

# A Play in 8 Parts

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## Part 3

*Part 3 begins with the same characters from parts 1 and 2, JOHN the artist and JODI the participant and collaborator. They are about to embark on the third of eight walks which begin at the same time each week and follow the same route, organised as part of an art project coordinated by JOHN.*

*The scene is set at 5:03pm near a public sculpture at Federation Square in Melbourne, Australia in July 2008.*

*JOHN stands beside the sculpture intermittently glancing at his watch.*

*JODI enters and begins heading towards the sculpture. She stops and walks to front of stage and addresses the audience.*

JODI: He is always here before me. Just one day I would like to arrive before him. Just to disrupt him, or disrupt the order of things. But I work, I don't finish until 5 o'clock. He's an artist. He doesn't work. It's easy for him to be on time. Well, I guess he does some kind of work, but not to a normal schedule. It's different.

*JODI turns and walks toward JOHN, who looks up as she approaches.*

JOHN: Hello Jodi.

JODI: Hi John.

JOHN: You right?

JODI: Yes thank you.

*JODI looks at the sculpture.*

JOHN: What do you think of that?

*After a pause.*

JODI: I kind of like it, I like its movement, the noise, and the colour too.

JOHN: Sure, yeah, I know what you mean.

JODI: I like the way it's always different, but always the same. It kind of shifts with the conditions or something.

JOHN: Yeah, I guess it does.

JODI: And then sometimes it is just silent.

*After a few moments, during which time they look at each other, and then JODI looks down as JOHN looks out toward the far left.*

JOHN: Well, shall we...

JODI: Yep, yeah sure.

*They cross the stage.*

JOHN: I think we go this way.

JODI: I think so.

*After a pause.*

JODI: So, so what does this all mean, what are we doing?

JOHN: Well I'm not really sure yet.

JODI: Oh?

JOHN: Well, I guess I had thought about setting up these situations, these kind of random situations that might take their own form...

*JODI and JOHN walk slowly about the stage talking to each other in quiet tones inaudible to the audience. After 11 minutes JODI approaches the front of the stage and addresses the audience. JOHN continues slowly walking about the stage as if still talking to JODI.*

JODI: He has already explained it to me twice, but it is still so strange. I didn't really know the significance of the first time until we did the second walk. The second time was stranger than the first time, because then I really didn't know what to do. So I tried to remember what we did on the first walk, the way we travelled and some of the stuff we said. I thought at that stage, this is what the project is all about. Like doing the same things in the same places. I'm not really sure anymore if this is right. Maybe these walks would be something else entirely if the first walk had been different? I guess...

*JODI reaches into her bag and pulls out a camera.*

JODI: I don't know what the point is really. But it is interesting and makes me think about a few things more intently to do with John's art project, or what I think that project is about, but also how we communicate with people you don't know. It's uncomfortable. Not saying that John makes me feel uncomfortable, or anything like that, more just that you get kind of used to walking around the city by yourself. That's the thing that is great about the city, it is just so dense, there are all of these distractions which make it easier. On these walks I try and photograph these distractions. This is how I remember the things that we see on these walks and make it mean something for me.

*JODI returns to beside JOHN and they walk slowly about the stage talking to each other in quiet tones inaudible to the audience for 9 minutes.*

*JODI pulls her camera out of her bag and takes a photo.*

JODI: I had never even noticed this shop before.

JOHN: Right. Yes its very interesting. Clocks, lots of clocks. I quite like them.

JODI: I love grandfather clocks. I had never seen a whole shop of them before this. I didn't even know this shop was here.

JOHN: Well that's the thing, isn't it?

JODI: What's that?

JOHN: We're always walking down the same streets, out of habit I guess. You kind of miss all of the other stuff, if you don't need to find a certain place, somewhere you've never been before.

JODI: Yeah I guess it is.

JOHN: Maybe that's the good thing about being in a different city. All of your journeys are quite random. You're always a bit lost.

JODI: You're lost?

JOHN: In Melbourne? No, no. But when I first arrived here, or anywhere really, like anywhere new I mean, you are always kind of seeing stuff and you don't know how it all fits together.

JODI: Yeah, like when you try to revisit those first few places you see in a city, to see the same things you experienced when you arrived without a firm bearing or orientation. You try to piece together how and where you saw them and attempt to retrace your journey, but you can never find them again. It's frustrating.

JOHN: I know, absolutely.

JODI: Is this what the project is about?

JOHN: I'm not sure. Maybe it is.

*After a pause.*

JODI: Would you like some tea?

JOHN: Yes, that would be lovely, thank you.

JODI *pours some tea in to the cup of the thermos and offers it to JOHN.*

JOHN: Green tea?

JODI: Yes, is that ok?

JOHN: No it's perfect, thank you.

JODI *reaches into her bag and pulls out an unopened block of chocolate.*

JODI: I have some chocolate too if you would like some.

JOHN: I thought you might.

JOHN *smiles.* JODI *doesn't.*

JODI: It is orange dark chocolate. It's Swiss.

JOHN: Fancy.

JODI: Pardon?

JOHN: Fancy. It sounds, um, exotic. I would love to try it.

JOHN *walks to the front of the stage and addresses the audience.*

JOHN: She always brings chocolate. She always brings tea too actually. It's always the same. She always offers it to me in exactly the same way in exactly the same location. So, I have just kind of gone with it, I mean, I didn't really instigate this part of things, or really any of these parts, well certainly not on my own. I say the same things every week, I mean, of course I tried that chocolate last week, and the week before that.

I think that this section of these walks has kind of developed into this sort of...moment, *the moment*, perhaps. I'm not really sure, but it has become sort of the symbolic part of the walk, but difficult to decipher exactly how it has become so important. Maybe it's due to the intensity of the repetition that we have developed around this part of the journey, or at this place at least. It really makes me realise that I am not in control of this situation and probably never could have been. In a way, possibly this is the point of my involvement, to sort of not really be involved.

JOHN *walks back to the right side of JODI and they continue walking about the stage for 17 minutes.*

JODI: There it is. Wow that is a beautiful chandelier, is it a different one to last time? It looks amazing in this light, better than last week. I think it is the same one though.

JOHN: Yes, I think it is.

JODI: I have to take a picture of that.

*They pause briefly, looking toward the chandelier then walk about the stage in silence for 8 minutes.*

*Cathedral bells ring to mark 6 o'clock.*

JOHN: Well...

JODI: Right...

JOHN: Thank you so much Jodi.

JODI: Sure, I guess I'll see you next week.

JOHN: Same time and place again?

JODI: Yeah, see you then.

JOHN: Ok, bye.

*They briefly smile at one another, then turn around and walk their separate ways. Their smiles begin to disappear as they walk off stage.*

End of Part 3