

EXTRACT

Screwfang, the frillytexter, meets The Austrian

a short play

by

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Characters

DAVINA

SCREWFANG

THE AUSTRIAN

Screwfang, the frillytexter, meets The Austrian

DAVINA stands centre stage. On one side is **THE AUSTRIAN** on the other is **SCREWFANG**.

DAVINA: People ask me who I'm involved with – Screwfang or The Austrian.

I'm involved with my Legal Advisor, Screwfang. Screwfang the frillytexter. Screwfang, the giver of tea. Screwfang, the faller of stairs and the toppler of headstands. Screwfang the Indestructible.

The Austrian is just a friend. A very Rain-man-ish friend. I often think I deserve a government subsidy for looking after him.

THE AUSTRIAN EXITS.

DAVINA: How did he get the name Screwfang?

SCREWFANG GETS A SMALL BOX AND HANDS A WATER DOWNPIPE TO **DAVINA**.

DAVINA: I went around to his house one day to help him put up some pipes around his house. He'd just bought a new water tank. I was wearing this white shawl around my shoulders and holding up the pipe for him to screw in to the gutter.

DAVINA STANDS ON THE BOX, SHE HOLDS UP THE PIPE. **SCREWFANG** TURNS AROUND. HE NOW HAS TWO SCREWS HANGING OUT OF HIS MOUTH.

SCREWFANG: I'm stunned. Standing there you look just like the "Statue of Liberty". I'll never forget this image of you.

DAVINA: And standing there you look diabolical. I'll never forget this image of you. And so he became:

SCREWFANG: Screwfang!

SCREWFANG PUTS ON A SHIRT AND TIE.

DAVINA: Screwfang, the frillytexter went to Canberra. Occasionally he legally advises there. He legally advises

DAVINA: (CONT) here, there, everywhere. Whoever will have his legal advice.
He sent a frillytext from the restaurant-in-the-club-that-you-have-to-wear-a-jacket-and-tie-at-all-times saying that he was :

SCREWFANG: Forming a hypothesis that someone spiked my drink on the weekend.

DAVINA: (TO **SCREWFANG**) Yes. It was me. I just wanted sex. Didn't mean for you to break your toe. Sorry.
(TO **AUDIENCE**) Screwfang had thrown party the previous weekend.

LIGHTS CHANGE TO SUGGEST A PARTY. MUSIC.

SCREWFANG GOES INTO PARTY MODE DRINKING, CHATTING, LAUGHING.

DAVINA: He drank a bit too much and became worried about being too old.

SCREWFANG BEGINS TO DO PUSH UPS ENERGETICALLY.

DAVINA: Then challenged all of the *strapping young* men at the party to push ups competitions, and won, because although they may have been half of his age, they were all the X-Box generation and had atrophied.

SCREWFANG IS ELATED, VICTORIOUS. HE BEGINS TO DO HEADSTANDS.

DAVINA: Then he fell over twice trying to do headstands,

SCREWFANG FALLS FORWARDS, THEN BACKWARDS.

DAVINA: then fell forwards down the outside stairs, then backwards down the inside stairs and then slid down a ladder rung by rung.

SCREWFANG SLIDES DOWN A LADDER – RUNG BY RUNG.

DAVINA: That's when I upgraded him in my head from "Screwfang, the Diabolical" to "Screwfang the Indestructible".

SCREWFANG STAGGERS AROUND, JUST WOKEN UP, HOLDING HIS HEAD.

DAVINA: In the morning he did not know much about all this, so I had the advantage that I knew about his secret torment of having a “thing” about his age, but he didn’t know that I knew.

SCREWFANG PRODUCES A CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG. HE EATS IT.

DAVINA: Then he ate chocolate Easter Eggs for breakfast and decided to go back to bed again. I made a fuss and followed him around.

LIGHTS CHANGE.

DAVINA: (TO **SCREWFANG**) “Wow, I can’t believe you just ate chocolate Easter Eggs for breakfast and then just decided to go back to bed at 11am. That’s so wild! You are so decadent...just like a teenager!!”

I think he looked a bit secretly pleased.

SCREWFANG SMILES SECRETLY AND EXITS. LIGHTS CHANGE.

DAVINA: It was Easter but I decided to have a crack at some new New Year’s Resolutions. I read somewhere that life is supposed to be like a seesaw - possibly a cubicle of a toilet door - so I hope someone is getting the upside for my downside.

But then it was my old New Year’s Resolutions that got me into this mess in the first place.

My resolutions/ recipe for disaster back then were:

- 1 Be more affectionate.
- 2 Try to eat a bit better.
- 3 Get over the coffee thing.

Sounds bulletproof, doesn’t it?

SCREWFANG ENTERS, BUSINESSLIKE – WITH A BRIEFCASE.

DAVINA: OK perhaps my legal advisor was not the best place to start with the affectionate resolution but January was already a whole week in and I was getting concerned