Time Magazine man of the year, let us go together. I and my cousins against the world. I and my brothers against my cousins. I against my brothers. Death to the infidels.

(falling to his knees)

Which way's north?

(GLEN bows to the floor. PETER points)

Allah be praised. Are you sure? Anyone got a compass? Forgive me O mighty one for I am in the shadow of the one I love. My heart has been kidnapped. I want to cut it out with a sharpened crucifix and lay it at my beloved's feet. Oh what a mosaic that would make for you, my darling.

(singing *Slipping Away*)

*Baby I've been watching you...Watching everything you do...But I just can't help but feeling...Someone there is stealing you away from me...I've seen it written in your eyes...And you confirm it with your lies...Slipping away from you...*

PETER and HARRY bark to the singing. THELMA staggers up. HARRY assists but she doesn't want him touching her. CAROLINE returns with another film. She hurries to her camera, pushing THELMA out of the way and changing film.

CAROLINE

Oh my gawd, you've broken it. What's the matter with you? I leave you for one moment and look what you do! Are you motor morons or what? Why can't you get along with each other?

(grabs each in turn)

Did you do it? Did you? Okay, get your clothes, your belongings and get out. All of you.

HARRY - HITLER

What?

CAROLINE  
The funding's run out. Get out!

HARRY - HITLER  
Why?

CAROLINE  
You're being relocated.

PETER - POL POT  
To where?

CAROLINE  
Anywhere. Just go.

PETER - POL POT  
Where will we go?

CAROLINE  
That's not my problem. You've been bludging  
on the system for too long.

PETER - POL POT  
I'm only a boy, twenty-six years old.

CAROLINE tries fixing the camera. PETER picks up rubbish,  
puts it in his pockets.

HARRY - HITLER  
We can't leave here.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Who'll milk the camels?

HARRY - HITLER  
I'll paint your portrait.

PETER - POL POT  
I'll braid your hair with long-grain rice.

HARRY - HITLER  
I'll exaggerate your vulva by surrounding it  
with vulgar couplets in German dialect.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I can run a hundred miles without stopping.

HARRY - HITLER

Together we can create a super Aryan race. I always wanted my own race. Ready, set, go.

PETER - POL POT

I'll loan you my frog collection.

HARRY - HITLER

I have a message from the Pope.

(singing)

*Sweet Caroline...*

GLEN and PETER bark. CAROLINE pushes HARRY away. HARRY melodramatically falls to the floor.

HARRY - HITLER

Where's your compassion? After all I've done for mankind. Don't you have any humanity?

CAROLINE steps over him.

PETER - POL POT

Don't you like frogs?

CAROLINE

This place has been sold to the Uniting Church.

HARRY - HITLER

Then I'll get the job as caretaker.

PETER - POL POT

What about my workshop?

CAROLINE

It's worked. You're cured. Kaput. Keep the costumes as a token of my appreciation. Take the left-over food and get out!

She removes the handcuffs from THELMA and pushes her towards the door.

THELMA

I could've died in there for all you care.

CAROLINE

(pushing)  
Put it in triplicate, dog-breath!

THELMA

Don't push! I'm out of here, gladly.

THELMA stands at the door. The others watch her. She is unable to leave. HARRY, GLEN and PETER go berserk, barking and behaving like mad dogs. CAROLINE covers her ears.

CAROLINE

Shutup! You'll wake the neighbours.

GLEN, PETER and HARRY surround CAROLINE. THELMA watches.

CAROLINE

Idiots! You idiots! What d'you think you're doing?

Knocking can be heard from the opposite door.

THELMA

Who's in there?

The dogs quieten, listen.

CAROLINE

(screaming)  
Shut-up!

THELMA

There's someone there.

CAROLINE

It's the wind.

PETER - POL POT

No.

CAROLINE

I told you all to vamoose.

She pushes them towards the door. GLEN grabs the knife, HARRY the German sausage. THELMA grabs a book.

HARRY - HITLER

We're not leaving.

CAROLINE

Oh yes you are.

GLEN

Oh no we're not.

CAROLINE

You selfish imbeciles. Find a real job. Why should the state support you? The rort's over.

GLEN waves the knife. CAROLINE takes a gun from her bag and points it at them. Shocked, they put their hands in the air. THELMA hits her on the back of the head with her book. Stunned, CAROLINE drops the gun which THELMA grabs and hesitantly points at CAROLINE.

HARRY - HITLER

Shoot her.

PETER - POL POT

Go on.

GLEN

I'll do it.

CAROLINE

It's only a toy, idiot!

THELMA

Let's see.

THELMA cocks the gun. CAROLINE immediately puts her hands in the air.

PETER - POL POT

Mein said he wanted proof. I need a volunteer, someone female.

(PETER grabs CAROLINE.)

You'll do. Hungry? No?

(snatches the German sausage from HARRY and forces it into CAROLINE'S mouth.)

Cigarette?

(she spits it out)

No? How about some rice?

(forces rice into her mouth)  
Ha, ha. Go on, eat. Eat. This is what you  
want, isn't it? Rice? Sorry it's not  
cooked.

(pours water down CAROLINE'S throat)  
Wash the rice down.

THELMA  
Stop it! Stop it!

PETER frog marches the choking CAROLINE around the room.

PETER - POL POT  
Should have seen their arses after a couple  
of days. Walking nassi goring.

CAROLINE collapses.

THELMA  
That's not funny.

PETER - POL POT  
It is if you think that's what they were dying  
for, rice.

GLEN, PETER and HARRY bark and snap at CAROLINE, ready to  
eat her.

THELMA  
Stop it. You're only acting.

CAROLINE  
(spluttering)  
No they're not. It's the pills.

PETER - POL POT  
I think I'm going to be sick.  
(PETER coughs over CAROLINE)  
I...did...it...to...my...own people. I  
broke the moral and ethical cannons of human  
civilization.

CAROLINE crawls towards the door.

THELMA  
You didn't do anything. It's the pills.  
It's not you.

HARRY - HITLER

We need a real scapegoat.

PETER - POL POT

Yes.

GLEN and HARRY grab CAROLINE and tie her to a chair.

PETER - POL POT

A sacrificial lamb.

CAROLINE

Let me go, you idiots!

GLEN

A statement to the world.

PETER - POL POT

Then the world will know us for what we really are.

HARRY - HITLER

Cut her heart out with a plastic swastika.

PETER - POL POT

Scatter her bones in the Killing Fields.

GLEN

Suffocate her with water-logged tampons.

HARRY - HITLER

Put her in the oven.

PETER - POL POT

We don't have an oven.

HARRY - HITLER

Stop being pedantic.

CAROLINE

(struggling)

Let me go. You don't know who I am!

PETER - POL POT

The point is do you know who you are? Whom you are? Pick a character, any character.

CAROLINE

You're being stupid!

HARRY - HITLER

Tell us who you are.

PETER - POL POT

Tell us how good you are and we'll tell you how bad you are.

CAROLINE

I'm not who you think I am.

PETER - POL POT

It's whom, Caroline, not who.

CAROLINE

I'm not Caroline, you idiots. Thelma, talk some sense into them.

THELMA

Sorry, I don't talk to strangers.

HARRY - HITLER

Gag her.

CAROLINE

You're making a terrible mistake. Thelma, save me.

THELMA

Then tell them who you are. Tell them about the pills.

They gag CAROLINE. THELMA, watches unsure what to do.

THELMA

I don't think you should be doing this.

HARRY - HITLER

That's what the Reichstag told me in 34.

PETER - POL POT

The world must know what I'm capable of.

GLEN

The world needs people like me.

PETER - POL POT  
I need to establish my own Academy of  
Atrocities.

HARRY - HITLER  
Let me at her.  
(THELMA blocks him)  
Okay then, let's invade Switzerland.

THELMA  
If you harm her they'll lock you away forever.

PETER - POL POT  
I should be locked away forever.

HARRY - HITLER  
And the keys thrown away.

PETER, GLEN and HARRY bark.

THELMA  
It's the pills. You're normal, average  
people. I can prove how they change you.  
I'm an average person, right?  
(referring to CAROLINE)  
She said it. I'll take three. If they  
change me then you know it's the pills and not  
you.

HARRY - HITLER  
No pill is capable of replicating my legacy.  
I am what I am.

CAROLINE  
(through the gag)  
No, don't...  
(THELMA swallows a pill, then another and  
another)  
Watch. I will become worse than all of you  
put together.  
(to HARRY)  
Someone who made more enemies than you ever  
did...  
(to GLEN)  
...who confused everyone including the flora

and fauna...

(to PETER)

...who did it not only to his own people but to anyone with a keyhole, a telescope or Fly Buys.

HARRY - HITLER

What are you raving about?

THELMA

Look, look how different I already am.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Who are you?

PETER - POL POT

Amin? Hussain? Mao?

THELMA

Hah, they were innocents, victims, compared to me. Nobodies.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Then who?

PETER - POL POT

Bin whatis name?

HARRY - HITLER

Sodom Insane?

THELMA

They were just Johnny-come-latelys, CNN inventions. They never existed. Ice statues, sculptured and wheeled out for media concerts.

HARRY - HITLER

I haven't got time for this. I need to finish the sequel to my book, *Everybody's Kampf Except Me*.

They surround CAROLINE, ready to attack.

CAROLINE

You're dealing with idiotic madmen!

HARRY re-gags her.

THELMA  
If I prove I'm worse than you...

HARRY - HITLER  
Impossible.

THELMA  
...will you let her go?

They laugh and bark.

HARRY - HITLER  
Who could be madder than me?

PETER - POL POT  
Or me?

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Or me, darling?

They viciously snap at CAROLINE.

THELMA  
You measure everything in bodies and  
destruction. There's more to being mad than  
crimson skies and burning synagogues.  
Everything you did was understandable in  
context to your environment and therefore not  
mad. Real madness has no explanation.

HARRY - HITLER  
Who could possibly out do us?

PETER - POL POT  
HMMMMMMMMM?

HARRY holds CAROLINE'S leg ready to eat it.

THELMA  
An Australian Prime Minister of course.

HARRY drops the leg. GLEN, PETER and HARRY laugh at her.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Chuck a u-ey, Bluey.

PETER - POL POT  
Your underdaks need loosening.

PETER - POL POT  
Things are crook in Tallarook, Chook.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Hah, it's ten past one and there's not a bone  
in the truck.

HARRY - HITLER  
We're wasting time. Let's eat her.

They surround CAROLINE, gnashing their teeth.

THELMA  
Australian Prime Ministers have never had any  
idea why they do what they do.

PETER - POL POT  
So why do they do what they do?

THELMA  
Because they're mad.

PETER - POL POT  
Go on.

THELMA  
And to confuse everyone.

HARRY - HITLER  
That's pathetic! I thought you were serious!

GLEN - GADAFFI  
How?

THELMA  
Real Jungian politics, you become what you  
ate.

PETER - POL POT  
Hate!

HARRY - HITLER  
What!

THELMA

Look at your diet, darling, mung beans and soy mutations.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Soy that again.

PETER - POL POT

Be specific! No mullygrubbers! Which Prime Minister are you ?

THELMA

Any of them.

PETER - POL POT

Which one?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Left or right?

THELMA

Left and right.

HARRY - HITLER

Must be one or the other.

THELMA

Hawkie turned left wingers into left, right and centre wingers. Keating turned right wingers into centre-half backs and hookers. Square root the centre and you have both sides where left equals felon and right equals whatever the polls say. Gorton drank pots, Fraser sipped middies. When Menzies was in the members he knocked back schooners but when they were in the northern stand they all skoaled from buckets.

They look at each other confused.

HARRY - HITLER

So, what's the point, Heidi?

THELMA

The point is, Heinrik, they all drank beer.

HARRY - HITLER

Huh?

GLEN - GADAFFI

I've got no idea what you're talking about.

PETER - POL POT

Oh, I get it. Like breaking the world's beer drinking record or losing your daks in a brothel.

GLEN, HARRY and PETER laugh derisively.

THELMA

Laugh. Go on, laugh. What's hilarious is we give lifetime credit cards to Prime Ministers to use in brothels but we make it an offence to teach sex education in schools. And we knight our beer barons while we jail our alcoholics. That's more insidious than any of your overtly prejudicial laws. Did any of you ridicule your own people. Course not. You were too busy being serious.

HARRY - HITLER

If you insist on this charade you must become one character.

PETER - POL POT

We had to.

They search the box and give her a white shirt, yellow tie and suit coat which she puts on. GLEN hands THELMA a copy of the Herald Sun. HARRY pouts tomato sauce over CAROLINE'S legs.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Research.

HARRY - HITLER

Let's hear it now, Cobber.

THELMA flicks through the Herald Sun.

PETER - POL POT

Show us your hambone.

THELMA

According to this...

HARRY - HITLER

Become your character.

They howl. THELMA becomes John Howard.

PETER - POL POT

Tell us who you are.

THELMA

Guess.

HARRY - HITLER

Give us a clue.

THELMA

Rhymes with coward.

PETER - POL POT

More clues.

THELMA

I lie morning, noon and night. No that's a lie. There are core lies and they are fairdinkum lies and there are lies which are not core lies and if I was telling the truth there are more lies. But I'd deny them. So the truth is that to tell the truth is a lie.

HARRY - HITLER

Slow down.

PETER - POL POT

Why do you lie?

THELMA

To chain people to their own guilt. Life at gunpoint I call it. Unknown destruction on the imaginary highway of disbelief. That way you never solve a problem, you only create them.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Huh?

PETER - POL POT

How?

HARRY - HITLER

Give us specifics.

THELMA

Then I'd be solving the problem. I promised Cabinet I wouldn't do that.

HARRY - HITLER

But you're a liar.

THELMA

No, that was a non-core promise. No, that's a lie. In all honesty I do it because I can and to tell the truth I'm very good at it, but fairdinkum, it's really because I can get away with it or at least that's what I make out. See, if you tell enough lies the media will believe you and pretty soon they become an ideological agent for your policies. That way the people are deprived of the means to question. Before you know it, we don't have media coverage of an election, we have a media election. Same thing but there's a big difference. Let me rephrase your first question.

PETER - POL POT

Hang on.

HARRY - HITLER

Can you explain that last thing?

GLEN - GADAFFI

I understand. How do you get away with it?

THELMA

Let's look at media exclusivity.

HARRY - HITLER

What in the hell's that?

THELMA

Well one example is how I legitimised the cultural invasion of Australia.

PETER - POL POT  
That's not media exclusivity.

GLEN hangs on THELMA'S every word.

THELMA  
I know. See the value of lying?

HARRY - HITLER  
Give us the big picture. Who did you murder?

THELMA  
I murdered our national identity.

HARRY - HITLER  
Pardon?

PETER - POL POT  
How?

THELMA  
By inventing rubbish culture, for one.

PETER - POL POT  
What's that?

THELMA  
Haven't you heard of 'Austerica', holes in the air, canned laughter? We were sinking out of sight in the Pacific. It used to be back in the rear with the beer and the gear. But that all changed when George and I played slip the sausage. Now our kids stand on sidewalks clapping passing cars. Under me Australians have become more like Americans than Americans. Basketball rings in every park. Cabinet ministers wearing back-the-front baseball caps, humming Britney Spears melodies. McDonalds is our national dish. The biggest industry Down Under is Nintendos Anonymous. Jerry Springer topped the nominations for Australian of the Year. I even sussed out Clint Eastwood for the Governor General's job.

HARRY - HITLER

And?

THELMA

He said it was too close to home.

PETER - POL POT

When was all this supposed to have materialised?

THELMA

The moment the polls told me it could get me elected. Send it down, Hughie.

HARRY - HITLER

How do we know you're not lying?

THELMA

The best way to get to the truth is to tell a lie.

PETER - POL POT

You mentioned normal...

THELMA

Don't put words in my mouth.

HARRY - HITLER

Then what is normal?

THELMA

Doing what is expected. You're expected to act normal, that's why you're in here. If you were in here because you were mad that would be normal, but if your behaviour conformed to the behaviour of others it would be abnormal in Australia. And that's normal.

GLEN is confused.

GLEN - GADAFFI

That's as clear as a Tamagochi pancake.

THELMA

If you want to look at something that's abnormal look at our dole. I tell dole bludgers and left wing do-gooders it's easy to get the dole. You don't think that's

normal do you? That's accidentally abnormal, Cobber. Unless you're one of the people I pretend the dole's for, the illiterate, the unemployable, educated derelicts including boat refugees. Then I deny you the dole because you're too educated, illiterate or a queue jumper. Done like a dinner.

GLEN, confused, turns circles.

PETER - POL POT

You introduced work for the dole schemes.

HARRY - HITLER

My Hitler Youth didn't know what work was. Work was so abnormal to them it became a game.

GLEN - GADAFI

I hate kids.

THELMA

So therefore you're normal. And speaking of kids, I set up a paradigm where sixteen year olds could leave school and go straight on the dole. That was my master thesis for widening the gap between the haves and the have-nots. Low income earners become the masses and eventually total chaos. That's part one.

HARRY - HITLER

Something's missing here. One ball short of an over.

THELMA

Well done, Adolf. Part two comes when you get the masses on side.

GLEN - GADAFI

Don't follow.

THELMA

Everyone knows you can cause more havoc with everyone on side. Mad Max at the wheel of progress. A super-highway to the Gold Coast. The bloke who cops it when his mates shoot through with the rent or races off his best

mate's Sheila. Everyone does that in Australia. Just watch the six o'clock news. I lost my beauty only to find it on gallery walls.

PETER - POL POT

Speak English.

HARRY - HITLER

That doesn't sound right.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Fashionable. That's all it is, fashionable.

THELMA

Exactly, irreverent attitude to authority. Mistrust plus apathy equals antipodean. You wouldn't believe how I had to undermine even my own press agents when this Asian chick chucked her kid overboard. By the time I'd reworked the story, fleapit journalism, which is the norm in Australia, was out the door. Welcome in the Johnny Howard school of Creative Writing. Though I did pull back somewhat on that one.

PETER - POL POT

Hah! Why?

THELMA

Well the truth is she was looking for a white pointer before she pitched her picinanni overboard. But I didn't want to say that because it might have given white pointers a bad name.

(to GLEN)

But I still got more headlines then when you shot down the Lockabee.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Only because I denied it.

THELMA

I deny everything. When they say, "It's Monday," I say, "How do you know?". If they say, "Because yesterday was Sunday.", I say, "Well that's your opinion." If they say,

"Because tomorrow's Tuesday." I say, "Well it's all hypothetical." No one knows what to say. Just when they think they've got the right answers I change the questions.

GLEN - GADAFFI

I'm not following.

PETER - POL POT

Wickedness is a part of human nature. Get to that part of it.

THELMA

I was about to explain that by revealing how I created an underclass of subversive vipers who sabotage the system twenty-four seven.

HARRY - HITLER

Be specific, man. Who're you bloody talking about?

PETER - POL POT

You have hit squads in Australia?

THELMA

Worse.

PETER - POL POT

What could be worse?

THELMA

Stand-up comedians.

HARRY - HITLER

Every country has comedians. Mine were all in the SS.

THELMA

But in Australia everyone's a comedian.

PETER - POL POT

How come?

THELMA

Because we're all wankers and if you're a continual wanker you're forced to use your imagination, right, otherwise you'll never

come. So everyone with five fingers thinks they're a stand-up comedian.

PETER - POL POT

Prove it.

THELMA

When I'm forced to have a public debate on something I'm considering like, "Should we bomb Iraq again?" I contact Wendy Harmer, Rod Quantok, the usual list of so-called comedians.

PETER - POL POT

That's not proof!

THELMA

Then take my Cabinet. Look at Downer and tell me he's not funny. I had to get rid of Bronwyn Bishop because she was pinching the best material. Take me. No one thinks I have a sense of humour, right?

PETER - POL POT

Didn't you make Wilson Tuckey Minister for the Environment?

THELMA

Ha, ha, see what I mean. Everyone's a comedian, even me. We can't help ourselves. You ever met Ruddick? The classical humour merchant in Reg Grundies. I gave him Immigration and Abos. He hates Abos. Now tell me that wasn't hilarious. And Slopes. You'll appreciate this, Pot. Official policy, right? "Come to Australia" and remember Pot killed all the intellectuals so Ruddick's dealing with the ning nongs. "Come in. My home is your home." Ha, ha, but unofficially your legal immigrant has gotta possess the equivalent of his weight in gold, obtain three references from the CIA and perform karaoke under water. Ha, ha, ha. But the best part is when he gets here he discovers we're xenophobic and his wife can't eat Aussi food. No one can. Come to Australia is what I call our final solution.

I have my own comedy spot once a week on Neil Mitchell. And how about this one? We have this little organisation we call ASIO. It's there to protect the security of the nation. Now we asked ourselves, could ASIO keep out the yellow hordes, neutralise terrorist threats, counter enemy surveillance. Ha, ha. And wait for it. We answered, yes. Ha, ha, now where's your undies?

(they look at each other bewildered)  
You had to be there. Then there's our robber barons. Bigger and better than any of yours.

PETER - POL POT

What could be worse than the oligarchy I created?

THELMA

We call them the Board Of Works, Telstra. Ha, ha, Look at our old folk. Bleak. Our young will never learn how to grow old. Too busy practicing suicide. Any why shouldn't they when we encourage Yankee role models like Arnie and Sly but arrest our kids for taking steroids? Rumblebums. But my biggest joke was dumping the teaching of children, including their morals and manners, onto the education system.

PETER - POL POT

I closed schools, Adolf.

HARRY - HITLER

Isn't that where it should be?

THELMA

Ha, ha. What do you know about the Aussi theory of education? I won't go into it but the corollary is if you teach a kid manners you'll stifle him as a free thinker. Then there's this ripper I call, creating unemployment. I sub head it, the unemployment we have to have. Nobody regarded an electronic typewriter as a technological change, right? But all of a sudden they became a PC. Now that I've got computers running our transport system

there's no need to hire anyone. But have you ever tried to buy a train ticket?

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Isn't that a state thing?

THELMA  
Is it?

HARRY - HITLER  
Course it is.

THELMA  
Well, I cut defense spending. Now soldiers have to buy their own bullets.

HARRY - HITLER  
Bullshit! You quadrupled the defense budget!

THELMA  
Don't tell me that wasn't a joke. I forced the ABC to recognise homosexual relationships.

GLEN - GADAFFI  
Why?

THELMA  
To trick them into coming out. But if you're a queen in the army I'll have you court marshalled.

PETER - POL POT  
I heard you had homosexual Prime Ministers.

THELMA  
Maybe, but we allow poofster bashing.

HARRY - HITLER  
You banned child pornography.

THELMA  
No. We banned Derryn Hinch.

PETER - POL POT  
But look at your crime rate, next to zero.

HARRY - HITLER

Disgraceful!

THELMA

A problem of definition. We don't call them criminals.

PETER - POL POT

What do you call them?

THELMA

Politicians, clergy, police. Anyone know anything about passive scare tactics?

Slowly GLEN, PETER and HARRY get angrier and angrier as they prowl round THELMA.

HARRY - HITLER

Passive, ha, ha. Tell us about passive scare tactics, Whipcracker.

THELMA

You float the rumour of a new tax, say GST. You respond to the rumour, promise never to introduce a GST, but don't mention anything about non-core promises. Now couple that rumour with the overpromise of, I guarantee full employment, zero inflation and minimum interest rates....Ha, ha. I have to own up, the GST wasn't my idea.

HARRY - HITLER

Whose idea was it?

THELMA

The good guys, but in Australia the good guys don't pay tax. In Australia the devil is innocent until proven guilty.

CAROLINE is slowly untying herself.

HARRY - HITLER

You haven't finished. Where does the scare stuff come in?

THELMA

You *introduce* the GST.

PETER - POL POT

You didn't explained passive.

THELMA

That's part of the plan, never explain anything. No one's got the faintest idea what's going on, least of all me. Unless of course the polls are looking bad. Then you use plan C. Tickle the knackers of the bully. Get a tattoo of George on your backside. Next minute every fanatic with an accent wants to surgically remove you from the planet. Low and behold the polls have shot through the roof. When I came to office Australians couldn't even spell terrorism. Now it's part of our national psyche, up there with the ANZACS and Cazley. I sent our ships to Iraq. Guess how many times they got lost? We'd never heard of the place until George rang.

(to GLEN)

You might have caused the world to go into menopause but I'm the one who gave it a crude hysterectomy. And I did that at the same time I was undermining Medicare. George wouldn't have gone to war without my support. He told me so. And how many of you were able to convince people that less was more?

GLEN - GADAFFI

More than what?

PETER - POL POT

When did you do that?

THELMA

When I put an ex-journo in the Attorney General's Office, and a lawyer in charge of Media Liaison. They paid the media via our advertising budget to write articles that the greater the tax the less there is to tax.

GLEN - GADAFFI

This is ridiculous. The greater the tax, the more you must be earning.

THELMA

No, no. First you raise taxes, right? That means there's less money in everyone's pay packet than there normally is, right? Well, the less money in your pay packet the less there is to tax, right? The less there is to tax the less tax taken out, right? Well the less tax taken out the more take home pay in your pay packets, right? Less is more. Returned with an increased majority.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Go over that again.

THELMA

Then you reduce the burden on families by closing child care facilities.

PETER - POL POT

When?

THELMA

I did that in the year of the child actually. But I allowed the export of brumbies.

PETER - POL POT

Hang on!

HARRY - HITLER

As Christmas presents?

THELMA

Hardly. Our Father Christmas climbs down the chimney rattling a money box. As Pet food, silly. When you're a cynic people behave the way you expect them to. That's why I turned Australia into a banana republic.

HARRY - HITLER

That wasn't you.

THELMA

Prove it.

PETER - POL POT

I like this game. Keep going, hayseed. Beer halls in every street. Australia has become

a brewer's paradise.

THELMA

What reason have our men and women to stay sober when normal behaviour is outlawed and perverse behaviour legitimised?

PETER - POL POT

Australia is the land of opportunity. Poker machines in every club.

THELMA

Government revenue.

PETER - POL POT

Examples? Not rhetoric. Give us examples.

HARRY - HITLER

You can't because you haven't got any.

THELMA

I had Canberra ban X rated videos.

HARRY - HITLER

So?

THELMA

Except in Canberra.

THELMA

In Australian Rules, dropping the ball is penalised under the holding the ball rule.

GLEN

That doesn't make sense.

THELMA

Channel Seven stopped Naomi Robson from driving in the Grand Prix Celebrity race so she wouldn't get hurt they then sent her to Bosnia without a flak jacket.

PETER - POL POT

What's that got to do with you?

THELMA

The RACV advertises they treat you as a person

not a number. Ring them. What d'you think they ask?

GLEN - GADAFFI

Did you have a good day?

THELMA

Number, please.

HARRY - HITLER

But what's that got to do with you?

THELMA.

Buggered if I know.

HARRY - HITLER

Give us something that has.

THELMA

I raised fees for declaring yourself bankrupt from \$300 to \$1600.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Then you're an idiot.

THELMA

Course I am. That's why I forced builders and electricians to adopt a code of ethics.

HARRY - HITLER

Then you're a bloody good guy!

THELMA

But I rejected one for politicians.

PETER - POL POT

That's because they didn't need one.

THELMA

Yeah, right. Our criminals fill the parliamentary gallery to learn first hand about travel rorts, extortion and fraud.

HARRY - HITLER

But you have your priorities right.

THELMA

Priorities of mistrust. Expanded surveillance. Hidden cameras on every corner. What other country do you know that treats it's creative people as the moral equivalent of criminals.

PETER - POL POT

But you're not even allowed to hit an umpire.

THELMA

Not on camera. Meanwhile our husbands are bashing their wives black and blue.

GLEN - GADAFFI

When?

THELMA

Anytime life's against them.

HARRY - HITLER

Crap!

THELMA

Or he's drunk.

PETER - POL POT

But your system of women's refuges, they're everywhere.

HARRY - HITLER

That's right and your campaign against hidden domestic violence?

THELMA

Ha, ha hysterical with fear in the middle of the night.

PETER - POL POT

But they've got refuges to go to.

THELMA

For every woman in a refuges there's four who can't get in.

HARRY - HITLER

But you made the effort, damn it!

THELMA

Perhaps, sport, however the emphasis is still on making the woman believe she's the one causing it. You might have razzle dazzle but we've got polli waffle. It's not easy casting men in sex roles they're not up to, making them competitive with women while expecting women to be the good wife and mother when all the time she wants to be out there getting a bit on the side. I wrote my thesis on family values. Ask Janet.

PETER - POL POT

Can you claim people are too scared to talk to each other?

THELMA

Yes. On the phones.

PETER - POL POT

I banned typewriters.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Hands up those who've heard of Gadaffi's delicatessen theory for the distribution of drugs?

THELMA

Is that anything to do with a Seven-Eleven on every corner, sport?

HARRY - HITLER

What else have you done? Give us something of significance!

THELMA

I made women aware of orgasms.

PETER - POL POT

Why would a Prime Minister do a stupid thing like that?

THELMA

You'll have to talk to Janet.

PETER - POL POT

I outlawed orgasms.

HARRY - HITLER

All my women had orgasms.

PETER - POL POT

Any women who had an orgasm I executed. I burned them.

HARRY - HITLER

Why?

PETER - POL POT

So I could feel warm inside.

THELMA

I put a woman in charge of Women's Affairs.

HARRY - HITLER

That's stupid. Why?

CAROLINE

In my thesis I argue it was a back-door way of getting out of sex. Create a national inferiority complex for men. Then when a bloke goes to bed with a woman he can't get an erection because of his inferiority complex. The Sheila no longer has to feign a headache. Win win situation. Ask Janet. Did you know I pinched our policy on plagiarism from England?

(reading from the paper)

And here's one I'd almost forgotten. I forced manufacturers to put serial numbers on condoms.

PETER - POL POT

Really?

HARRY - HITLER

I've never seen a serial number on a condom!

THELMA

Perhaps you don't put yours all the way on, darling.

PETER - POL POT

I executed husbands for talking to their

wives.

THELMA

I had one hundred dollar notes made seven millimeters shorter than the fifty dollar note.

GLEN

Why?

THELMA

To confuse wallet makers.

HARRY - HITLER

You don't fool me for one moment, Fraulien. Let's play charades, make Adolf feel he's a good guy. What're you really, tea lady of the asylum?

CAROLINE has succeeded in untying herself and is looking for an opportune moment to escape.

PETER - POL POT

Is that it?

THELMA

Hardly. I let manufacturers put sugar in toothpaste then I forced farmers to reduce the sugar content in cantaloupes.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Why would you do that?

THELMA

I honestly don't know. I think I was talked into it by the National Party. What about the ugly Australians you hear of?

PETER - POL POT

The sex bars in the Philippines?

THELMA

I was thinking more the Murdochs and Packers. And Max Gillies.

HARRY - HITLER

Right, you've had your opportunity.

THELMA

I even allowed a convicted child killer work release as a baby sitter.

HARRY - HITLER

What's the big deal?

THELMA

For my own kids? It was during my Kleenex Emotion period.

PETER - POL POT

Please explain.

THELMA

You wait until the red camera light's on before you start crying. Have you ever put the head of a worm into an ant's hole and tickled it's tail? I spent millions on backhoes.

HARRY - HITLER

What in the blazes for?

THELMA

Daintree, Kakadu..

PETER - POL POT

What about your America's Cup win?

THELMA

Rigged.

PETER - POL POT

Dame Joan Sutherland?

THELMA

Meat pies.

PETER - POL POT

Harold Holt?

THELMA

Sack artist. She'll be apples.

HARRY - HITLER

Billy Sneddon?

THELMA

Died on the job. You're barking up the wrong tree.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Billy McMahon?

THELMA

What was that you said about poofter bashing?

PETER - POL POT

Bow Hawke?

THELMA

Aussi Bob. Three snags short of a Barbie.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Kangaroos, koalas.

THELMA

Sausage meat.

PETER - POL POT

Holdens.

THELMA

Nippon.

HARRY - HITLER

Green Peace. Save the dolphins. Sunbury.

THELMA

Hoddle Street, Port Arthur, Sydney Myer Music Bowl.

PETER - POL POT

Free elections.

THELMA

Queensland, Tasmania. Pull your finger out.

GLEN - GADAFFI

Freedom.

THELMA

The R.S.L. One Nation. Mug lair, my oath,  
never never...

PETER - POL POT

Migration.

By now PETER, GLEN and HARRY have worked themselves into  
a frenzy.

THELMA

Blainey. Pauline Hanson. Alan Jones.  
Pig's arse!

GLEN - GADAFFI

Shopping arcades, esplanades...

THELMA

Juveniles stark and lifeless. Rack off or  
I'll stack on a blue.

(singing)

*Hey true blue...*

PETER - POL POT

Your film and TV industry...

During the following speech, which THELMA delivers to the  
audience as if she's a stand-up comedian, CAROLINE attempts  
to escape but as she is half out the door she is attacked  
by GLEN, HARRY and PETER, who roll her in a drop sheet and  
savagely devour her. Bones and intestines are all that's  
left.

THELMA

Our highest art form is the television  
commercial. Dinky di. We seek refuge in  
junk food and sex shops, not literature.  
We're a nation of axeheads looking for  
woodducks back of beyond. Artificial  
wetlands. Our top five crime categories are  
Greenies, Environmentalists, Unionists,  
Students and Murderers. What more can I do  
for my country? Under me, stupidity has made  
the IN list. Post-modern wowerism, Smirnoff  
psychosis, marijuana tumors. I abolished  
mental health. Now hairdressers refuse to  
cut hair if it's too long. Two years ago I  
was as popular as Ivan Milat at a backpackers

convention. Look at me now.

(building to a mad crescendo)

I can begin a war. I can end a war. I'm the link between the gods and everlasting happiness. That all started when I assassinated democracy and left it to decay on the front lawns of suburbia where its gaseous odours permeated everything. People realised that breathing my vapours put them in touch with greatness. Soon everyone in the country was sniffing my gas and bestowing rich gifts upon my leadership and now I have more wealth than I can spend and the country's one big fat fart joke.

GLEN, PETER and HARRY, gather round THELMA like satisfied puppies. Suddenly the original CAROLINE, in underwear, appears from the other door, still untying herself.

CAROLINE

(frantic)

I was captured by this lunatic. She tied me up and took my clothes and locked me in the cupboard. I think she was doing research for a reality TV show funded by some veterinary drug manufacturing company. We've got to stop her. I have to call the police, have her arrested. Where is she?

GLEN, HARRY and PETER burp. THELMA shrugs her shoulders. A brick comes through the window. S/F smashing glass. THELMA picks up the brick.

THELMA

That's when it's dangerous, Caroline.

CAROLINE

When?

THELMA

When they throw bricks with no messages.

HARRY, GLEN and PETER playfully bark and howl.

THELMA

I'm the world's greatest stand-up comedian. Did I tell you the one about...?

**THE END**