

HERE LEGENDS LIE

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CHARACTERS:

Captain William Jackson Barry - *hunter, sailor, whaler, fisherman, drover, farmer, horse trainer, butcher, gold digger, mayor*

Group One:

Coral - *female*
Crystal - *male or female*
Amethyst - *male or female*
Ruby - *female*
Sapphire - *male or female*

Group Two:

Aquamarine - *male or female*
Emerald - *male or female*
Jade - *male*
Opal - *male or female*

SETTING:

There are eight "car cases" (called Stages) at different levels, numbered left to right (facing the stage) one to five at the back, with 6 lower and in front of 1, and 7 lower and in front of 5. At the back of Stage 2, and taking up only a portion of it, is Stage 8. Behind Stages 3 and 4 are steps leading to backstage. At the back is a cyclorama. The Stages should be fairly rough.

On Stage 6 is a bar table with bar stools and a couple of beer jugs and glasses. On Stage 5 is an old lounge chair sitting next to an old-fashioned street lamp. On Stage 8 is a writing desk and chair, and a huge opened book.

NOTE ON THE PLAY

This play deals with the "life" of Captain William Jackson Barry (1819-1907) - some times called New Zealand's Greatest Liar. Perhaps he's the prototype of the very stuff of which Kiwi jokers are made. The main source is "Past and Present and Men of the Times" by Captain W. Jackson Barry.

I wanted to write a play that was a bit like the serial music of Webern or Berg - in which tunes and fragments are heard forwards, backwards, upside down and backwards-upside down. Webern's musical pieces are like diamonds - perfectly symmetrical with mirror images - reflecting many aspects of the same thing as the diamond turns.

The play was originally titled "Broken Diamond". I think it will be easier for the audience to know from the start that the structure of this play is fragmented - that the form in fact is Broken Diamond. There is not a traditional plot for the audience to follow - but they must enjoy gathering the broken pieces, and at the end the fragments will fit together to make something beautiful.

ACT ONE

Prologue

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Fragment One:</i> | <i>The Great Aborigine Hunt</i> |
| <i>Fragment Two:</i> | <i>Captain George Hempleman</i> |
| <i>Fragment Three:</i> | <i>Moehanga Visits London</i> |

Part One

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Fragment Four:</i> | <i>A Virago's Scissors</i> |
| <i>Fragment Five:</i> | <i>Whale Tale</i> |
| <i>Fragment Six:</i> | <i>In Search of Honey</i> |

Part Two

ACT TWO

Prologue

Part Three

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Fragment Seven:</i> | <i>Considerable Bull</i> |
| <i>Fragment Eight:</i> | <i>Moehanga's Nails</i> |
| <i>Fragment Nine:</i> | <i>A Day at the Races</i> |

Part Four

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| <i>Fragment Ten:</i> | <i>Champion Spinner of Yarns</i> |
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Part Five

HERE LEGENDS LIE *was first performed under the title of BROKEN DIAMOND by Riccarton Players at the Mill Theatre, Christchurch, from 16 February to 24 February 1994. It was directed by Bruce Goodman.*

The cast were as follows:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Jackson Barry | - Ged Kennedy |
| Coral | - Bridget Lange |
| Aquamarine | - David Johnstone |
| Opal | - Maree Shefford |
| Emerald | - Ian Walters |
| Jade | - Geoffrey Timblich |
| Crystal | - Catherine Bartram |
| Amethyst | - Kris Vavasour |
| Ruby | - Pearl Carpenter |
| Sapphire | - Joel Reilly |

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE

The sound of the sea. Light in street lamp rises on Stage 5. Moonlight rises on Stage 5 to Coral sitting in an old armchair musing.

Coral: The moon. The moon is... The moon deludes. It makes things seem more beautiful than they are. *(Looking up to street lamp)* The little insects fly to the light around... I wonder why moths don't try to fly to the moon. I wonder why space is not littered with dead bodies of aspiring moths. Do they know something? I wonder why... *(She stops and cups her hands as if a moth has been caught)* I caught a moth! A moth! And with one crush, a million generations passed, a million generations into the progenerating future, will be... well... *(nonchalantly)* crushed. *(She crushes the moth in her hands)* Changed evolutionary history. *(She wipes her hands on her dress)* Just like that. With one crush of the hand I crushed a thousand possibilities. That moth could have become the great, great, trillion-million times great grandmother of the first intelligent moth. Or simply a new species. It's no longer possible. And I put an end to it. For better, or not, the seeming insignificant may not be so unimportant after all.

The lights fade to darkness as the sea sound rises.

Coral: *(from the dark, over the sea sound)* We came from the sea, they say. We might go back. *(Fading, as a quiet after thought)* When Cromwell's drowned. When Cromwell's drowned.

The sea sound climaxes and fades.

The light rises on writing desk on Stage 8. Captain William Jackson Barry enters. Through posture, costume and lighting he is old and part senile. He sits and writes with his back to the audience. A dull light rises on Stages 1, 3, 4 and 7. Aquamarine is on Stage 1, Emerald on Stage 3, Jade on Stage 4, and Opal on Stage 7.

Aquamarine: April twenty-three, nineteen-o-seven.

Opal: New Zealand, Christchurch.

Emerald: Mental Asylum, Sunnyside.

Jackson: *(turning towards audience)* I have fallen in with one of my periodical streaks of ill-luck, and further disaster awaits me.

- Jade:** And now I am sitting sad and lonely,
While the twilight shadows deepen,
And the soft notes of the night-bird
Sweetly fall upon my ear.
- Aquamarine:** The night breeze, gently sighing,
As a requiem for the dying,
Seems to call back days forgotten,
And for memory sheds a tear.
- Jackson:** I have never waited for something to turn up, but have gone on
turning up something.
- Emerald:** Oh, those "days of yore!" forgotten,
Gone on the wings of flying Time,
Now come stealing round me, near me,
Like a sad, despondent rhyme.
- Jackson:** I will not apologise for my work.
- Opal:** 'Tis the dream of days departed
- Jackson:** I leave it to you for judgment.
- Opal:** Full of love and tuneful lays,
Full of peace and kind devotions,
That brings to me those by-gone days.
- Jackson:** It is a true record of a life spent "roughing it".
- Jade:** Up from the Past, comes a pleasant dream
- Jackson:** Everyone has a story of their own.
- Jade:** The grand old forest and shady dell,
And faces dear...
- Jackson:** Something always happens that never happens to someone else.
- Opal:** ...that now still seem
To fondly lighten, and soon dispel
The grief of parting.
- Jackson:** It may be interesting to people one hundred years hence to see
what sort of folks we were at this date...
- Aquamarine:** ...Ah! memory dear,
Be kind to me..

- Jackson:** How we lived...
- Jade:** ...and not foretell
Again such sad and tearful separation;...
- Jackson:** How we employed ourselves...
- Emerald:** But let me hear again, "I wish you well."
- Jackson:** Micawber and I, by different routes, arrived at the same goal,
poverty.
- Opal:** Years shall pass...
- Jade:** ...our heads grow hoary,
- Jackson:** You may compare me to Charles Dickens' Micawber.
- Emerald:** Some shall reach the other shore;
- Aquamarine:** Some, with faltering tread, but trusting,
On to reach those gone before.
- Jackson:** I remain,
- Jade:** But the memory of that parting,
Years of strife could not dispel,
- Jackson:** Yours faithfully,
- Opal:** They shall live in sweet remembrance,
To the gates of Heaven - "I wish you well."
- Jackson:** *(turning back to desk)* Captain William Jackson Barry. *(He closes the book).*
- Emerald:** I wish you well.

The following builds up in volume, as funeral music begins. Group Two approaches Stage 8 as Jackson dies undramatically. They place him in a wheel barrow and wheel him out to the slow funeral march, chanting as they go. Group One enters to Stage 6 - looking on as if spectators at a funeral. Their chant acts as a counterpoint to the chant of Group 2. Coral remains on Stage 5 as light rises there. The music gradually takes over, as the lights slowly fade. Ruby places flowers in the barrow as it passes her.

- Jade:** I wish you well.

Aquamarine: I wish you well.

Opal: I wish you well.

Emerald: I wish you well.

Jade: I wish you well.

Aquamarine: I wish you well.

Opal: I wish you well.

Emerald: I wish you well.

Coral: Born 1819.

Jade: I wish you well.

Crystal: Maybe.

Aquamarine: I wish you well.

Opal: I wish you well.

Emerald: I wish you well.

Amethyst: In Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, England.

Jade: I wish you well.

Ruby: Maybe.

Aquamarine: I wish you well.

Opal: I wish you well.

Sapphire: Arrived Sydney, Australia, 1828.

Emerald: I wish you well.

Jade: I wish you well.

Coral: Maybe.

Aquamarine: I wish you well.

Opal: I wish you well.

Crystal: A juvenile convict.

Emerald: I wish you well.

Jackson sits up. The recorded funeral music scratches to a halt. The funeral barrow procession stops on Stage 3. They put the barrow down.

Jackson: (*garrulous*) I stole a pie. One simple, bloody, silly little pie. Eighty years ago. God!

He dies again.

Emerald: These now are the fragments of his life; the broken pieces, the charms - like a mirror smashed into a thousand fragments. Each broken piece of mirror at first reflects the same image, the same piece of face. Until, once again, when all pieces of the mirror are in place, we see the full picture, the life of Captain William Jackson Barry. So bear with us...

The music continues.

Aquamarine: When the place where these events took place is under Dunstan Lake

Ruby: When Cromwell's drowned

Opal: Then the tale of Cromwell's Mayor is hard to find;

Sapphire: For our gaze is submarine

Emerald: In shattered light

Coral: And the truth is hard to find -

Jade: And the man -

Group Two take up the body and the barrow procession continues.

Crystal: I wish you well.

Aquamarine: I wish you well.

Ruby: Broken mirror.

Opal: Diamond.

Sapphire: I wish you well.

Emerald: Here legends lie.

Coral: A thousand fragments.

Jade: I wish you well.

Crystal: Here legends lie.

Aquamarine: I wish you well.

Amethyst: Diamond.

Coral: Broken diamond.

Group Two exits with Jackson Barry in barrow. The music fades. The street lamp on Stage 5 fades. Lights rise on Stage 6. Group One (including Coral) go to the bar table on Stage 6.

Sapphire: So the old bugger's dead.

Amethyst: Yep. The end of Captain Jackson Barry.

Crystal: What? The first Mayor of Cromwell?

Amethyst: Yep.

Crystal: He was a liar.

Sapphire: I dunno.

- Amethyst:** I dunno either. Was it true?
- Crystal:** Course it wasn't.
- Amethyst:** What?
- Crystal:** True.
- Sapphire:** Well, they were good yarns.
- Crystal:** Good yarns Swanny? They were bloody lies.
- Amethyst:** Nah! I think they were yarns.
- Crystal:** You believed him?
- Amethyst:** They were yarns.
- Sapphire:** Yeah, yarns.
- Crystal:** Well it's hard to know if they were true or not.
- Amethyst:** (*earnestly*) You don't have to know if they were true or not. They were bloody yarns, and a bloody yarn is a bloody yarn. No one's asking you to believe them. Just enjoy them.
- Crystal:** I still think they were lies.
- Sapphire:** Believe what you like.

Lights begin to fade. A light comes up on the huge book on the writing desk on Stage 8.

Ruby: (*as if she had forgotten*) Oh!

She gets up and goes to Stage 8, as the rest of Group One exits - except for Coral who remains drinking at the bar. Ruby turns the pages of the huge book to the beginning. She makes her way to Stage 5 and stands under the lamp, the light of which rises. She puts on a hat with fruit on it.

FRAGMENT ONE: THE GREAT ABORIGINE HUNT

Light fades on the huge book on Stage 8. Didgeridoo music. The lighting is hot and oppressive. Voices are heard off stage.

Aquamarine: Come on!
Jackson: No.
Emerald: There's nothing wrong with it.
Jackson: I don't want to!
Jade: Come on!
Opal: Don't be stupid.

A younger Jackson Barry appears on Stage 4 with Crystal, Amethyst and Sapphire. They have guns - Jackson does not.

Jackson: I don't want to!
Amethyst: *(Amethyst hands Jackson a gun who takes it reluctantly)* Good.
Crystal: You'll fit in.
Sapphire: You'll fit in soon.

Group Two enters. They sit on Stage 2 as if at a concert. Jackson begins addressing them. Crystal, Amethyst and Sapphire take hobby horses and begin miming Jackson's narrative.

Jackson: You see, ladies and gentlemen, I didn't want to go on the hunt at first, but, you know, I didn't want to get left out, and the blacks had speared two of the shepherds one night while we were there. So the rest of the men on the station took their arms and went after the natives. They were away all that day, and shot several of the blackskins. But while they were away from the station about fifty natives reappeared and killed the two wounded men in the hut.

Aquamarine: The bastards.

Jackson: I didn't think so. But Mr Smith took me and we took off and found the men on the hunt. We found that three of the party who had gone after the blacks had been killed, making with the two poor wounded fellows, five dead in all. We buried them, and mustered all hands.

Didgeridoo music fades. Group Two take guns and hobby horses and go to various Stages. They ride their horses around the Stages - as if mustering. Jackson continues to speak to the audience that is not longer physically there.

Jackson: We had twenty-six men on horse back, with only fourteen double-barrelled shotguns. These were all the firearms available on the station. We left eight men behind and started. We had only ridden six miles when we came across seventy black men, women and children camped by the side of a creek called Wilson's Creek, who were busily engaged in cooking part of a horse. This tribe of natives were very numerous and vicious, and a source of great trouble and annoyance to the settlers. We made a rush, firing in upon the natives, Mr Smith himself leading.

Crystal, Amethyst, Sapphire and Group Two all on Stages 3 and 4 to form a noisy and ebullient hunting party. They lie down on the back steps as if it were an earth mound, firing their guns off stage. There is much yahooing and firing of guns on the stages, with appropriate background noise. Ruby on Stage 5 begins singing "Advance Australia Fair" at the top of her voice. Jackson leaves his speaking platform and roams the Stages, frantic and trapped by the whole affair. The scene takes on an absurd quality.

Aquamarine: There's one!
Emerald: Did you get it?
Jade: Got the baby!
Opal: Get the mother!
Sapphire: There's one running!
Amethyst: Fire!
Crystal: Missed!
Sapphire: Missed the bugger!

Aquamarine: Shoot again!
Emerald: Again!
Jade: Got him!
Opal: That old man!
Sapphire: Get that old man!
Amethyst: Fire!
Crystal: Another!
Sapphire: And another!

Group Two leaves the stage as if on a hunt. Jackson, Sapphire, Amethyst and Crystal sit at the bar table and stools on Stage 6, drinking, as "Advance Australia Fair" reaches its climatic conclusion. Ruby exits.

Jackson: How many?
Sapphire: About forty I reckon.
Crystal: Good work.
Jackson: Smith was speared in the leg.

- Amethyst:** And two men bruised with boomerangs.
- Sapphire:** And one horse killed.
- Amethyst:** Lost a horse?
- Crystal:** *(calling off stage)* Maggie! Another drink! *(Glaring at Jackson)*
You did nothing.
- Jackson:** Remember when the blacks surprised and murdered two white women on the station. We went in search of the offenders and drove them into a stockyard, where we slaughtered fifty of them and burnt the bodies.
- Amethyst:** Yep! You don't murder women.
- Sapphire:** *(regarding Crystal)* Take no notice of him. You're one of us now. You're one of us mate.

Jackson leaves the Group and wanders the Stages. Lights fade. Light rises on the huge book. Coral goes to Stage 8 and turns a page of the book. She goes to Stage 3.

FRAGMENT TWO: CAPTAIN GEORGE HEMPLEMAN

Lights rise to a bright, breezy summer's day. Jackson speaks briefly before exiting.

Jackson: I'll tell you another story - this time in New Zealand.

Ruby is standing on Stage 3 in front of the steps where a plaque is covered with a cloth. She is surrounded by Crystal, Amethyst, Sapphire and Coral sitting on picnic stools.

Ruby: And so today I take you back in time from 1939, here on Bank's Peninsula, New Zealand. Imagine if you would, near this very spot, Captain George Hempleman to be the first European to establish a whaling station in the South Island - then called Middle Island. Here now, in the presence of members of early Peninsula families, and in the company of so many descendants of early Canterbury settlers, we make a substantial, if not in fact rather belated recognition, of the great pioneer work carried out by Captain Hempleman - although he was German and came not on the first four ships - from 1835 onwards.

The Party applaud heartily. The actors on Stage 3 turn to Stage 7 and freeze. The lights rise on Stage 7, where Aquamarine and Emerald have entered.

Aquamarine: *(gesturing to imaginary casks)* What've ya got in these casks Captain Hempleman?

Emerald: *(heavy German accent)* These casks here? Maoris, man, Maoris. I got natives in the casks. I feed them through the bung-hole till they learn.

Aquamarine: Learn what, Captain?

Lights fade on Stage 7. Action returns to Stage 3.

Ruby: And so it is my privilege... *(She draws back the curtain over the monument)* Erected to commemorate the centenary of the first white settler in Canterbury, New Zealand, Captain George Hempleman, who established a whaling station at Peraki in 1835.

The Party applaud heartily.

Party: Bravo! Bravo! Splendid! Splendid!

Ruby, still wearing the hat with fruit on, stands and devoutly (nay, passionately) sings the first verse of the New Zealand National Anthem. The others join in to provide an appalling rendition. Group Two come from Stage 6, and lying back to audience on the steps, continue to fire their guns backstage. Jackson enters, wanders across the

Stages, and exits. The singers applaud when the song is finished as the lights fade. All exit, except for Jade and Opal who go to Stage 8 and turn a page.

FRAGMENT THREE: MOEHANGA VISITS LONDON

Lights come upon Stage 8.

Jade: When the whaling ship, Ferret, sailed from the Bay of Islands in 1806, she had on board a young Whangarei warrior, Moehanga, who was to be the first Maori to visit England.

Opal: He was a healthy, stout young man. Most intelligent, and very fine in bearing. Handsome, friendly. Loved new things. He was most... inquisitive, most impressive.

Jade: AND he was received by King George III.

Opal: And Queen Charlotte.

Lights come up on Stage 1, where Aquamarine and Emerald are enthroned as King George and Queen Charlotte. Crystal appears as Moehanga, dressed to the nines, but in a mask. He kneels.

Aquamarine: *(as King)* Do a native war dance?

Crystal goes into the usual haka position and begins to stamp and slap thighs. Charlotte shrieks with feigned fear, cowering behind George. George laughs uproariously. Crystal stops, confused.

Aquamarine: *(as King, still laughing)* I must teach it to a regiment or two.

Moehanga is still confused.

Aquamarine: Go. Go now.

Crystal (as Moehanga) crosses to Stage 4, where Amethyst and Sapphire enter. Lights fade on Stage 1 as they rise on Stage 4. They wander from stage to stage, with the lighting following.

Crystal: Very good country this. Plenty of iron.

Amethyst: *(giving him a hammer)* This is a hammer.

Crystal: Very good country this. Plenty of iron.

Sapphire: *(giving him a chisel)* This is a chisel.

Crystal: Very good country this. Plenty of iron.

- Amethyst:** (*giving him a saw*) This is a saw.
- Crystal:** Very good country this. Plenty of iron.
- Sapphire:** (*giving him a wrench*) This is a wrench.
- Crystal:** Very good country this. Plenty of iron.

*When laser lighting becomes commonplace, the scenery should be done realistically!
Big Ben sounds.*

- Sapphire:** And here we have Big Ben.
- Amethyst:** And Westminster Abbey.
- Crystal:** Very good country.
- Sapphire:** And here the church where Chaucer worshipped once.
- Amethyst:** And here the Tower of London...
- Sapphire:** Where slept the two young princes.
- Amethyst:** Before crooked King Richard...
- Sapphire:** Had them smothered in a pillow.
- Crystal:** Very good country this. Very good.
- Amethyst:** (*expansively*) And here...
- Sapphire:** Westminster Bridge!
- Amethyst:** Earth has not anything to show more fair:
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty:
This City now doth, like a garment wear
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.
Never did sun more beautifully steep
In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will:
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
And all that mighty heart is lying still!
- Crystal:** Very good country this. Plenty of iron.

Sapphire: And she may still exist, in undiminished vigour, when some traveller from New Zealand, shall, in the midst of a vast solitude, take his stand on a broken arch of London Bridge, to sketch the ruins of St Paul's.

The lights fade as the actors exit. Light rises on the huge book on Stage 8. Jackson enters, sits at the desk with head on the book and weeps. Street lamp and moonlight rises on Stage 5 to Coral sitting in the old armchair.

Coral: With one crush of the hand I crushed a thousand possibilities. That moth could have become the great, great, trillion-million times great grandmother of the first intelligent moth. Or simply a new species. It's no longer possible. And I put an end to it. For better, or not, the seeming insignificant may not be so unimportant after all. (*Thinking*) Except. Except in the telling of it maybe. In the telling of it, the light changes - as if passing through Dunstan water. It bends. The story is broken. We make something new. Broken diamond is... broken diamond. Maybe.

PART ONE

Didgeridoo music. Crystal, Amethyst, Sapphire and Aquamarine enter Stage 6. Jackson enters Stage 7.

Coral: *(from chair)* He's a dag. I tell you he's a dag.

Amethyst: He's a bloody dag.

Jackson: *(to audience)* We reached Emu Station, 130 miles from Sydney, without any serious mishap.

Sapphire: Who?

Coral: Jackson. He's full of yarns. He's a dag.

Amethyst: He's a bloody dag.

Didgeridoo music fades during the next speech. Coral exits. Light fades on Stage 8.

Jackson: This property belonged to Smith and Sam Terry, and was worked entirely by assigned convict servants and ticket-of-leave men. It carried 140,000 sheep, 400 horses, and 300 head of cattle. This was in 1833. They were sitting in the wattle and daub hut after mustering when I arrived with Smith.

Crystal, Amethyst, Sapphire and Aquamarine move to Stage 3. They sit on the steps on Stage 3. Emerald appears on Stage 1 and approaches Stage 3 with Jackson approaching Stage 3 from Stage 7.

Jackson: *(calling out as they approach)* What guns are on this station?

Crystal: Why?

Jackson: To go after the guys who stole our horses.

Amethyst: What guys?

Jackson: *(ruffled)* Bushrangers. The ones who stole our horses.

Emerald: Leave them alone. It's just a horse or two.

Jackson: You're scared. They took ten pounds off me.

Emerald: They got my watch. So what? Leave them.

Jackson: I always thought you were a coward, Smith. I wish I'd fired at them.

Emerald: I'd rather be alive without my watch, than dead with it.

Jackson: You were gutless.

Suddenly, Jade and Opal break in with guns.

Jade: Bail up!

Opal: Get in one corner!

Jade: Move!

The victims move to one corner of Stage 3.

Opal: Is everyone on the station here?

Silence.

Jade: He said is everyone here.

Jackson: They're all here. They're all here.

Jade takes out a watch and looks at it.

Jade: *(to Emerald)* This watch of yours, Mr Smith, doesn't keep good time.

He throws the watch away.

Opal: Where's the gun powder?

Silence.

Opal: *(louder)* The gun powder?

Jackson: In the shed.

Opal: Where?

Jackson: Outside.

Jade: If any one moves within two hours, they'll get their head blown off.

Jade and Opal depart backwards.

Jade: Understand?

The victims in the corner of Stage 3 remain motionless.

Emerald: Well, Jackson Barry. Why didn't you ask for your ten pounds back? Eh? Eh?

Jackson: Shut up.

Emerald: Eh? Eh?

Jackson: Shut up.

Emerald: Me? Gutless eh?

Jackson: Shut up.

Emerald: Eh? Eh? You're all mouth.

Jackson: I'm not.

Emerald: You're all mouth.

Jackson: *(to audience)* And so I left for sea.

Lights fade. There is a clap of thunder. The actors move around as if in a great storm. Lights rise on Stage 7 to reveal Jackson, Ruby and Amethyst lying down.

Amethyst: Where are we?

Jackson: The ship sank.

Amethyst and Jackson rise and help Ruby to her feet.

Ruby: Where are we?

Jackson: The schooner sank.

Amethyst and Ruby move to Stage 2, as if climbing over rocks. Jackson begins to climb to Stage 6.

Jackson: We had no fire, but managed to pick up some cockles on which we broke our fast. Winton and I broke down some bushes and made a shelter under a rock. We got a lot of seaweed and made a bed, in which we managed to sleep that night. For three days we had to keep a strict watch over the captain's widow. She was almost distracted, and seemed inclined to end her misery by throwing herself into the sea. *(The storm fades)* However, she gradually grew calmer and more resigned, but grew very weak for want of proper food. On the fourth day, Winton and I managed to kill a seal.

Jackson sits at the bar table.

Jackson: On the ninth day we were all standing on a large rock, with branches of trees in our hands, looking out in the hope of seeing some passing vessel. Suddenly...

Amethyst: Smoke! Smoke! There's smoke!

Ruby: (*almost hysterical*) They're enemies! It's natives!

Light rises on Stage 1 as Coral and Crystal appear.

Stage 1: (*sotto voce*) Bull shit.

Jackson: And indeed. It was a boat of eight men, and the rough fellows were very much astonished, but showed great willingness to relieve us. They took us to the Swan River settlement.

Light rises on Stage 2 where Amethyst and Ruby are standing.

Stage 2: (*sotto voce*) Bull shit.

Jackson: At this time, 1839, there was a whaling station at the place, and this industry, and that of sealing, were the principal sources of revenue.

The lights fade. Thunder claps. Light rises on all Stages.

Sapphire, Aquamarine and Emerald appear on Stage 4.

Stage 4: (*sotto voce*) Bull shit.

Jackson: It was true.

Jade and Opal appear on Stage 7.

Stage 7: (*sotto voce*) Bull shit.

All Stages move as in a gentle sea.

Stage 1: The sea rises

Stage 2: and falls

Stage 4: the sea rises

Stage 7: and falls

Stage 1: whaling

Stage 2: in the sea

Stage 4: the sea rises

Stage 7: and falls.

Stage 1: We had hardly cleared the heads
Stage 2: when the whales were seen spouting
Stage 4: when the whales
Stage 7: the whales
Stage 1: when the whales were seen spouting.

Jackson enters Stage 3.

Jackson: I thought it was the most exciting work I had yet been engaged in.

Stage 2: Our cruising ground
Stage 4: was the coast of New Zealand
Stage 7: where the whales
Stage 1: the whales
Stage 2: where the whales were seen spouting.

Jackson: I was head man in my boat. There were four boats in all.

Stage 4: And on another day
Stage 7: another day
Stage 1: when two other boats held fast to the monster
Stage 2: and away they went on tow like steam
Stage 4: and we were left struggling for our lives in the water
Stage 7: with the ship four miles to leeward
Stage 1: and the other boats away with the whale
Stage 2: the whale
Stage 4: the other boats away with the whale
Stage 7: and the ship four miles to leeward.

Stage 1: But the captain lowered a boat from the brig
Stage 2: and we were saved
Stage 4: saved
Stage 7: saved
Stage 1: with the captain lowering a boat from the brig.
Stage 2: But the three other boats away with the whale
Stage 4: and a gale of a wind coming up
Stage 7: and night setting in

Lights begin to fade.

Stage 1: and a gale of a wind coming up
Stage 2: and night setting in
Stage 4: and a gale of a wind coming up
Stage 7: and night setting in.
Stage 1: So the captain beat the ship to windward all night
Stage 2: to windward
Stage 4: and burning blue lights in the night

The Stages are almost in darkness now, except for a blue light.

Stage 7: and burning blue lights
Stage 1: and sending up rockets
Stage 2: and at last had to heave to
Stage 4: and close-reef topsails
Stage 7: with the sea running high
Stage 1: and the gale running high
Stage 2: and the sea running high
Stage 4: and the gale running high
Stage 7: for three days and nights
Stage 1: for three days and nights
Stage 2: for three days...
Stage 4: and nights...

Jackson: Eighteen fine fellows

Stage 7: for three days and nights

Jackson: in a watery grave. Not a vestige seen.

Lights slowly rise to all actors standing motionless on their respective Stages, looking out to sea.

Stage 1: Not a vestige seen
Stage 2: but a great flock of sea birds
Stage 4: hovering
Stage 7: hovering
Stage 1: in one place
Stage 2: where the whales
Stage 4: the whales
Stage 7: where the whales were seen spouting.

Jackson: And we shaped our course for Sydney, where we arrived safely, and discharged eleven hundred barrels of oil. And I met my destiny - or so I thought.

Coral exits Stage One and re-enters Stage Three wearing a bridal veil. Crystal dons a vicar's collar. Harmonium music is heard. Ruby has quietly left. On arrival, Coral lifts up the veil and puts it behind her head.

Crystal: Hannah French, do you take William Jackson Barry to be your husband?

Coral: I do.

Coral slowly steps backwards, replacing the veil over her face, and saying "I do".

Coral: I do. I do. I do. I do. I do.

She stands at the back of the stage - veiled.

Jackson: Within a year she had died - giving birth to a daughter. I had the child adopted out - to some Australian wet nurse. I'd sometimes visit her, and leave money. You see, my work took me everywhere. I couldn't bring her up. Later, when I got married again, I tried to get her back. But she was happy. It was best to leave her.

Amethyst: Jackson Barry. He'll never say how he feels...

Jackson: *(by way of explanation)* It was best to leave her.

Amethyst: *(ignoring him)* He was a drover, not a father.

Jackson: *(vehemently)* It was best to leave her.

Amethyst: A whaler. A fisherman. A farmer. A raconteur.

Jackson: *(shouting)* It was best to leave her.

Amethyst is shocked. Silence.

Jackson: With no ties, nothing, I set for the goldfields of California.

Lights fade and rise immediately to all Stages, with Ruby (dressed "Spanish Style") entering and dancing flamenco on Stage 3. The rest of the Company are arranged on the remaining Stages - in party mode. They all carry guns. They accompany Ruby's dance. It is loud and jolly. The scene is surreal.

Jackson: The merriest night I ever had in California.

Dancing continues. Sapphire suddenly looks urgent in the middle of the celebration.

Sapphire: Indians! Indians!

The celebration stops.

Sapphire: A hundred settlers of Shasta Butte murdered. And the savages stolen the mules and provisions, and burnt wagons.

Immediately Sapphire goes to Stage One, Ruby, Coral and Jackson go to Stage Five, and the rest lie on the steps with their guns facing back stage. Ruby, Coral and Jackson sing "The Star Spangled Banner" at the top of their voices. Sapphire narrates to the audience. The rest fire upon the invaders.

Sapphire: We could not let this outrage go unpunished, and immediately charged them, shooting down men, squaws and papooses indiscriminately. The slaughter was over in half an hour, and we reckoned that scarcely fifty out of the mob escaped. The rest were dispatched to the "happy hunting grounds" without the slightest show of mercy, and the poor settlers were fearfully avenged.

Ruby, Coral and Jackson continue to sing. The gun shot continues.

Sapphire: In the next six months we drove nearly all of the predatory savages from the Pitt River. We took no prisoners, but slaughtered all they fell in with - including the kids. We cut the scalps from the heads of the dead savages, and stuck them on ramrods for trophies. It certainly seemed a savage retaliation, but there was no other course open, and it may be believed that it was long ere Shasta Butte was again troubled with Indians.

One by one, the hunting party rise, and join the singers. Ruby and Jackson have left unnoticed. At the climactic conclusion of the song, Ruby and Jackson appear as bride and groom.

Crystal: Adelia Buckley, do you take William Jackson Barry to be your husband?

Ruby: *(removing the veil slowly off her face)* I do. I do. I do. I do. I do...

Ruby continues to say "I do" over the following speech.

Jackson: With gold in the hand, from the rich Californian fields, I set sail, once again, this time with my wife, back to Sydney.

Ruby's "I do"s fade with the lights. A dull blue light shines on the Stages where the characters are seated in small groups playing cards.

Jackson: In some tents at night, the miners sat around on boxes or stools, while, by the light of flaming oil cans, we gambled for match boxes filled with gold dust.

Coral: In other tents, we gathered to drink the liquors illicitly sold by the sly-grog shops.

Crystal: Some of us diggers took ourselves to the brilliantly lit theatres, and made the fragile walls tremble with our rough and hearty roars of applause.

Amethyst: Everywhere were heard the sound of laughter and good humour.

Ruby: At midnight, all went to bed, except those foolish revelers who had stayed too late at the grog shop.

- Sapphire:** At dawn again, everyone was astir.
- Aquamarine:** The day's water must be drawn before its limpid current became a clay-stained gutter.
- Emerald:** *(fading)* Gutter.
- Jade:** Gutter.
- Opal:** Gutter

The dull blue light turns to dull red.

- Jackson:** A digger named Scobie, late one evening, knocked at the door of Bentley's Hotel at Ballarat.
- Coral:** Finding the place closed for the night, he tried to force an entrance, and continued his clamour for so long that Bentley became angry, and sallied forth to chastise him.
- Crystal:** A crowd gathered to see the fight, and in the darkness, Scobie's head was split open with a spade.
- Amethyst:** Whose hand it was that aimed the blow, no one could tell, but the diggers believed that Bentley was the murderer.
- Ruby:** He was arrested and tried, but was acquitted by Mr Doves the magistrate, who was said by the diggers to be Mr Bentley's partner in business.
- Sapphire:** A great crowd then assembled around the hotel, and a digger named Kennedy addressed the multitude in various Scottish accents.
- Aquamarine:** *(with Scottish accent)* I pointed out the spot where their companion's blood had been shed, asserting that his spirit hovered above the spot, and called for revenge.
- Emerald:** A mischievous boy threw a stone and broke the lamp in front of the hotel.
- Jade:** Within a minute, every pane of glass was smashed.
- Opal:** The doors were broken open.
- Jackson:** The crowd burst in.
- Coral:** The liquor drunk.

Crystal: The place burned.

Amethyst: Burned.

Ruby: The place was burned.

The dull red light changes to purple.

Jackson: When I was in Melbourne, a terrible affair happened.

Aquamarine: The convicts at the hulks at Williamstown, in Hobson's Bay, broke out and murdered Mr John Price, the Inspector General of the convict prison.

Emerald: He had been a tyrannical taskmaster.

Jade: The wish of the convicts was father to the thought.

Opal: The wish was father to the thought.

Jackson: *(holding up finger as if he has had a thought)* I know! The wish was father to the thought!

All stare at Jackson.

Opal: You made that up.

Jackson: I didn't. It happened to me.

Amethyst: I read it in another book.

Jade: You're telling these things as if they happened to you.

Crystal: It's in another book.

Ruby: Someone else's book.

Jackson: I didn't. It happened to me.

Aquamarine: *(quietly)* Liar.

Sapphire: Liar.

Emerald: Liar.

Coral: Jackson Barry. You don't hold together. Little pieces. Fragments of some mirror smashed.

Amethyst: Hard to follow.

Jade: Hard to find.

Coral: Broken. Broken.

Jackson slowly exits.

Opal: Who are you?

Amethyst: Are you really Jackson Barry?

Ruby: Who are you?

Crystal: Who are you?

Amethyst: Who are you, Jackson Barry?

They stare after him. They exit.

FRAGMENT FOUR: A VIRAGO'S SCISSORS

Didgeridoo music. A light comes on the huge book on the writing desk on Stage 8. Ruby enters and goes to Stage 8. She turns the page of the huge book and then goes to Stage 3. She puts on a wig. The lighting is dark and sombre. Jackson appears on Stage 7.

Jackson: Mr Smith sent me to school. At a place called Parramatta, out of Sydney. Close to the school was a factory, where female convicts were employed by the Government, making clothes and washing blankets for the male prisoners. There were three departments in this factory.

Crystal appears on Stage 1.

Crystal: Number One was where disobedient females had their hair cut off, and lived on bread and water for their misbehaviour.

Amethyst appears on Stage 4.

Amethyst: Number two was a series of dark cells, where wicked, wicked females were punished by being imprisoned in close quarters.

Sapphire appears on Stage 2.

Sapphire: Number Three was for women of fair character, who were assigned as servants. And after a year of good conduct they could get paid.

Coral and Ruby appear on Stage 3. Coral is cutting off Ruby' hair.

Sapphire: After three further years, without a blot on their copy book...

Ruby: Watch it!

Sapphire: ...they were granted a...

Ruby: You're pulling it!

Sapphire: ...they were granted a pardon.

Ruby suddenly leaps up, grabs hold of the scissors and stabs Coral dead. Crystal, Amethyst and Sapphire rush to the rescue. There is considerable commotion as Ruby is dragged off stage (as is Coral).

Jackson: This virago was sent to Sydney, and hanged, and fifty of her mates of the worst character, were sent to view the spectacle as a wholesome warning.

Lights darken further as Group Two enters Stage 3 and are joined by Crystal, Amethyst and Sapphire. They roughly wear dresses. They all have their backs to the audience as if they are a group of callous women watching a hanging offstage. Off stage, Ruby is heard singing "Waltzing Matilda" very loudly. Jackson exits unnoticed.

Aquamarine: Look at that!
Crystal: They're tying the rope around her neck!
Emerald: (*shouting out*) At least ya won't have to worry about gettin' ya hair pulled.
Jade: Hurry up!
Amethyst: Rattle ya dags!
Opal: Give her a push!
Sapphire: Go on mate, give her a push!
Aquamarine: Push her!
Crystal: Push her!
Emerald: Push her!
All: (*chanting*) Push her! Push her! Push her!

Suddenly, the singing of "Waltzing Matilda" ends with a grunt. There is a moment's silence, then considerable commotion from the crowd who are in high spirits rather than subdued.

Jade: A salutary lesson for us all.
Amethyst: Don't go getting a hair cut.
Opal: Nasty bit of woman that one was.
Sapphire: Terrible.
Aquamarine: Disgusting creature.
Crystal: Serve her right.
Emerald: I'm all cut up.
Jade: With scissors!
Amethyst: Look sharp girls!
Opal: Snipped in the bud.
Sapphire: Hair! Hair!

Sapphire goes to Stage 8 and turns a page, then descends onto Stage 2.

FRAGMENT FIVE: WHALE TALE

Lights fade. Sea storm sounds. Night, with flashes of lightning. The Stages become the deck of a storm-tossed ship. The street lamp lights a little. Jackson and Groups One and Two scatter and grapple in the storm.

Jackson: We've hit!
Coral: There's a hole stove in the bottom!
Crystal: Every stitch of canvas ripped!
Amethyst: It's a mass of boiling surf!
Ruby: We'll drown!
Jackson: I'm not drowned yet!
Sapphire: We're sinking!
Aquamarine: Jump!
Emerald: We're sinking!
Jade: We're going down!
Opal: We're going down!

There is a huge storm crash, then darkness. A dull light, slowly rises as the storm abates. All have gone except for Jackson, Amethyst and Jade clinging to Stage 4.

Jackson: We've hit the beach!
Amethyst: I can't move.
Jade: We've been washed up.
Amethyst: I'm had it.
Jade: We've been washed up.
Jackson: Just lie there.
Jade: I'm had it.
Jackson: Just lie there till morning.
Amethyst: We're saved.
Jackson: Just lie there.

Gradually the lights rise to morning.

Jackson: This ain't no beach!
Amethyst: What is it?
Jackson: It's a whale! It's a dead whale.

Lights rise a little on Stage 6 where Crystal and Sapphire are sitting at the bar.

Crystal: It's a tall story.

Jackson: It's a whale we're on.

Sapphire: It's a whale of a tale.

Sapphire rises and heads for Stage 8.

Crystal: It's a lie.

Jackson: It's a whale!

Light rises on the huge book on Stage 8. Sapphire turns a page. Lights fade. They exit in darkness.

FRAGMENT SIX: IN SEARCH OF HONEY

Forest bird song. Light rises on Stage 1, where Jackson appears.

Jackson: Now I mention this story, at some length. A most terrible affair. I merely wish to show what manner of ruffians the colonists in the early days had to deal with. There was a family called Jones. And there was a man called Lynch. He was in the colony for life.

Jackson exits. Lights rise on Stage 7 where Jones (played by Aquamarine) and his son (played by Opal) are chopping a piece of wood with an axe. Lynch (played by Jade) appears on Stage 4.

Jade: *(calling out)* Got any work mate?

Aquamarine: *(he stops chopping)* Who are you?

Jade: I'm a ticket of leave man. I've got to find work.

Aquamarine: No work here mate.

Jade: I've walked for miles.

Aquamarine: You can stay the night in the shed.

Jade: Good. Very grateful.

Aquamarine: *(pointing off stage)* It's over there.

Jade: You know you've got two horses stuck in a bog down the track.

Aquamarine: Horses? No? Where?

Jade: Just down there. About a mile. I'll show you if you want.

Aquamarine: Yeah. That'll be good. *(To son)* Come on.

Jade, Aquamarine and Opal exit. Mrs Jones (played by Coral) enters Stage 3 with her son and daughter (played by Emerald and Ruby).

Coral: Children, get the cows. It's almost tea time.

Ruby: But, Mummy, do...

Coral: *(pointing)* The cows!

They go grumbling to Stage 1. Aquamarine, Opal and Jade enter Stage 2. Jade is slightly behind the other two. He stops.

Coral: *(singing)* I sold my needles, I sold my pins,
I sold my cloth to satisfy my whims,
And all that I got for all my sins,
Was a tiny little weeny tin soldier.

Jade: *(over the singing)* Hey! Have you got an axe? There's wild honey
in the tree.

*Aquamarine gives Jade the axe. Jade kills Jones (Aquamarine) and his son (Opal).
The son and daughter (Emerald and Ruby) begin to wend their way home - avoiding
the bodies. They join Coral in her singing.*

Singers: I sold my pots, I sold my pans,
I sold one tiny golden wedding band,
And the only one to take my hand
Was a tiny little weeny tin soldier.

*Jade comes quickly to Stage 3. Coral stops singing, but the singing is continued by
Emerald and Ruby.*

Singers: I sold three calves, I sold two cows,

Jade: Quick! Quick! You're husband and son! They're trapped under a
tree. It's not bad but, quick!

Coral and Jade rush to Stage 2. Coral faints. Jade kills her with the axe.

Singers: I sold the bull that dragged along the plough,
And all I had, I don't know how,
Was a tiny little weeny tin soldier.

The son and daughter (Emerald and Ruby) have now reached Stage 3.

Singers: I sold my home, I sold my farm,
I had a little drink then another little dram,
And all that stayed, despite my charm,
Was a tiny little weeny tin soldier.

Jade returns to Stage 3.

Jade: Your mother and father have found honey. Lots of it. They said to
bring another pan.

Emerald: Who are you?

Jade: Lynch. I'm helping out. They want another pan.

Ruby: I don't want to go.

Emerald: Come on.

Ruby: I don't want to go.

Jade and Emerald leave for Stage 2. Jade kills Emerald with the axe. Ruby sings.

Ruby: *(singing)* I sold my needles, I sold my pins,
I sold my cloth to satisfy my whims,
And all that I got for all my sins,
Was a tiny little weeny tin soldier.

The lights fade as Jade return to Stage 3. He laughs loudly.

Ruby: Was a tiny little weeny tin soldier.

Darkness.

Green light rises. Jackson enters Stage 8. Group One enter bar area on Stage 6.

Jackson: Early 1861, news arrived of the gold discoveries in Otago, New Zealand. I took my wife and family, and sailing in the Eliza Goddard arrived in Dunedin in February 1862. At last I had arrived at home.

Jackson exits.

Crystal: He was a liar.

Sapphire: I dunno.

Amethyst: I dunno either. Was it true?

Crystal: Course it wasn't.

Amethyst: What?

Crystal: True.

Sapphire: Well, they were good yarns.

Crystal: Good yarns Swanny? They were bloody lies.

Amethyst: Nah! I think they were yarns.

Crystal: You believed him?

Amethyst: They were yarns.

Sapphire: Yeah, yarns.

Crystal: Well it's hard to know if they were true or not.

Amethyst: (*earnestly*) You don't have to know if they were true or not. They were bloody yarns, and a bloody yarn is a bloody yarn. No one's asking you to believe them. Just enjoy them.

Crystal: I still think they were lies.

Sapphire: Believe what you like.

Lights begin to fade.

PART TWO

Jackson enters Stage 7 wandering to Stage 3, then to Stage 5. During this, various characters enter and purchase a fish off him.

Jackson: Fish for sale! Fresh fish! Fresh Dunedin fish! There ma'am. There's corn in Egypt yet. Fresh fish! ...

Aquamarine enters.

Aquamarine: *(with Scottish accent)* Shut up, man.

Jackson: Fish for sale! Fresh fish!

Aquamarine: Keep it down man.

Jackson: *(rankled and making an enormous noise)* Fresh fish!

Aquamarine: In Waihola Lake there's miles of mullet. Have you thought of fishing there?

Jackson: Waihola Lake? Where's that?

Aquamarine: Twenty three miles from town.

Jackson: Waihola Lake?

Aquamarine: Aye.

Jackson: Waihola Lake?

Aquamarine: You'd make your fortune.

Jackson moves to Stage 1 and mimes fishing. Aquamarine gives a knowing grin to the audience and exits. Emerald enters.

Emerald: *(with Scottish accent)* What in the name of heaven are you doing here?

Jackson: Fishing for mullet.

Emerald: You'll have to fish a damned long time ere you catch any mullet here. There's only eels. Why not run a butcher's shop?

Emerald begins to leave.

Jackson: *(calling after him)* But I have no meat! And a butcher's shop without meat is not a paying concern. It was so embarrassing.

Jackson goes to Stage 3. Group One, minus Amethyst, appears on Stage 1, and Group Two, minus Aquamarine, appears on Stage 7. Amethyst appears on Stage 2 and Aquamarine on Stage 4. One by one each member of each Group goes to Amethyst or Aquamarine to purchase meat. Each returns to their respective group empty handed.

Amethyst: (calling out) Good meat! Fresh meat!

Coral: Too expensive!

Aquamarine: (calling out) Good meat! Fresh Cromwell meat!

Emerald: Too expensive!

Amethyst: Veal!

Aquamarine: Pig's trotters!

Crystal: Too expensive!

Jade: Too expensive!

Amethyst: Steak!

Aquamarine: Fresh mutton!

Ruby: Too expensive!

Opal: Too expensive!

Amethyst: Cow's tongue!

Aquamarine: Ox tail!

Coral: Too expensive!

Jackson: (loudly) Cheap meat! Cheap fresh meat!

The two Groups begin to avoid Amethyst and Aquamarine and go to Jackson.

Jackson: Veal! Pig's trotters! Steak! Fresh mutton! Cow's tongue! Ox tail!

Amethyst: He's undercutting! He's undercutting us!

Jackson: Beef! Bacon! Pork! Cheap meat! Get it here!

Aquamarine: He's undercutting! He's undercutting us!

Jackson: And undercut I did - but went broke in the process.

Aquamarine and Amethyst exit.

All: (*chanting*) Jackson! Jackson! Jackson! ...

The music of "Rule Britannia" is heard under the chant, gradually overtaking it, until it dominates the entire scene. Ruby steps forward to Stage 3.

Ruby: Captain Barry. As a measure of our esteem, for ridding the town of exorbitant meat prices, the grateful citizens of Cromwell present you with this gold watch. And we humbly request you to be, in what will be a long history of our town, we request that you be...

She pauses dramatically as the music builds.

Ruby: We request that you be the first Mayor of Cromwell!

Jackson: I am not worthy of this great honour, but accept it humbly. I am Mayor, not of London, but of Cromwell. I did not ask for fame, but have had greatness thrust upon me.

The music swells.

Jackson: I ask, in keeping with the dignity of the office, not for myself of course, that a Mayoral chain be cast, and that I be clothed in a scarlet gown lined with vermin.

The crowd applauds.

Jackson: To say that liquor flowed freely is a mild way of describing the saturnalia; the fact is, I believe the whole town, and a considerable crowd from the outlying diggings got most outrageously drunk.

The music swells and climaxes as Jackson is appropriately clothed, and is carried around the Stages by the entire cast - who now shout and wave flags in an ecstatic manner. They carry him off triumphantly. There is silence. Coral is sitting in an armchair on Stage 5, bathed in moonlight. The street lamp shines. The sound of sea waves breaking is heard.

Coral: In all the seasons, in all this great planet's motions, none surpassed the moment of Captain William Jackson Barry. There was an old lady who swallowed a fly. But for the fly, she would never have eaten a horse. And if in England many years before, the young Jackson Barry had not stolen a pie, then Cromwell would simply not have had its mayor. Funny how things work out. Funny.

The lights fade to darkness as the sea sound rises.

Coral: *(from the dark, over the sea sound)* We came from the sea, they say. We might go back. When Cromwell's drowned. When Cromwell's drowned.

The sea sound climaxes and fades.

INTERVAL

ACT TWO

PROLOGUE

Sea sound. Coral is on Stage 5, Ruby and Jade on Stage 6, Crystal and Sapphire on Stage 4, Amethyst on Stage 7, Emerald on Stage 3, and Opal on Stage 1. The lighting grows with the following speech.

- Coral:** A still night; then a pink, gold, crystal light.
- Ruby:** The air, crimsoned dark over a diamond mountain.
- Coral:** A sapphire light throbs painfully till a fiery sun's birth lashes its cruel rays over the land
- Ruby:** and all things wake and fall victim to its whips.
- Crystal:** Oh the wilderness can be barren
- Amethyst:** brown
- Sapphire:** dry
- Crystal:** sand
- Amethyst:** roaring the ribbed lion
- Sapphire:** ready to maul
- Crystal:** ready to grapple with the traveler
- Amethyst:** to vanquish
- Sapphire:** then haunt away
- Crystal:** transfigured into a scoffing hyena.
- Emerald:** And sometimes
- Jade:** only sometimes
- Emerald:** for a flicker of a blossom
- Opal:** there are blue egg shells and wattle

Emerald: there is cold water trickling down the laughing neck and hands
Jade: and horizons linger before they drop.
Opal: Drop and I must follow.
Ruby: And trample on blue-broken shells
Coral: and withered petals.

PART THREE

Sudden crowd noises are heard as Jackson appears on Stage 3 in full mayoral regalia.

Amethyst: Sir George Grey. One of the great men of our colony. Sir George Grey, the Governor of New Zealand. Sir George Grey made a tour of the Otago goldfields. And he come to Cromwell.

The music of Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance No. 4" is heard under the clamour, gradually overtaking it, until it dominates the entire scene. Aquamarine, as Sir George Grey, appears on Stage 4 as the music swells. Jackson approaches him. They greet one another. Coral, Crystal, Amethyst and Sapphire join Sir George. Ruby, Emerald, Jade and Opal join Jackson as their respective parties. The music climaxes and ends.

Jackson: Sir George! Welcome to Cromwell, our humble town, made even more gracious by your famous visit. I happen to have known George, Sir George, when he was Governor of South Australia many years hence, when we were both much younger men. Together we have been old colonials. It gives me much pleasure, as Mayor of Cromwell, to welcome you now as Governor of this fair colony. If I may accompany Sir George and his suite, Captain Hope, Major Richardson, and... and... the others, on a tour of inspection, I'm sure it would be of great value.

The parties begin to walk from Stage to Stage.

Jackson: Here we have the town bridge. Here we have the Town Hall. Here we have the butcher's shop. And here, Your Excellency, we have my prize pigs.

The music stops suddenly.

Aquamarine: Your what?

Jackson: My pigs, Your Excellency.

Aquamarine: Your pigs.

Jackson: (*enthusiastically*) This one here is a good boar. He's serviced most of the sows here, and has a good record.

Aquamarine: Most interesting!

Jackson: *(even more enthusiastically)* It is! It is, Your Excellency! It's most interesting. A boar is not like a ram or a bull or a stallion. It services the sows with a thing like a corkscrew, so if you shanghai it in the privates during the process there's simply nothing it can do. It's stuck.

Aquamarine: Stuck?

Jackson: I've called it George in your honour. It's my prize boar.

Aquamarine: Your Worship. I wouldn't have missed my visit to Cromwell for worlds.

Jackson: *(turning to his party)* Sir George has thoroughly enjoyed his visit to our fair town. He wouldn't have missed it for worlds. *(Turning to Sir George)* And now, Sir George, we have a grand banquet at which you will be entertained right royally.

Aquamarine: Captain Barry, if ever you wish my help you need only ask. It would be an honour if you travelled with me on my visit to Clyde.

Opal: Three cheer for Sir George! Hip!

All: Hurrah!

Opal: Hip!

All: Hurrah!

Opal: Hip!

All: Hurrah!

Sir George Grey and Jackson begin to leave.

Crystal: Three cheers for Mayor Barry! Hip!

All: Hurrah!

Crystal: Hip!

All: Hurrah!

Crystal: Hip!

All: Hurrah!

Grey and Jackson exit.

Coral: Who wrote a book of wondrous tales,
Crystal: And stories told of hulks and gaols,
Amethyst: And floated on the backs of whales?
Ruby: Why, Captain Jackson Barry!
Sapphire: Who told about the wondrous ores
Emerald: That lie around New Zealand's shores,
Jade: And showed Sir George his Cromwell boars?
Opal: Why, Captain Jackson Barry!

Groups One and Two arrange themselves as at a civic meeting. Jackson storms in. His head is bandaged.

Jackson: I want read the minutes of the last meeting.

Coral: *(reading)* The Town Council of Cromwell met in the Town Hall on Thursday the 8th of June 1865. In the chair was Councillor Matthews, Mayor Barry being in Clyde with the Governor.

Jackson: Get on with it.

Coral: The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Jackson: Get on with it.

Coral: *(hesitantly)* A motion of censure was passed against Mayor Jackson Barry requesting his immediate resignation. Councillors were generally unhappy with the tyrannical approach followed by the Mayor in and out of Council, and the embarrassing incident over Sir George Grey and the pigs. It was felt...

Jackson: *(seething)* Who moved the motion?

Silence. Discomfort.

Jackson: I asked, who moved this motion?

Silence. Discomfort.

Amethyst: I did, Your Worship.

Jackson: Who?

Amethyst: I did, Your Worship.

Slowly, Jackson approaches Amethyst. He takes hold of him and carries him to Stage One where he throws him violently off stage. He slowly returns, brushing his hands.

Jackson: And who seconded the motion?

Silence. Discomfort.

Jackson: I said, who seconded the motion?

There is a long silence.

Jackson: Then if no one seconded the motion, the motion lapses.

Jackson looks around, pleased.

Jackson: Any one disagree?

Silence. Discomfort.

Jackson: We will continue with the meeting. And I wish to bring to the attention of all the matter of the school committee. The school committee refuse to investigate my charge that the school teacher used unbecoming language towards me. (*Becoming angry*) Towards me. The Mayor. They refuse to investigate it. They refuse to investigate it.

Jade: What did he say?

Jackson: I could not bear to say it at a public meeting. Indeed, I could not bring myself to say it in the privacy of my own home.

Emerald: Then if we don't know what it is, we cannot judge, can we?

Jackson: You can't judge? What do you mean you can't judge? Don't you take my word on it?

Sapphire: Without knowledge, we cannot judge.

Jackson: Sack them! Sack the school committee! Sack the teacher! Sack the whole damned lot! I won't be crossed. I am the Mayor of Cromwell. Don't you know I have had enough on my plate without insults from the teacher? While driving to Clyde lately on a dark night, we made a turn where the road wound round a gully and were capsized. Whetter was thrown down the gully about 100 feet and landed under a big rock. Whetter was nearly killed and I was much bruised and cut about the head. The report reached Cromwell that we were killed, and my wife was in a terrible state. Not long before, my son was not well, and I took him to Dunedin Hospital, leaving my wife to care for the five other children. Then there were the heavy rain storms, and some water races on the hillside, at the back of my farm, used for carrying water for mining purposes, had broken away, torn up and carried off the soil with five acres of potatoes, destroyed all the fences, and

drowned a lot of my pigs. *(Totally enraged)* I am four times elected Mayor. Do you think I will tolerate some limp-wristed school teacher insulting me as Lord Mayor of Cromwell?

Silence.

Jackson: Well?

Silence.

Jackson: Well?

Silence of disbelief as the lights fade. All exit.

FRAGMENT SEVEN: CONSIDERABLE BULL

Light rises on huge book on Stage 8. Jade tip-toes out surreptitiously, looks at the book, and comes down to Stage 3 to tell his story.

Jade: There was Allan MacDonald from Laig, on the Isle of Eigg. He was a brawny Catholic tippler, and one night, dark as the Devil, he met the Devil himself on the road back home. He knew it was the Devil because he saw the horns of his head. So he turned quickly and threw the Devil over his shoulder, grasping him by the horns and beating him to pulp on the stones of the road. The next morning he found his prize bull lying dead in the ditch. Now there's the blood of Otago men.

Jade goes to Stage 8 and turns a page. Light fades.

FRAGMENT EIGHT: MOEHANGA'S NAILS

Lights rise on all Stages. Crystal appears on Stage 3 - once again as Moehanga. Coral and Amethyst sit on Stage 1. Ruby sits on Stage 2. Aquamarine and Emerald sit on Stage 4. Opal sits on Stage 7. All sit on the floor donned in blankets. They face Moehanga.

Crystal: *(showing off)* I was first Maori to visit England. I met King George and Queen Charlotte.

Together the actors turn slightly away from him.

Crystal: *(more earnestly)* They gave me tools. A hammer. A plough. These things are very useful. Very useful things to Maori.

Together the actors turn further away from him.

Crystal: I am not a chief, but these things are very useful to Maori.

Together the actors turn still further away from him. Big Ben sounds.

Crystal: I saw Big Ben. Big Ben. You do not believe me. I saw Big Ben.

The actors make a final turn with their backs completely to him.

Crystal: The houses were asleep in England. The houses were asleep, and all the mighty heart is lying. I stole an axe from the ship - you will not believe me - but the axe is good. It is a tool. The Pakeha things are good. I know - I've been to England and saw Big Ben.

Sapphire appears on Stage 1.

Crystal: *(to Sapphire)* Tell them. Tell them that I went to England and saw the King of England. Have you got some nails? Have you got nails?

Sapphire gives him some nails. Jade enters Stage 1.

Crystal: *(to Jade)* Have you got some nails? Can I have nails?

Jade gives him a hammer and a piece of wood.

Crystal: *(playing with nails)* Nails are good. These are good things. These are valuable. Nails are treasures. In England they use nails to make Big Ben.

Sapphire exits. Jade goes to Stage 8. Light on all Stages except Stage 3 fades. Light on Stage 3 fades to green. Moehanga begins to hammer the nails into a piece of wood.

Crystal: Very good things. Very good. I saw the King of England. The King of England is my friend. Very good. Very good.

Moehanga continues to hammer the nails into the piece of wood as the light fades to darkness. The erratic drum beats loudly.

Light comes up on huge book on Stage 8. Jade turns a page.

FRAGMENT NINE: A DAY AT THE RACES

Lights rise. Jackson and Emerald are together on Stage 7 - as if in the Judge Box at the races. Aquamarine is on Stage 8 - as if in the commentary box. The rest (except for Amethyst) are grouped on Stage 2. Amethyst enters Stage 7 and goes to Emerald.

Amethyst: (to Emerald) I'll have five pounds on River Pebble.

Emerald: Five pounds it is, Sir.

Amethyst: River Pebble.

Emerald: On River Pebble.

Emerald: Ladies and Gentlemen. Today at the Kumara Races it is our pleasure to have as race judge the former Mayor of Cromwell and famed New Zealand poet - Captain Jackson Barry. Captain Barry, as an impartial judge, will call the placings.

Jackson: It is a great privilege to be invited to the Kumara Races as Judge. I have had a long history of...

Emerald: (*interrupting*) The first race is the President's Wife's Handicap, featuring Fleur de Lys ridden by Dan O'Brien, Firetail (a Bathurst New South Wales Cup winner) ridden by Harry Goodman, Black Mint by Professor owned by Mr Fitzwentworth and ridden by G.G.Stead, Burgundy ridden by L.H.Hewitt, and Flying Jib ridden by Jack Ward...

Amethyst: (*to Sapphire*) Who've you got your money on?

Sapphire: Firetail.

The race is a carefully choreographed positioning of heads. All heads begin by looking hard stage right. Slowly the heads turn to in front of the judge's stand as if following the race. As the horses pass each actor, they leap with greater excitement. There is much shouting in support of various horses. As the horses near the judge's stand the noise intensifies and Amethyst leaps excitedly onto Stage 7. Aquamarine gives the commentary

Aquamarine: Almost set to go now. Firetail, Fleur de Lys is ready. Favourite - Flying Jib. Racing in the President's Wife's Handicap.

Emerald: And it looks like they're off!

Aquamarine:

And Quibble bounces quickly towards the outside, with Silvermark, Euroclydon well away with Blizzard down on the inside, Black Mint began well. Dropping out towards the rear of the field early is top weight Pitch and Toss, and getting back in the early rush is - ah - going to be Blizzard with Quibble now and Always a Winner. On settling, just under 2000 left to go in the President's Wife's Handicap and Black Mint pulled its way to lead Euroclydon racing one off the rail. There follows Silvermark out deeper on the track and back on the inside now, zaah, on the inside is Fleur de Lys. Ah Firetail and Sir Modred came next to Flying Jib on the outside of Always a Winner, three wide Burgundy. New Solution's trapped wider out on the track on a forward move and there follows Quibble and Blizzard and Pitch and Toss. There's fourteen first to last, and Black Mint left Euroclydon, Fleur de Lys third on the rail. Three quarters to Silvermark, Burgundy, then Firetail back on the inside to Sir Modred. New Solution on the outside moving forward, a length and a half then to Always a Winner, followed the favourite Flying Jib who's ten or eleven off them. Quibble third last, second last Blizzard, and last of all is Pitch and Toss. Racing past the twelve hundred though is Black Mint, the local runner, three quarters Burgundy and two and half then to Euroclydon. Back on the inside rail a half length away is Fleur de Lys, two and a half to Silvermark they've passed the thousand. Firetail came next to New Solution and Sir Modred then Always a Winner. Flying Jib's about nine or ten off them, followed by Quibble and Blizzard. And Pitch and Toss. Racing round past the eight hundred now and they near us Black Mint three quarters to Burgundy in the President's Wife's Handicap on the inside Fleur de Lys from Euroclydon. A length and a half to Silvermark, Firetail in on the inner. Three quarters then to New Solution, now starting to move about six off them. A length away to Always a Winner and Sir Modred being punched along. Flying Jib the favourite standing the leaders about nine or ten but Harry Goodman's starting to wind it up now. (Starting to build up) On the outside then as they swing in it's Blizzard then Pitch and Toss. Into the straight in the President's Wife's Handicap it's Black Mint to Burgundy and Euroclydon. Firetail's angling into the clear over on the outside. It's Silvermark and Blizzard. Flying Jib being asked to question Pitch and Toss they fan across the track Black Mint's holding. On the outside to Firetail and there followed by Fleur de Lys. Seeing daylight Euroclydon. But Black Mint has spread-eagled the field in the President's Wife's Handicap. And it's Black Mint a nice local win, scored second in the line is Firetail, third Fleur de Lys. They were followed up by Burgundy, then Flying Jib, on the inside Sir Modred. Then we've got Silvermark, Euroclydon, followed across Blizzard and Quibble, Pitch and Toss. And New Solution and Always a Winner is last in.

Amethyst: *(towards the end of the race)* River Pebble! River Pebble! Come on! Come on! Go! Go! Go! It's River Pebble! River Pebble!

Amethyst is now standing directly behind Jackson who looks confused as to which horse is what.

Amethyst: River Pebble! River Pebble! *(Beside himself with feigned excitement)* It won! It won! River Pebble won!

Emerald: *(to Jackson)* Well Judge? Who won?

Jackson: River Pebble by a whisker. River Pebble.

Amethyst: *(excitedly going to Emerald)* I won! I won!

Emerald: *(handing over money)* There sir. Well done!

Amethyst: Thank you.

Amethyst takes the money and exits.

Emerald: And now we have the Kumara Metropolitan Birthday Handicap starring the incredible Seagull ridden by Hurtle Fisher, and River Pebble ridden by...

He stops, confused.

Emerald: With River Pebble...

He confers with the group behind him.

Emerald: *(to Jackson)* Who won the last race?

The lights fade. All exit except for Coral who goes to Stage 5. She sits in the arm chair. The street lamp rises. Soft atonal bell-like music sounds. A fantastic lighting rises. If possible, large prisms and crystals reflect and refract light in all directions.

Coral:

See how the crystals shake colour from the light. The rough cut ridge, the fine tuned edge, makes light break, spear forth, and tumble in a way that no one knew till then what treasure light held. Like diamonds, turning with a new refraction, each angle showing new hidden beauty. The dull coral, struck by light, intimate and secret. The ruby, proud and red, keeping most things; showing only what is bold. The blue-cold sapphire, the wet green emerald, the milky yellow opal, twisting in discovery of crumpled light. Each one here a jewel, a gemstone, crystal diamond. Each break shows another scene. Each cut spills forth blood of another aspect. Rough diamond. Jackson Barry. It is not the diamond, nor the jewel. It is the light that passes through.

Lights and music fade.

PART FOUR

Jackson appears on Stage 7. Aquamarine appears on Stage 4. Opal appears on Stage 3.

Jackson: I received a letter from Sydney.

Aquamarine: Come to Sydney. You have inherited land. A fortune awaits!

Jackson moves to Stage 4. Aquamarine moves to Stage 2.

Opal: You must come to Melbourne to inherit the land.

Jackson moves to Stage 3. Opal moves to Stage 1.

Aquamarine: You must come to Bathurst to inherit the land.

Jackson moves to Stage 2. Aquamarine remains on Stage 2.

Opal: You must come to Adelaide to inherit the land.

Jackson moves to Stage 1. Opal moves to Stage 3.

Aquamarine: You must return to Bathurst to inherit the land.

Jackson moves to Stage 2. Aquamarine moves to Stage 4.

Opal: You must return to Melbourne to inherit the land.

Jackson moves to Stage 3. Opal moves to Stage 7.

Aquamarine: You must return to Sydney to inherit the land.

Jackson moves to Stage 4. Aquamarine moves to Stage 7.

Opal: Return to New Zealand. There is no land to inherit.

Aquamarine: There is no land to inherit.

Aquamarine and Opal exit. Jackson moves to Stage 7 where there is a stool. He sits.

Jackson: There is no land. There is no land to inherit.

Aquamarine: *(appearing on Stage 1)* There's the man who struck it rich!

Emerald: *(appearing on Stage 2)* There's the man who inherited the land!

Jade: *(appearing on Stage 3)* There's the millionaire!

- Opal:** (*appearing on Stage 4*) They say he owns Sydney.
- Aquamarine:** Melbourne.
- Emerald:** Bathurst.
- Jade:** Adelaide.
- Coral:** (*appearing on Stage 1*) Blessed are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Crystal:** (*appearing on Stage 3*) Blessed are the gentle; they shall inherit the land.
- Amethyst:** (*appearing on Stage 7*) Blessed are those who mourn; they shall be comforted.
- Ruby:** (*appearing on Stage 2*) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right; they shall be satisfied.
- Sapphire:** (*appearing on Stage 4*) Blessed are the merciful; they shall have mercy shown them.
- Jackson:** So I moved my family from Cromwell, where I was the clown, and ran a pub in Queenstown.

Jackson moves to the bar on Stage 6.

- Coral:** Blessed are the pure in heart; they shall see God.
- Crystal:** Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God.
- Amethyst:** Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of right; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Ruby:** Blessed are you when people abuse you.
- Sapphire:** Blessed are you when people persecute you.
- Coral:** Blessed are you when people speak all kind of calumny against you.
- Crystal:** Blessed are the poor in spirit.
- Amethyst:** Blessed are the gentle.
- Ruby:** Blessed are those who mourn.

Jackson: At Queenstown, my wife died. For twenty-two years. My wife died. It's Mummy, they said. Mummy's dead. The children found her. I was fifty four years old.

As the chant begins, Jackson holding some old flowers sings "Here's a Flower" (music by Amelia Winifred Le Lievre-Lee; words by Justin McCarthy. There's a copy in the Turnbull Library).

Jackson: (*singing*) Here's a flower for your grave
Little love of last year;
Since I was once your slave,
Here's a flower for your grave.

Since of you I used to rave
In the praise of my dear,
Here's a flower for your grave
Little love of last year.

Sapphire: Blessed are those who mourn.

Coral: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right.

Crystal: Blessed are the merciful.

Amethyst: Blessed are the pure in heart.

Ruby: Blessed are the peacemakers.

Sapphire: Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of right.

Coral: Blessed are you when people abuse you.

Crystal: Blessed are you when people persecute you.

Amethyst: Blessed are you when people speak all kind of calumny against you.

From now on, Jackson is an old man. He remains seated.

Aquamarine: They say he stole money to pay for his Australian trip.

Emerald: They say he swindled money from the Queenstown Hotel.

Jade: They say he was kicked out of the hotel business.

Opal: They say he's a liar.

Aquamarine: A crook and a cheat.

The following grows in intensity until all are chanting against Jackson.

Emerald: Liar!

Jade: Cheat!

Opal: Liar!

Aquamarine: Cheat!

Coral: Liar!

Crystal: Cheat!

Group One: Liar!

Group Two: Cheat!

All: Cheat! Cheat! Cheat! Cheat! Cheat!...

They exit, chanting as they go. The chanting fades.

Jackson: I cannot describe my feelings when I found she had gone. I believe I nearly went mad. We had lived happily together for over twenty years. I was utterly unable to look after myself for two months. I was left with six of a family, one child being very young. My business was failing, my family was completely broken up. I took my two youngest children with me. I had made up my mind to go prospecting again. And it was in the Nevis, the most wild and unsheltered goldfield in New Zealand, trapped by the snow of winter months, that I began to write.

Jackson goes to Stage 8 and begins to write. The mood is gentle.

Jackson: I sit down to write the history of my pilgrimage. It is a faithful record of my chequered career.

Light rises on Stage 1 as Coral and Crystal appear.

Stage 1: (*sotto voce*) Bull shit.

Jackson: There are now few people who have passed through sixty-eight years of colonial history, and possibly fewer still who can recall the experiences of over half a century.

Light rises on Stage 2 as Amethyst and Ruby appear.

Stage 2: (*sotto voce*) Bull shit.

Jackson: I have done so entirely from my memory, which, I am vain enough to think, has served me faithfully in this matter.

Light rises on Stage 4. Sapphire, Aquamarine and Emerald appear on Stage 4.

Stage 4: (*sotto voce*) Bull shit.

Jackson: Some author - Doctor Johnson, I believe - has remarked that the experiences of any one, if written truly, would be interesting. I think so too.

Light rises on Stage 7 as Jade and Opal appear.

Stage 7: (*sotto voce*) Bull shit.

From now on, Jackson regains his former energy. Light fades on Stage 8. Crystal goes to Stage 2.

Crystal: (*reading*) Immigration Office, Wellington, September 25th, 1878. Sir, Under instructions from the Honourable Mr Stout, I have the honour to inform you that, as you are about to leave for England, the Government have decided to employ you as an agent for the introduction of immigrants to this Colony, and have accordingly authorised the payment of the sum of forty pounds for passage money.

All actors immediately rush to Stage 7 where Jackson stands on a stool as if delivering a lecture.

Jackson: I find myself in Old England after an absence of more than fifty years - and how changes have taken place.

The crowd applaud. Jackson, with stool, rushes to Stage 3, followed by the crowd.

Jackson: When I arrived in the colony in 1829, it was in its wild state, inhabited by its aboriginals, and when I left in 1878, it was in a high state of civilization.

The crowd applaud. Jackson, with stool, rushes to Stage 1, followed by the crowd.

Jackson: I brought my family from Victoria in 1861 and settled in Otago. This was the first of the goldfields in that country. In 1861 Dunedin was a very small town compared to what it now is, and in my experience no town has made more progress. On my landing there was no town twenty five miles from the seaboard. Ship after ship brought its hundreds of miners to seek gold. Towns of canvas sprang up and many privations were endured.

The crowd applaud. Jackson, with stool, rushes to Stage 4, followed by the crowd.

Jackson: Dunstan lies on the Molyneux River, 200 miles from Dunedin. The way there at that time lay through a vast, wild plain - now it is fertile land and farms. The town of Cromwell is rich in coal, iron, copper and plumbago. It is destined to become a vast manufacturing town such as Birmingham or Sheffield.

The crowd applaud. Jackson, with stool, rushes to Stage 2, followed by the crowd.

Jackson: I must mention Lake Wakatipu. It is sixty miles long by five miles wide. Its depth is over two hundred fathoms in places, and it would float the entire British navy. Some of the finest scenery in the world surrounds this lake, and the neighbouring hills are capped with snow. There are steamboats running on the lake from Queenstown to Kingston to meet passengers coming by rail, and numerous tourists come to view the magnificent scenery of the district. The railway running to this lake is a great boon to wool growers, and the energetic farmers can now get their produce forwarded in a few hours. All this is due to Sir Julius Vogel.

The crowd applaud. Jackson, with stool, rushes to Stage 5, followed by the crowd.

Jackson: On my arrival in London, I was surprised to see the network of railways running over and under the houses, and the squalid misery and abject poverty of the inhabitants. I could not help contrasting London with the country I had left, where no one wants for work, and hunger is unknown.

Jackson shakes hands with the crowd.

Jackson: Have you read my book?

Jackson: Have you read my book?

Jackson: Have you read my book?

Jackson departs. The crowd face the audience.

All: Who told about the wondrous ores
That lie around New Zealand's shores,
And showed Sir George his Cromwell boars?
Why, Captain Jackson Barry!

Who got a letter from the Queen?
Writ by her own fair hand I ween,
Saying "Barry, dear, your book I've seen."
Why, Captain Jackson Barry!

The actors exit except for Ruby, who Ruby, slightly intoxicated, makes her way to Stage 2. Jackson appears on Stage 2.

Ruby: And when will you keep your promise?

Jackson: And what promise is this madam?

Ruby: Your promised to marry me.

Jackson: I see you are under the influence of something stronger than tea.

Ruby: Stronger than tea? That will be the day.

Jackson moves to Stage 3. Ruby follows.

Ruby: So when will you keep your promise?

Jackson: I have never seen you before, I assure you.

Ruby: You assure me what? You assured me before.

Jackson: I've not seen you.

Ruby: Marry me.

Jackson moves to Stage 4. Ruby follows.

Ruby: I will sue you for breach of promise.

Jackson: Sue me madam, but I assure you I have not seen you.

Ruby: Haven't seen me. You're looking at me now. Marry me.

Jackson moves to Stage 2. Ruby follows.

Jackson: *(flustered and amused at once)* Well... I am just about to leave for New Zealand, and if you like to wait until I get back to England, I will buy the ring.

Ruby: The ring?

Jackson: The ring.

Ruby: New Zealand?

Jackson: New Zealand.

Ruby: That sounds like a good idea.

Jackson: It is.

Jackson moves to Stage 4. Ruby follows.

Jackson: How about another drink. To celebrate.

Jackson pours her a drink, which she gulps. She is now sitting on the floor.

Ruby: So you're going to New Zealand?

Jackson: Yes. Another drink?

Jackson pours another, which she gulps.

Ruby: I heard you talk about it. I think I might go there. We could get married there.

Jackson: We could.

Ruby now become oblivious of her surroundings as she fades into a slumber. Jackson creeps out.

Ruby: A man in the goldfields had his horse shod with gold and came to want. They say ninepins is played with bottles of champagne in New Zealand. They empty it in tubs and drink it from tin pannikins. I heard... That's what I heard... *(She lies down)* For the wedding...

She falls asleep. Lights fade. They exit.

FRAGMENT TEN: CHAMPION SPINNER OF YARNS

All enter and form a crowd in front of Jackson. Crystal goes to Stage 8. Light rises on the huge book. Crystal turns a page and rejoins the crowd.

Jackson: Samuel Jones of Auckland has a wager with me for one hundred pounds to test which of us has the greater claim to be the Champion Spinner of Yarns. Well I am! No one has met the kings and queens I have met and seen the cannibals I have seen.

Jade steps forward as Samuel Jones. He goes to speak. Jackson goes up and punches him in the head. Jackson and Jade have a boxing match.

Crowd: Fight! Fight! Fight!...

Jade is knocked flat. The crowd cheer. Jackson straightens his clothes. Jackson sings a nineteenth-century, raucous, sentimental gold-mining song - during which the audience are spitefully scornful. They begin to chant "Jackson! Jackson! Jackson!". The chant grows. The mood is cynical. The crowd departs. Jackson finishes the song alone. Jade remains cold on the floor. Lights fade.

PART FIVE

Lights rise to Coral and Crystal on Stage 1, Amethyst, Ruby (now sober) and Sapphire on Stage 2, Aquamarine and Emerald on Stage 4, and Jade and Opal on Stage 7.

Coral: Five hundred pounds.
Crystal: Five hundred pounds is what it cost the Captain.
Amethyst: Captain is an honorary title conferred by himself on himself.
Ruby: Five hundred pounds is what it cost the Captain to tour England to encourage people to flock to the Colony.
Sapphire: And indeed they did.
Aquamarine: Five hundred pounds on behalf of the Government.
Emerald: And in the end
Jade: When all was spent
Opal: When the money was spent
Coral: And the Captain was spent
Crystal: The Government
Amethyst: Changed its mind.
Ruby: Oh Captain Barry
Sapphire: Its sweet of you
Aquamarine: BUT...
Emerald: We've changed our mind.
Jade: We've changed our mind.
Opal: We've changed our mind.

The actors change the direction they face.

Coral: I have the honour to be, Sir,
Crystal: Your most obedient servant,
Amethyst: A. Barron
Ruby: Under-Secretary of the Department of Lands and Survey.
Sapphire: July 1894.
Aquamarine: Response to petition 175
Emerald: William Jackson Barry.
Jade: After some consideration
Opal: it was decided
Coral: that Captain Barry
Crystal: being now an old man
Amethyst: should be given fifty pounds
Ruby: to admit him to the Old Men's Home
Sapphire: or Benevolent Institution.
Aquamarine: This
Emerald: is by way of
Jade: charitable
Opal: assistance.

Suddenly, with a great deal of clamour, Jackson drags a large box full with rocks on to Stage 3.

Jackson: (*angrily*) I am not an old man! I am not an old man! I am only seventy five. I will not go into an Old Men's Home. I want my five hundred pound. I have found this mineral ore in the King Country, and I apply for the mining rights. I want the rights!

Coral: But no!

Crystal: But no!

Amethyst: No!

Ruby: You are too old!

Sapphire: No!

Jackson drags the heavy box of rocks to Stage 4.

Jackson: For three years now I have waited for the rights to mine the King Country. It has cost me a lot - several hundred pounds and hard work and cruel hardship. Too cruel at my age. I have wandered the bush of the King Country and I have found these minerals. Look!

Jackson holds up a rock to Aquamarine and Emerald on Stage 4. They snub him. He drags the heavy box of rocks to Stage 7.

Jackson: I am seventy eight years old. And I am poor, with no means to live. And in justice you promised me. You promised me to pay for my work in England. My words are not the blow of an idle gale. I remind you of my standing as a colonist. I am one of the founders of this country. Give me mining rights. Look at this rock. Look!

Jackson holds up a rock to Jade and Opal on Stage 7. They snub him.

Jackson: Pay me for my work. You must pay me for what you promised.

One by one the actors leave, each saying as they go "You brought it on yourself, Captain".

Jackson: Pay me. I have nothing to live on. I am old. I am poor.

Amethyst: (*being the last to go*) Eight years ago we gave you fifty pounds to retire to a Benevolent Institution. But no! You do go on, Captain. You do go on.

Jackson is now alone.

Jackson: I am eighty three years old. There is wealth to be mined. If you listen. If you listen. If you listen.

Jackson drags the box of rocks with difficulty from Stage 7 to Stage 1. During this, Jade, then Opal, walk passed. When he reaches Stage 1, Emerald appears on Stage 5. Jackson sees him and calls out, climbing down to Stage 3 as he does so, dragging the box of rocks with him.

Jackson: Prime Minister! Prime Minister!

Emerald: *(with feigned pleasure)* Captain Barry! Why Captain Barry!

Emerald (the Prime Minister) and Jackson meets on Stage 4. The box of rocks gets stuck on the step between Stage 3 and Stage 4.

Jackson: Prime Minister. I am desperate. I have nothing to eat. I am a tramp. I wander the streets of Wellington. I have nothing to eat. I have no means of support.

Emerald: Why! Captain Barry!

Jackson: There must be a job. A little job, I know, because I'm old. I'm eighty six. But there must be a little job you have that you could pay me for.

Emerald: Why! Captain Barry!

Jackson: Just a little job?

Emerald: I have a job for you. It's in Thames.

Jackson: In Thames?

Emerald: I'll get you a ticket to travel there.

Jackson: In Thames? A job in Thames?

Emerald: I'll give you a ticket to Thames.

Jackson steps closer to the Prime Minister.

Jackson: *(joking)* But will you give me a ticket back?

Beginning to go.

Emerald: *(with some scorn)* No.

A slow "on-off" light begins, in which the actions of the last four lines are repeated backwards. Normal lighting resumes. It is then played "forward" in an identical way.

Jackson steps closer to the Prime Minister.

Jackson: (joking) But will you give me a ticket back?

Beginning to go.

Emerald: (with some scorn) No.

A slow "on-off" light begins, in which the actions of the last four lines are repeated backwards. Normal lighting resumes. It is then played "forward" in an identical way.

Jackson steps closer to the Prime Minister.

Jackson: (joking) But will you give me a ticket back?

Beginning to go.

Emerald: (with some scorn) No.

Emerald walks off. Jackson remains motionless on Stage 4 with his back to the audience. Soft atonal bell-like music begins. Jackson starts to move slowly to Stage 3, where he begins dragging the box of rocks to Stage 4, and on to Stage 7. The box gets stuck on Stage 4. He gives up. He exits without box. A spot remains on the box of rocks. The music fades. Lights rise on Stage 6. Group One are seated at the bar.

Sapphire: So the old bugger's dead.

Amethyst: Yep. The end of Captain Jackson Barry.

Crystal: What? The first Mayor of Cromwell?

Amethyst: More than that.

Crystal: He was a liar.

Sapphire: I dunno.

Amethyst: I dunno either. Was it true?

Crystal: Course it wasn't.

Amethyst: What?

Crystal: True.

Sapphire: Well, they were good yarns.

Crystal: Good yarns Swanny? They were bloody lies.

Amethyst: Nah! I think they were yarns.

Crystal: You believed him?

Amethyst: They were yarns.

Sapphire: Yeah, yarns.

Crystal: Well it's hard to know if they were true or not.

Amethyst: (*gently*) You don't have to know if they were true or not. They were bloody yarns, and a bloody yarn is a bloody yarn. No one's asking you to believe them. Just enjoy them.

Crystal: I still think they were lies.

Sapphire: Believe what you like.

Lights fade on Stage 6 and moonlight rises on Stage 5 to Coral sitting in the old armchair musing. The sound of the sea is heard. There is the street lamp shining.

Coral: The moon. The moon is... The moon deludes. It makes things seem more beautiful than they are.

The lights fade to almost darkness as the sea sound rises, climaxes and fades. Spot remains on the box of rocks.

Coral: Broken diamond.

Darkness.

THE END