

Tale of the Mill Worker

By

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FADE IN-INT-KITCHEN-DAY

JAKE(25) and Steph(19) sit at the kitchen table

an envelope sits ominously in the center of the table

STEPH

god,i hope its not you

JAKE (SHAKES HIS HEAD)

bloody will be,manufacturing in  
this country is dead,this town's  
dead now.

Jake scoops up the envelope and opens it

dear Mr.Thompson,due to our company relocating its  
manufacturing operations offshore, the position of  
production worker at our facility is hereby terminated.

please find enclosed a redundancy check for \$20000

we wish you and your family well for the future

regards,management

Steph rubs her belly as the baby moves

STEPH

so what now? we haven't got long

Jake stands and walks to the fridge,the door covered in  
bills and bank statements.

Jake rubs his hands through his hair

JAKE

the factory was the towns heart,its  
going to affect everything,the  
pub,the footy club, Jesus Christ.

steph wraps her arms around Jake

STEPH

oh,baby i don't know

JAKE

Doug took a package last  
year,Robbie too,they saw the  
writing on the wall.what was i  
doing?

Jake walks over to the backdoor,then turns and looks at  
steph,tears welling in her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

JAKE  
should have bought Australian made.

EXT-PUB VERANDA-NIGHT

Jake sits on an old wooden bench, staring aimlessly into the night sky, pot of beer in hand.

the door creaks open, out comes Don(63), stubbie half drunk, sits down on the bench next to Jake.

JAKE  
how are ya don

DON  
oh yeah mate, not bad for an old fella

the men sip their drinks

DON  
here you got your notice today mate

Jake nods

DON  
ya breaking my heart mate, you really are (pauses) i spent 30 years working there, gave them my best years i did. its all gone now.

Jake finishes his pot

JAKE  
im just stuck don, like, id go up to the mines, but i cant leave steph, any time now the doctor reckons.

don sits back, folding his arms

DON  
the mines are good if you got no ties, now im not saying its all good, mining drives up the dollar and puts places like this outta business.

DON(CONT)  
they can't compete with the cheap imports.

Jake takes a deep breath, and then exhales

(CONTINUED)

JAKE

i don't want to go to the city,i  
love this town(shakes head) im  
captain of the footy club.all me  
mates are here,everything( cups  
face in hands)

A FEW CARS DRIVE PAST THE PUB

don puts his hand on Jake shoulder

DON

now you listen to me,you got a  
bloody top girl at home,baby on the  
way and you gotta do whats best for  
them. she'll be right mate,trust  
me.

EXT-FACTORY GATE-DAY

Jake exits the turnstiles at the end of his shift

other workers shake hands and say there goodbyes

Jake walks to the car park,only to be greeted by steph and  
old Don.

STEPH

hey how was it

steph kisses Jake

JAKE

yeah, went alright

shakes hands with Don

JAKE(CONT)

how you old fella

Don hands Jake an envelope

DON

though you might be keen on this

Jake tears open the envelope

inside in an application for an electrical apprenticeship

Jake beams and looks back at Don

(CONTINUED)

JAKE  
thanks mate,how did you find this

DON(LAUGH'S)  
told ya she'd be right

the trio wander off together as the skyline of the factory  
fades.

FADE OUT-THE END