

SERIES ONE

**THE GAMES**

EPISODE

**11**

**A CONFLICT OF  
INTEREST**

**BROADCAST DATE  
26/10/98**



*Friday 8.36 a.m. At the office. Gina's humming to herself while reading the paper and thinking aloud.*

**GINA** What is that song? Oh God, John's not going to like this.

*John walks in on cue.*

**JOHN** John's not going to like what?

**GINA** Good morning.

**JOHN** Good morning. John's not going to like what? Come on, tell me. I take disappointment very well.

**GINA** (Reading the paper) All right. 'The dust has hardly settled on the scandal that toppled Sydney Olympic guru Steven Hitkicker before speculation has turned to the question of who might be his replacement.'

**JOHN** Whom.

**GINA** 'Word reaches this writer that eager for the position and attracting considerable attention is controversial Sydney businessman Joseph Williams.'

**JOHN** Get away. Coffee?

**GINA** Oh please.

**BRYAN** Joseph Williams? Is it true?

**GINA** Manny the Mouse's gossip column.

**BRYAN** It must be true.

*John picks up a small radio.*

**JOHN** Listen to this. Listen to this, here we go. Here he is on the radio. He's in the paper, he's on the radio. Go and flick the telly on, Bryan. See if Joseph Williams is on the telly. Listen to this. Are you listening? Now, I want you to watch something. (He drops the radio in a glass of water) Who wrote that rubbish, Gina?

**GINA** Manny the Mouse.

**JOHN** How did I know you were going to say that?

*John is in his office, on his mobile phone.*

**JOHN** Oh Manny the Mouse. All the news that's fit to flush.

Hello. Manny? John Clarke, how are you? Yes. Yes, it is about Joseph Williams, since you ask, Manny. I enjoyed your column today. Tell me, why have they got a photograph of your infant son at the top of it? It's not? Is it really? I didn't think photography was developed until about the 1860s.

Yes, well Joseph Williams bothers me considerably, Manny. Can I have a talk with you about... yes, Cafe Salmonella. I remember it well, yes. Half an hour, yes, I can probably do that. No, I can do that. Half an hour's fine, Manny. Thanks very much, no, good. I'll see you there. (As he is walking out) I'll be about three hours, Gina. (To receptionist)

If anyone rings I'll be back in about five minutes. Bryan, I'll be about an hour.

If Joseph Williams gets on one more board in this city I think it'll be his eighteenth.

**BRYAN** That's still seventeen boards left that are prepared to live with him.

**JOHN** You make it sound like it's not a problem, Bryan.

**BRYAN** Is it a problem?

- JOHN** Let me outline the problem for you, Bryan. This man invented conflict of interest. He can't be interested in something without immediately recognising the problem he's going to have to deny he's got. But if you want to work for a man like that, Bryan, without knowing whether what you're doing is going to benefit the Olympics or some rort he's got going on the side, then I think the pair of you will probably get on like a bloody house on fire, Bryan.
- BRYAN** The point about this is he is a very well-respected business identity in this country. There was a feature article on him on Saturday in the paper.
- JOHN** Really? In the newspaper that he's on the board of was it, Bryan? Or the one that his construction company spends \$15 million a year advertising in – arguably at a very slight discount. I'll be back in about an hour, Bryan.
- BRYAN** Say hello to Manny for me.
- JOHN** To who?
- BRYAN** Manny.
- JOHN** I didn't mention any Mannys, Bryan. I think you must have misheard me. I said I was going out.
- John is in the cab, talking on his mobile phone.*
- JOHN** Is there a limit to the number of boards a single human being can be on?
- Are they issued by the Franklin Mint as collectibles? All right. I'll ring him now. Bye.  
(Finishes one call and punches the number to another. The phone beeps at him)
- I beg your pardon. What do you mean 'no signal'? No signal. I'm at the centre of the universe. I'm at the epicentre of the known cosmos. No signal.
- TAXI DRIVER** Ninety-seven per cent coverage, those new phones.
- JOHN** Really? The other 3 per cent presumably consists of the central business district and a couple of outlying districts in which human beings live.
- TAXI DRIVER** Give it a shake.
- JOHN** Give it a shake. God, you've read the whole manual, haven't you? What page was that on?  
(Phone beeps into life) Hello. You're a genius. (Into phone) Michael Kroger, please. (To taxi driver) When we get there, can you just pull over on the left and I'll jump out. And can you wait for me?
- TAXI DRIVER** Right, okay.
- JOHN** Thanks. I won't be long. (Into phone) He's in an ABC board meeting? I'll wait.
- John enters café. He is looking for someone.*
- JOHN** Now where is he? There he is. Giddyay.
- Manny notices the documentary crew.*
- MANNY** What's all this? The boy from the west made good?
- JOHN** (To camera operator, waving the camera away) Actually you can perhaps go down the end. I want to have a private conversation with Manny. I mean, no, right down the end. Go to about Albury. Private conversation. Keep going.
- MANNY** Well, you obviously read my column.
- JOHN** I did read your column, Manny. I was very impressed. I take it you'll be entering it for some kind of fiction award, will you? I know you get paid two hundred grand for writing this garbage every year, Manny, but do you actually write it or does SOCOG write it? Why isn't there a photo of SOCOG at the top of your column?

You obviously don't write it. You just give this guy puff, after puff, after puff. I know something about Joseph Williams, Manny. (He gets out some papers) I'll show you something. Those are the boards he is on. That other page are his known share holdings. Known share holdings, Manny. Just put your hand over one eye and see if you can read me the top line.

**MANNY**

What's your point?

**JOHN**

The good news, Manny, is you're not going to need glasses. But I'm afraid the bad news is I think you might be facing the wrong way. I don't know why you keep giving this guy so much puff.

**MANNY**

I print what comes in to me.

**JOHN**

But he gives it to you. I'll tell you what he's doing. He's just going to be networking these Olympics. He'll just be using it for his own benefit on every front and he's using you.

**MANNY**

All right, John. I'll tell you what, you can give me something...

**JOHN**

I haven't got anything that would interest you, Manny.

**MANNY**

Of course you have.

**JOHN**

I haven't. You're in the gutter. My mind is on higher things.

*Back at the office. Gina is scrabbling through her desk drawer for something.*

**BRYAN**

Gina, I don't know what John's worrying about. Nobody reads gossip columns.

**GINA**

Everyone reads them.

**BRYAN**

I don't know anyone who reads them.

**GINA**

You don't know anyone who says they read them. It's the most read section of the newspaper.

**BRYAN**

More than horoscopes?

**GINA**

I don't know. I don't read the horoscopes.

**BRYAN**

You say you don't read horoscopes.

*Gina doesn't look well.*

**GINA**

Bryan, could you get me a drink of water, please?

**BRYAN**

Yes, sure. Are you all right?

*Gina looks frazzled and crawls under the desk for solace. Bryan walks in with a glass of water.*

**BRYAN**

Gina?

**GINA**

I need a holiday. This job's killing me. Somebody offered me a seat on the bus this morning. Look at me.

**BRYAN**

Nobody would mind if you went home a bit early.

**GINA**

It's not the business hours, it's the after hours.

**BRYAN**

What's the problem?

*Gina gets up from under her desk.*

**GINA**

Can you tell me how it has become my job to show every blow-in from overseas the sights of our city? It never bloody stops. I've never known an event so capable of generating VIPs. As far as I can tell, the prerequisite for being a VIP in Olympic circles is that you wear aftershave and have a pulse.

**BRYAN**

What did he want to do?

- GINA** Get drunk, see a strip show; for variation see a strip show, get drunk. A night out with Oasis would be a relief. Oh! (She shudders) Part of last night has just come back to me.
- BRYAN** Which part?
- GINA** The part involving the head of the Albanian Skeet Federation.
- BRYAN** Yes. And...?
- GINA** And the possibility that I may have set fire to his toupee.
- BRYAN** What did you do that for?
- GINA** It was the only way I could think of to get at least one of his hands off me.
- John is still in the car, attempting to have a conversation as his mobile phone cuts in and out.*
- JOHN** Frank. Look, I know we haven't seen eye to eye on everything over the years, but we have to do something about this – keep Williams out of the Olympics.
- There must be a board in Sydney the guy's not on. Frank! Yes, Frank are you there? Yes, there must be a board he's not on, Frank. Frank, hang on I've lost you. Frank!
- Ah, got you back. Frank there must be a board... you know people, get a whole lot of numbers together. You've got to... Frank! Frankie! Frank, where are you?
- (John speaks deliberately to the driver) Okay, my friend will get off at about this point. Thank you. (He winds down the window and hurls the phone out into traffic. He then continues his conversation) Frank! You're just as likely to hear me now. Frank, there must be a board in Sydney that Williams is not on. Ah yes, that's better. I can hear you now.
- Meanwhile, back at the office, Gina is quaffing Berocca.*
- GINA** And every one of the bastards wants to fly business class.
- John happens to walk in at this point.*
- JOHN** Which one of the limitless field of bastards are you referring to there?
- BRYAN** Visiting dignitaries.
- JOHN** Visiting dignitaries. Listen, I've made a decision. We are going to do everything humanly possible to keep Joseph Williams off our board.
- BRYAN** John, don't fight what you can't change.
- JOHN** That's the ANZAC spirit, isn't it Bryan?
- BRYAN** John, I'm just saying it's inevitable.
- JOHN** It's not inevitable. He has a conflict of interest and I don't want to work here under those circumstances.
- BRYAN** Just like your conflict of interest.
- JOHN** I don't have a conflict of interest, Bryan. How do I have one?
- BRYAN** Yes you do, John. If he gets on our board he's going to sack you.
- JOHN** He's not going to sack me.
- BRYAN** He's going to sack you because he hates you.
- JOHN** Oh, don't be silly.
- BRYAN** You hate him and everybody knows you hate him.

**JOHN** Don't be silly, Bryan.

**BRYAN** John, I think the world of you but you've got just as big a conflict of interest as he has.  
*Meantime Gina has crawled under her desk for solace again as the men carry on their discussion outside Gina's office.*

**JOHN** Gina doesn't look well. I don't. Do you know what a conflict of interest is?

**BRYAN** Of course I do.

**JOHN** It's an incapacity to reconcile responsibilities in one area, Bryan, with responsibilities in another. I don't have that and I very strongly object to his.

**BRYAN** Keep digging that hole.

**JOHN** The other thing I object to is I keep seeing him in the media. We've had Manny's puff piece, we'll have a feature thing in a broadsheet, in a minute he'll be on '60 Minutes' and his children will say what a wonderful father he is... I wouldn't mind it if it weren't so bloody obvious.  
*Gina runs past. John is surprised.*

**JOHN** What's wrong with her?

**BRYAN** Big night with the Albanians.

**JOHN** Really? She went out with an Albanian delegation. What does that mean?

**BRYAN** She set fire to one of their wigs.

**JOHN** Really? (To camera operator) Did you hear that? Gina went out last night with some Albanian delegation and set fire to some bloke's wig. She set fire to his wig... are you serious? That's a good effort, isn't it? No wonder she's a bit crook.

**BRYAN** Have you seen the price of casino stock this morning?

**JOHN** No, I haven't. Do you know the time?

**BRYAN** Ten-thirty. Two cents.

**JOHN** Two cents. Good time to buy, Bryan.

**BRYAN** Yes, as long as you don't buy that.

**JOHN** Yes, as long as you're not putting your money into something we spent \$15 million buying at about \$8.60.

**BRYAN** Have we got a meeting with the Americans?

**JOHN** Have you seen my file on Joseph Williams? Yes, the meeting with the Americans is still on.

**BRYAN** Do we have to work out this deal over the facilities?

**JOHN** Didn't you know you and I were going to get lumbered with doing this?

**BRYAN** I just hope we don't have to take responsibility for this.

**JOHN** I agree. It's not our idea, obviously.

**BRYAN** We wouldn't want to be anywhere near this, would we?

**JOHN** No.

**BRYAN** Aren't they just going to sell off all the sporting venues to foreign investors?

**JOHN** Yes, although that's not probably what they're going to call it.

- BRYAN** No, but that's what it is though, isn't it? It's just a big sell off of public property. The dollar is in the dunny. It's going to be a fire sale.
- John finds the file he is looking for.*
- JOHN** There you go... Joseph Williams. It's all there, Bryan. Conflict of interest. Conflict of interest.
- Yes, they're not going to call it a fire sale though, are they? They're going to call it 'Legacies for future generations'. 'Facilities constructed for the Olympics and now available for the edification and enjoyment of generations of kids for hundreds of years to come.'
- BRYAN** What happened in Melbourne? What legacy did they have?
- JOHN** As a result of the Olympics?
- BRYAN** Yes.
- JOHN** Slums, by and large. They built a whole lot of accommodation out at West Heidelberg. It's still there, I think. You still hear it mentioned from time to time.
- 'Police later found the vehicle abandoned at West Heidelberg.' 'Police are anxious to speak to the population of West Heidelberg.'
- BRYAN** Are we going to fight this, John?
- JOHN** This thing this afternoon? You bet we are. Can you get Ian Barrundi to come?
- BRYAN** Ian Barrundi? Yes.
- JOHN** Get him to come.
- BRYAN** We'd need a weight lifter.
- JOHN** Well, we need a recently retired, top flight international athlete.
- BRYAN** Who's as thick as pig shit.
- JOHN** He's very good in a meeting, Bryan. He's excellent in a meeting.
- BRYAN** He knows nothing about corporate law and doesn't know what the Minister's deal is.
- JOHN** The Americans don't know that.
- BRYAN** It'll take me an hour and a half to brief him.
- JOHN** He doesn't need to say anything. Go and ring him. He doesn't need to say anything. I just want him to be there. Tell him to dress for church and be in attendance.
- BRYAN** Did the minister tell you what the deal is?
- JOHN** Well, yes. He told me what he thought the deal is and he told me that he is expecting you and me to proceed the matter. I think he's hoping that we can get it done today.
- BRYAN** Does he realise we've got to keep control of the venues if we're going to get the Games on at all?
- JOHN** I don't think he thinks we're going to lose control of the venues in a properly phased privatisation programme with all the right checks and balances.
- BRYAN** That's serious.
- JOHN** It's very serious, Bryan, and we don't want it traceable back here. We don't want anything to do with it.
- BRYAN** But it is traceable back here.
- JOHN** It is at the moment.
- BRYAN** I mean, have a look. I have budgets, I have spread sheets, the whole thing.

- JOHN** Exactly. That is the difficulty.
- BRYAN** What do you want me to do?
- JOHN** I want you to get Ian to go to the meeting and I want you to come to the meeting and if I ask you anything in the meeting I want you to say 'I think there are some issues there, John'. And if money comes up I'd like you to say that 'we're waiting upon some valuations there, John'. I'll try to do the rest of it on a wing and a prayer. I just don't want us to get stuck with them.
- BRYAN** Neither do I.
- Friday 2.07 p.m. John and Bryan are at the meeting with William T. Eyck, MBA, an international venue broker. The meeting has been going for some time. Coats are off. Ties are loosened.*
- WILLIAM** Okay, so we commit \$15.8 million to a joint marketing venture with the Sydney Olympic Games.
- JOHN** Yes, that's the proposal.
- WILLIAM** And then we would co-own – with the Sydney Olympic Games – the cycling Velodrome, naming rights to the two Olympic cycling venues, the Velodrome and the Time Trial track.
- JOHN** That's right, and then we would lease both those venues back from you.
- WILLIAM** We would have to be party to any plan to alter or vary that facility or any other cycling facility of that sort in the area.
- JOHN** Any other cycling facility. What about a road?
- WILLIAM** Well, any other cycling facility specifically used as a cycling facility.
- JOHN** You just want to make sure that you're going to get a return here.
- WILLIAM** That's right.
- JOHN** You've got a lot of money tied up here and you want to make sure you're going to do all right out of it.
- WILLIAM** Yes, we would have to have a secure income position, yes.
- JOHN** But if we saw someone somewhere else in Sydney riding a bike we wouldn't be obliged to put them in the back of a van and take them down to your facility and force them to pay to get in?
- WILLIAM** No.
- JOHN** No, that would be a bit much.
- WILLIAM** (Realises that John is having him on) Well, that'd be ridiculous.
- JOHN** That'd be ridiculous but you see my point, don't you? We don't want there to be any possibility whatever that you're not going to make a lot of money out of it.
- WILLIAM** We have a lot of capital tied up in it, yes.
- JOHN** That's exactly right, yes. I remember thinking exactly the same thing when the government was paying for it. Have you got the all-up costs there, Bryan? What did it end up costing?
- BRYAN** We're still waiting for some valuations.
- WILLIAM** Now, we need valuations of the facilities for depreciation purposes.
- JOHN** Yes, we can do that.
- BRYAN** I think there are some issues here, John.
- JOHN** I think we could probably do that. (To William) Have you got a valuation you'd like?
- WILLIAM** Oh no. We need a valuation from somebody who had the authority to make property valuations.

**JOHN** Yes. Independent. Qualified. Yes. I'll speak to me brother-in-law.

**WILLIAM** Cost to be borne by you.

**JOHN** Bryan?

**BRYAN** Yes, well, I think there are some issues there too.

**JOHN** I don't think that'll be a problem. I'm sure we can do that.

**WILLIAM** So I would come to you? Is that the way it would work?

**JOHN** Well...

**WILLIAM** No, it is you, isn't it?

**JOHN** Well...

**WILLIAM** See, you wouldn't actually be doing this, would you?

**JOHN** See, not me personally, no, sadly. The arrangement will be between your company and our parent organisation.

**WILLIAM** Who runs the organisation?

**JOHN** Well, ultimately the Minister.

**WILLIAM** There wouldn't be a change of Minister if there was a change of government?

**JOHN** No, you'd still be dealing with the Minister.

**WILLIAM** Yes, but it'd be a different Minister.

**JOHN** No. It would be the Olympics Minister.

**WILLIAM** It would be a different person.

**JOHN** Who would be a different person?

**WILLIAM** If there was a change of government, who would be running things?

**JOHN** The Minister would be running things... that's his job. He runs... He's the Minister for the Olympics.

**WILLIAM** So it wouldn't matter who the Minister was?

**JOHN** It never has so far, no.

**WILLIAM** So who is the Chief Executive?

**JOHN** At the moment?

**WILLIAM** What do you mean at the moment? How many have you had?

**JOHN** I'm speaking from memory... about four, so far.

**WILLIAM** What happened to the other ones?

**JOHN** Some of them are spending a little bit more time with their families.

**WILLIAM** Were they not well qualified?

**JOHN** Very well qualified indeed, yes.

**WILLIAM** Were they not doing a good job?

**JOHN** Doing an excellent job. They wouldn't have been in that position had they not been doing a very good job indeed.

**WILLIAM** So why aren't they there now?

**JOHN** No idea.

**WILLIAM** See, I don't understand how anybody would want to stay.

**JOHN** Well, nobody has. That's the point I'm outlining for you.

**WILLIAM** So does your board have a Chair?

**JOHN** Yes, we have a Chairman. Actually the Chairman hasn't attended the last couple of board meetings. It's fair to say that the board is in a touch of strife just at the moment.

**WILLIAM** What kind of strife?

**JOHN** They've invested rather a lot of money in the Tamagotchi Company in Burma.

**WILLIAM** Why did they do that?

**JOHN** To raise more money for the Games.

**WILLIAM** What was the problem?

**JOHN** There's a bit of a problem with the Tamagotchi Company in Burma.

**WILLIAM** How much did they lose?

**JOHN** The Chairman would have a record of all that. Unfortunately he is currently away.

**WILLIAM** Where is he?

**JOHN** He's in Burma.

**WILLIAM** Why?

**JOHN** He's on the board of the Tamagotchi Company up there.

**WILLIAM** (Laughing) How am I going to explain this to my board?

**JOHN** Your board is aware that you are dealing with Australians on this one?

**WILLIAM** How soon do we have to, you know, make this thing happen?

**JOHN** Oh, as soon as possible. 'Get this thing done as soon as possible'. Those were certainly my instructions.

**WILLIAM** I think I should consult with my people. Maybe we could meet again some time next week?

**JOHN** I was rather hoping that we could proceed pretty quickly with this. We've come here prepared to do this deal today. We've got the corporate legal adviser, we've got the deal memo, you've got the money. Let's boogie.

**WILLIAM** You see, I think there are some issues with the structure of the deal.

**JOHN** Bryan?

**BRYAN** I agree.

**JOHN** Ian?

**BRYAN** He agrees.

**WILLIAM** I think we need some more time.

**JOHN** I think if you feel that, perhaps what you ought to do is you write a letter to the Minister explaining that we've had these negotiations in the spirit of friendly goodwill and from your point of view, there are certain aspects of the structure of the proposed arrangement that concern you. You'd like to go and see the Minister with your people and can he get back to you about arranging that meeting?

- WILLIAM** That's sounds fine. We'll do that.
- JOHN** Let's do that. That's a good idea. Now, Darling Harbour. Are you familiar with Darling Harbour?
- WILLIAM** Yes.
- JOHN** Yes. Because we could put a bike track in there. That's got beautiful views. It's a lot more central.
- BRYAN** I think there are some issues there.
- IAN** So do I.
- Sunday 9.16 a.m. Camera crew arrives at John's front door. He is asleep.*
- JOHN** It's Sunday, what the hell is... Oh! This is the weekend we're doing the 'what we're like at home' thing. I thought that was the 22nd. Well, hang on a minute. I'll just open the door again. (Shuts door) Are you going to knock? Can you knock?
- Do it again. You knock.
- (There is a knock on the door) Who is it?*
- (John opens the door again. This time he is very perky indeed) Hi there! How are you? Come in. Where have you been? I've been up since about five. Come in. (He turns and we follow him, observing his patriotic sleepwear, which features the very attractive green and gold colours and has the name of the country, STRAYA, emblazoned across the back) Have some coffee or something. Round here to your right. I was just having a bit of sort of old, relatively unreconstructed breakfast. It's a bit pre-war; the bacon, the eggs, the toast, the tomatoes. Probably the National Heart Foundation's sponsorship's up in smoke but there you go. Man can't really live at this speed, can he? (He notices a number of Guinness cans lying about) The Guinness was probably left there by the Meals on Wheels people, I think.
- I'm actually through here (Leads the crew into another room) reading the paper so come in here. I mean, you won't be able to use any of that anyway. Just give us a minute and... do I look all right? Start the camera in five... you'll put music over this won't you?... four, three, two, one.
- (He narrates his own documentary) Sunday morning finds Clarke sitting on freckle reading paper as he does every week, scampering through the news, such is his dedication. Here we go... Soapie Star Fights Bulimia... smart money is probably on bulimia there. Here's the main thing though – front-page story. Joseph Williams – you can back him in can't you? 'Businessman's secret charitable donations. Joseph Williams tells of his little known secret million-dollar deal to benefit philanthropic causes.' 'Secret'... 'tells of' 'secret'... 'tells of' 'secret'... 'tells of' 'secret'... 'tells' 'secret'. I give up – spot the deliberate mistake. Does the man think we're absolute idiots?
- CAMERA OPERATOR** What are you going to do about it?
- JOHN** Oh what can you do about it? It's his standard method. He seems to be able to get pretty well anything in the pap... (Phone rings) Just excuse me, there's a phone ringing somewhere. There it is. Excuse me.
- (He continues to provide his own voice-over) Grabs phone. Sticks same up to ear.
- Speaks into same. Hello. Absolutely. Did you see that? Does he think we're insane? (Knock on door) There's a film crew here, now there's someone knocking at the door. Hang on. (To camera) Bruce, can you get that? Hang on, there's someone coming. Does the man think we're absolutely stupid? I'd better go actually. There's someone at the door. I'll ring you later.
- Bruce opens the door to find Gina holding the same paper. She is not pleased in any way.
- GINA** What are you doing here?
- CAMERA OPERATOR** Just doing the background footage.

**GINA** Is John here?

**JOHN** Who is it?

**GINA** It's me.

**JOHN** Oh yes. It's the 'what we do in the weekends' thing.

**GINA** I thought that was on the 22nd.

**JOHN** So did I. They're actually going to your place next. You'd better go home or you won't be there when they arrive.

**GINA** Have you seen the paper?

**JOHN** Yes. Does Joseph Williams think we are complete idiots?

**GINA** Not that crap on the front. (She reads from another section) Listen to this, it says here that I set fire to an Olympic VIP's wig. Bryan was the only person I told about that. I'm going to bloody kill him.

**JOHN** Yes, I reckon that's a bit rugged. I reckon telling Bryan something in confidence and then finding it in Manny's column – that's a bit rich.

**GINA** I didn't say it was in Manny's column.

**JOHN** Is it... is it in Manny's column?

**GINA** How did you know it was in Manny's column, John?

**JOHN** Is it in Manny's column? I haven't...

**GINA** How did you know it was in Manny's column?

**JOHN** I haven't even got to Manny's column. What page is Manny's column? It's in Manny's column, is it? (He finds it. By now Gina looks very uncharitable) So it is.

*Gina stomps off.*

**JOHN** (To camera) Might be better if you duck around to Bryan's first.

*Monday 8.21 a.m. At the office.*

**BRYAN** Morning. (To camera) Did you film at John's place on the weekend?

**CAMERA OPERATOR** Yes.

**BRYAN** Nice house, John's. Yes. Early Tornado. What did he do then?

**CAMERA OPERATOR** Then he went to church.

**BRYAN** Church? What, him? John Clarke. Our John Clarke? You've got to be kidding. He hasn't been to church in his life. I don't think he's even driven past a church. Couldn't have. (To John) Good morning.

**JOHN** Good morning.

**BRYAN** Surprise. (Bryan indicates the crew)

**JOHN** Good morning. Oh my God, they're always here, aren't they? I mean, how would you be if everywhere you went, there I was, all ready with a camera pointed straight up your eyeball? Bryan?

**BRYAN** Yes.

**JOHN** How many bloody episodes of this series have we done? About ten or something. You'd think the novelty would wear off, wouldn't you, but oh no.

**BRYAN** Gina wasn't all that impressed with the gossip item.

**JOHN** Yes, she intimated that to me in broad terms, Bryan. I don't think anyone will read those things anyway. No one reads Manny's column.

**BRYAN** Are you serious? I've had 27 messages on my answering service including one from the National Wig Company...

**JOHN** I'd ring them back.

**BRYAN** ...re potential Olympic sponsorship. People read it. I read it.

**JOHN** No, no one reads it.

**BRYAN** It's true. By the way, church on Sunday, John?

**JOHN** To some extent, Bryan, yes.

**BRYAN** Anything on your mind?

**JOHN** Oh you know, just Joseph Williams. I'm just going to read about him, no doubt.  
(He begins to open the paper)

**BRYAN** He's in there.

**JOHN** Of course he's in here, Bryan. It's illegal to produce a newspaper in this state if you don't have Joseph Williams in it somewhere.

**BRYAN** He's on the front page.

**JOHN** Front page. I won't even read it. That is it. I give up. That is it. 8.23 Monday morning: John officially gave up. Retired to pavilion looking tense but dignified. What's he done now, Bryan? Has he got a papal knighthood? Is he hosting the 'Midday Show'? No, he's won the Nobel Prize for Physics, has he?

**BRYAN** No.

**JOHN** Got runner-up in the Miss NSW contest?

**BRYAN** Shot by girlfriend's husband.

**JOHN** I beg your pardon?

**BRYAN** Shot by girlfriend's husband.

**JOHN** Shot?

**BRYAN** Dead.

**JOHN** Shot by girlfriend's husband. Girlfriend's...

**BRYAN** ...husband.

**JOHN** Girlfriend's husband. Conflict of interest, Bryan.

**BRYAN** Conflict of interest, John.

**JOHN** (To camera) What did I tell you?