Tale of the Mill Worker

By

Aaron Matthews

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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)
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

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CONTINUED:

JAKE
i don’t want to go to the city,i love this town(sha kes 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)
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