

Writing Abstracts

A mix of script examples written by Alana Wadkin – some pieces contain strong language and may offend some people.

The following examples range from typical everyday scenarios to bizarre scenes with a few TV inspired parts thrown in. These are not properly formatted, but pieces I like.

Scripted Scenarios

Here are some script scenes I wrote while doing writing exercises:

- 1) A scene practicing the use of unnaturalistic concepts in a familiar setting, with a sad ending and a lesson to be learnt.

INT. LIVERPOOL LIBRARY, 1980

The fairly busy yet quiet library looks like the Hogwarts' grand hall – with a very high ceiling, rows and rows of old books, luxurious sets of chandelier lights (lowly lit with an orangey tinge to them) and several wooden square tables and chairs scattered around the room.

CAZ (20s, tall, thin with red straight hair, dresses like a goth, everything black and full of piercings) is annoying the prim and proper librarian BETTY (late 50s, small build, grey short hair, wears large thick glasses, slightly hunched over, squeaky voice) trying to type on a computer at the librarian desk near the entrance/exit.

CAZ (loudly): I can help, you know – I'm good with modern technology...

BETTY (quietly but abruptly): Shhh... Can't you read!? (points up to sign "Quiet please") Shouldn't you be in college!?

CAZ (still loud): Nah, it's me day off. I'm bored of studying – this place is deathly quiet, full of zombies reading stupid books! The same old, same old. I can't even find a bloody single book I want...

BETTY (tutting): I said be QUIET! Well... this is a library kid; you're supposed to read and do research 'ere... What book are you looking for, anyway?

CAZ (hesitates, whispers): A business book called something enterprises.

BETTY (assertive): Managing small enterprises?

CAZ looks stunned and slowly nods. With that, the entrance door swings open - a strange creature (MONKEY) hobbles in on all fours, wearing a trench coat and hat, if you glance quickly at it – you'd think it was a drunk staggering across the carpet.

BETTY (CONT'D): Hey mate, I think you've got the wrong place.

MONKEY: Alright luv! I don't suppose you know where the evolution books are?

BETTY (without looking): Over there by the animal and science section.

MONKEY (as turns around): Ooo-ooo-ooo Aaa-aaa-aaa, nice one. I'm researching the evolution of life, apparently humans come from apes...

As the creature turns to BETTY, she screams this high-pitched squeal as she sees a MONKEY staring right back at her. CAZ dives under the desk.

CAZ (screams): Arghhh, a f*cking huge t-a-lking ape!

The other people stop and look to see what the commotion is.

BETTY (as walks around desk): Ddd-don't panic, st...stay...

The other people start panicking – running mad, knocking into book shelves with books flying everywhere and heading towards the exit. The manic people scare the MONKEY and it begins to freak out, jumping and climbing the book shelves.

MONKEY (screeches): Ooo-ooo-ooo Aaa-aaa-aaa. Wha...

As the MONKEY swings over the book shelf, it starts to fall into another book shelf which topples over and crash lands on BETTY. Her head hitting the corner of the desk, knocking her out. As the people are running out, CAZ comes out of hiding to attend to BETTY, noticing she isn't moving and breathing strange, and quickly rushes out to get help.

CAZ (shouts as running towards exit): HELP!! SOMEONE HELP ME!

MONKEY (shouts): Wait mate, I'm coming down to help...

Door shuts as MONKEY climbs down to BETTY and comforts her whilst holding her hand.

MONKEY (stutters): I, I, I didn't mean to scare you, this is my fault!

BETTY (shallow breathing): I shouldn't have reacted like that, don't blame yourself luv...

MONKEY (emotional): I'm so sorry...

BETTY (shallow breathing): Maybe there's a lesson to be learnt, don't judge a book by its cover.

BETTY's breathing gets shallower and shallower until she stops breathing.

- 2) In this scene I was writing male dialogue with a comical undertone, and ended with a cliff hanger.

INT. WAREHOUSE – NIGHT

In the abandoned, dirty and dimly lit warehouse; standing under the only working strip light, JIMMY (40s, tall, smartly dressed, wears a top-end watch and several rings) points to different locations on a map with sticky notes attached, which is opened out on a snooker table, while TONY (40s, muscly, skinhead, full of tattoos, dressed casual) and FRANK (30s, thin, scruffy, looks spaced-out) huddle around the table, appearing confused as they stare at the map.

JIMMY: Once you get here, distract the security guards...

TONY: Errmmm... How?

JIMMY (sighs): Am I the only one with brains around here! Just bloody do what you normally do – start a fight!

TONY (clenches fists & bangs them together): OK boss!

JIMMY: Then I...

FRANK (slurs, interrupts): Wha...what happens if the plain clothed cops are following us?!

TONY bursts out laughing and JIMMY whacks FRANK on the head.

JIMMY (abruptly): You mean undercover cops, d*ckh**d! If you listened to the plan, Max will be our intel... (checks watch) He should've been here by now! Where the hell is he?

FRANK (slurs as admires JIMMY's watch): Argh ay Jim, bangin' watch (snorts) where'd you get it?

TONY (whispers to FRANK): I bet it f*cking fell off the back of a lorry!

FRANK sniggers as JIMMY whacks TONY on the head.

JIMMY (defensively): No, it's the real deal – 100% genuine!

TONY examines JIMMY's watch.

TONY: Well, it looks like it's from that sh*th**d druggie in Greaty Market...

FRANK (interrupts, slurs): Hhh-he's boss like! He comes in Smarty's every Thursday with cheap gear... I give him a list of stuff I want; he'd knock it off from somewhere and sell it bloody cheap...

TONY: I like the suit boss, very dapper!

JIMMY (proudly): It's proper silk! I'm trying to impress someone, ain't I...

TONY (flamboyantly): Ooooh, get you... Looks like he's gone up in the world, Franko!

FRANK (slurs/jokes): Did I tell you about the fella who robbed a bank wearing a suit like Jim's except made of mirrors? After taking time to reflect, he turned himself in. Luckily, the judge went easy on him as he saw a lot of himself in the fella.

JIMMY keeps a straight face while TONY tries to figure out the joke. With that, MAX (30s, mid build, stocky, spiky hair, wearing blood-stained clothes) drags himself through the door holding his side, before collapsing on the floor. TONY rushes over to MAX and carries him to the table.

TONY (as carrying MAX): Who's done this bro?

Without thinking, FRANK tosses the map aside as TONY places MAX on the table; the map ends up on the floor with the notes scattered everywhere. JIMMY's face is a picture as he scrambles around on the floor trying to pick up the notes.

MAX (breathless): The Jones! They know about our plan... and are gunnin' for us!

Suddenly, MAX passes out and TONY picks him up and runs out of the door, closely followed by FRANK who falls over twice.

- 3) This is a family friendly scene where I tried telling a story from an heirloom the characters find.

THE TEA SET

A mother and daughter are sitting on the floor in a dimly lit attic. They're sorting and packing things into boxes ready to move house.

DAUGHTER: Mum, look at this old tea set, I've never seen this before.

Mum approaches daughter on her knees and looks inside the box at the tea set.

MUM: Part of it is missing...

DAUGHTER: Where did you get it?

MUM takes a deep breath.

MUM: You know when your dad and I got married? We had lots of gifts but none as special as this. I know it looks like a dusty (blows dust away and coughs), old, chipped, antwacky tea set from a charity shop, but this goes back to the 20s, apparently... It was a large set, originally with 12 cups and saucers and a sugar bowl, but now there's just the teapot, milk jug and these few cups and saucers. (pauses to think) Just think about the number of miles it has travelled up and down the country, and across the world! Imagine the amazing stories this could tell; from experiencing many house-moves and knocks to surviving World War II and the Blitz! Incredible, isn't it? (sighs) Anyway, the women of our family would pass it down over the generations. Each wedding day, the mother of the bride would gift it to their daughter as part of tradition. Personally, I think it's more to do with superstition than tradition - similar to when the bride wears something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue. Our family's tradition is to let the bride drink from the tea set before the ceremony - it's supposed to give good luck. Sounds a load of baloney, right?!

DAUGHTER: How does it make you feel seeing it today?

MUM: Nostalgic! It makes me think of my grandma, she was a real character. She used to say (in old voice) "I still believe our ancestors are looking down and watching over us." I remember having it out for a Teddy Bear's picnic when I was your age. My grandma caught me and said (in old voice, sharply) "treat everything with respect – think how you would like to be treated. Be fair yet gentle, then you'll go far! Life's a gift! You will understand one day when you have a child of your own."

DAUGHTER (kindly): What do you want me to do with it now?

MUM: Carefully, wrap it up with newspaper! It will be yours one day, we don't want any more parts broken, do we? (whispers) Don't tell your granny but I smashed one of the cups and saucers...

DAUGHTER: Ok Mum, love you.

TV Scenarios

These TV scenarios are inspired by and featuring characters from the actual shows. Another writing exercise I kept hold of:

Home & Away Inspired

INT. PIER DINER, SUMMERBAY

The diner is slowing down after the lunchtime rush. Harper (30s, fitness nut) is sitting alone, staring through a large window at the beautiful blue sky, in a world of her own – oblivious to the customers strolling past. Irene (60s, part-owner/server and Harper's landlady) notices Harper, looking troubled, while serving a customer. Irene quickly makes a coffee and gets a pasta salad from the kitchen then walks towards Harper.

Irene (places salad on table): Here you go girlie!

Harper (startled): Wha... Oh, thanks Irene.

Irene (gives coffee to Harper): You look like you could do with this, doll... On the house!

Harper: Thank you, I really need a pick me up. It's been one of those mornings... Sometimes I wish I was an only child!

Irene: What has Dana done now?

Harper: Interfering in my business, that's what! Since she and Xander got together, she thinks she's a love guru now...

Irene: That's sisters for you! Dana is just looking out for you, just like you did for her during the court case. She wants you to be happy and show that she has your back.

Harper looks like she comprehends what's been said and fidgets with her hands.

Harper (regretful): Oh... When you put it like that... Now I feel terrible – I, I, I had a proper go at her.

As Harper burst into tears; Irene looks around the quiet diner and pulls out a chair. She sits next to Harper, grabs her hand.

Irene (concerned): This isn't about Dana, is it? What's actually going on girlie?

Harper (sobs, shakes her head): I might be pregnant, I'm late!

Irene looks shocked yet tries to comfort Harper.

Brookside Inspired

EXT. BUS STOP, BROOKSIDE CLOSE - 1999

A gorgeous day, over 80 degrees, during his round Sinbad (40s, window cleaner) is busy cleaning the bus stop windows, talking to Mike Dixon (20s, unemployed). Other people are sitting at the stop with lots of shopping bags. Sinbad seems to be tiring from the heat.

Mike: Ahh ay Sin, you look like you're going to drop! Just rest a min...

Sinbad (breathing heavily): I can't mate, there's no rest for the wicked! Plus, I'm dead behind and I've got to meet Mand at 1.

Mike: So, things are going well then? Is she OK after her ordeal?

Sinbad picks up the bottle of water beside him on the ground and takes a swig.

Sinbad (blurts out): Yeah, she has just started to trust me after that abusive b*st*rd nearly killed her.

One of the people sat at the stop, glances quickly at Sinbad, raising one eyebrow. Sinbad instantly realises what he has said and looks like he could kick himself as he ushers Mike away from the stop.

Sinbad (whispers): Thank God I got to the house in time – a psycho doesn't even describe him.

Mike (shocked): F*ck... I believe the whole close was up! Me Dad tried to help but the bizzies stopped him from going in.

Sinbad looks to the heavens as he returns to the bus stop and cleans the windows. Mike follows.

Sinbad: The girls just froze...

Sinbad's phone starts ringing in his pocket. He ignores it and continues wiping the windows. His phone rings again. Answering it, he listens for a couple seconds and doesn't get a chance to speak.

Sinbad (on phone, calmly interrupts): Just calm down, tell me what's happening?

Mike sees the colour drain from Sinbad's face. Sinbad runs across the street – throwing his cloth down, nearly running in front a bus.

Mike (shouts): Wait! Wha...

Mike runs after Sinbad.