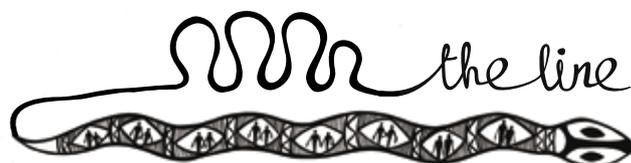


JEALOUSY

A VIDEO DRAMA

EPISODE 2 -
TOM

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL JAMES ROWLAND



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1. SOFA AT A HOUSE PARTY

*We drift through a lounge room full of young people.
They stand in groups talking and laughing. Music pumps.*

A boy called Tom sits on a sofa. He's not having fun, instead he's scowling at a girl on the opposite side of the room. Her name is Sally.

Tom sits with his friend Fred who's bored, there's been too much scowling, not enough dancing.

Another boy called Skunk joins them. He notices Tom giving Sally the stink-eye. He turns to Fred quietly.

SKUNK

Hey what's with Tom? I thought he liked Sally?

FRED

He did. He does. I don't know anymore.

SKUNK

Why's he giving her the stink-eye?

FRED

He's jealous.

SKUNK

Of what? She treats him like Cyril Rioli.

FRED

I know.

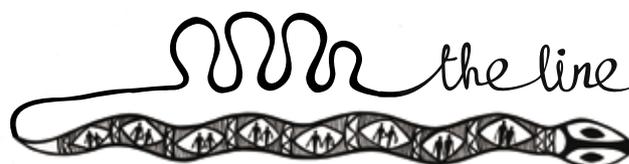
2. FOOTBALL FIELD (FLASH BACK)

A footy team stand on an oval practising their ball skills.

Sally stands with a group of girls at the sideline. She barracks for Tom, shouting out compliments.

SALLY

Woo, nice kick. Get em, get em.



3. CENTRE OF THE OVAL (FLASH BACK)

Sally's voice carries out to the middle of the oval where Tom and Fred are practising.

Tom enjoys Sally's attention. Fred is a bit embarrassed by it.

FRED

Does she know it's only practice?

TOM

She likes me, aye.

FRED

Maybe.

TOM

She's smoking hot hey.

FRED

Yeah, she's hot.

Tom takes the ball and kicks it as hard as he can. From a distance we hear Sally cheer.

SALLY (DISTANT)

Woo-hoo!

Tom smiles and winks at Fred. Unimpressed, Fred shakes his head and runs off to get the ball.

4. SOFA AT A HOUSE PARTY

Fred and Skunk look from Tom to Sally and back

SKUNK (QUIET)

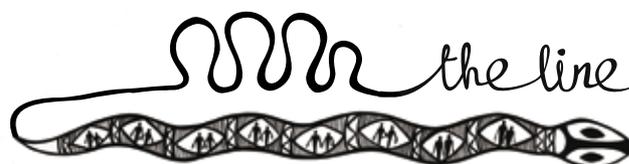
What went wrong?

FRED

He played around with jealousy.

SKUNK

Jealousy? How?



FRED

You don't want to know.

SKUNK (POINTING AT TOM)

Tell me man, I don't want to end up like that.

5. FOOTBALL FIELD (FLASH BACK)

Football practice has finished. Tom and Fred walk out of the change shed with their gear. Ahead is the group of girls who've been watching practice. Sally stands amongst them. Seeing Sally, Fred turns to Tom.

FRED

There's Sally. You should say hi.

Tom stops and turns to Fred.

TOM

Nah man. Watch and learn.

Tom walks towards the girls. He then walks straight past them. Ignoring Sally completely.

Sally is surprised by Tom's snub. She can't hide her embarrassment.

Tom walks on down the path towards the street. Fred has to jog to catch up.

FRED

Why'd you do that?

TOM

When it comes to girls, you have to treat them mean, to keep them keen.

FRED

Aye?

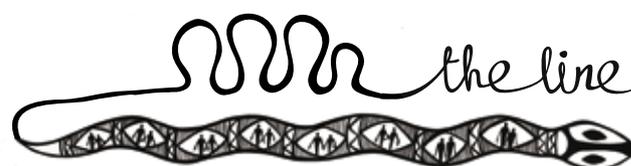
TOM

If I make her jealous, she'll like me even more.

Tom walks on, happy with his cleverness. Fred looks back to Sally.

FRED

That's stupid.



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6. SOFA AT A HOUSE PARTY

Back at the party people move about talking and laughing. Music plays, a few people dance. Tom sits like a sour field-melon on the sofa, scowling at Sally.

Fred and Skunk keep talking in a whisper.

SKUNK

So? He tried to make her jealous. Why's he got the strange face now?

FRED

He played with fire, got burnt. All he can do now is give her the stink-eye.

SKUNK

Does he still like her?

FRED

Who knows.

SKUNK

Yeah but how? Tell me what happened?

FRED

He kept trying to make her jealous.

7. SHOP (FLASH BACK)

Tom, Fred and Skunk sit outside the shop. They're killing time, hanging out. Tom listens to music.

Behind them Sally walks up to the shop. Fred and Skunk turn to wave and smile. Sally waits to see if Tom will look up. He doesn't.

Sally walks into the shop looking sad. After she's gone Tom turns to Fred and Skunk.

TOM

Was she looking?

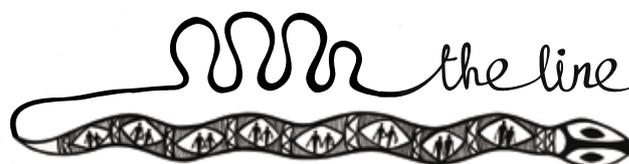
FRED / SKUNK

Yep.

TOM

She's so into me.

Tom smiles like he's being real clever.



8. ROAD (FLASH BACK)

Tom and Skunk walk along a road. Tom handballs the footy to himself. Sally passes them on the other side of the road. Skunk gives a little smile and wave but Tom ignores her.

After Sally has passed, Tom turns to Skunk.

TOM

Was she looking?

Skunks stops and points backwards with his thumb.

SKUNK

Yeah. You want to go say hi?

Tom kicks the ball forward and keeps moving.

TOM

Nah man. Don't be a punk. Treat 'em mean, keep 'em keen.

9. PARK (FLASH BACK)

Tom lazes on the ground under a tree playing with a DS. His dog is beside him. Sally pauses in the background, looks at him, says nothing and moves on.

Talking to his dog Tom says.

TOM

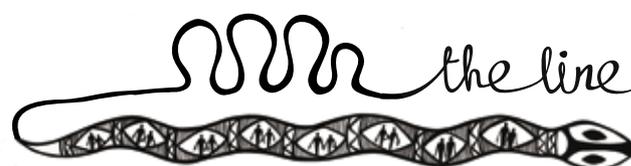
She was looking right? I'm going to ask her out after the game this week. She's smoking.

He licks his finger and makes a 'ssss' sound as he places it on the dog's head (a sound like water hitting something really hot).

10. SOFA AT A HOUSE PARTY

Back at the party people are dancing to music and enjoying themselves, but not Tom. He's still on the sofa scowling at Sally and her friends.

Skunk's getting bored.



11. SKUNK (QUIETLY TO FRED)

This is stupid.

Skunk leans forward and lifts his voice.

SKUNK (CONT'D)

Hey Tom, isn't that the girl you like?

Tom looks at the floor, like he wasn't watching her.

TOM

What girl?

Fred and Skunk look at the floor, then at each other.

SKUNK (WHISPERING)

What's on the floor?

FRED

His self respect.

SKUNK

How did this happen?

Fred looks in Sally's direction.

FRED

Last Saturday at footy, Sally was there with all her friends. We were playing but she wasn't watching.

12. FOOTBALL FIELD FENCE (FLASH BACK)

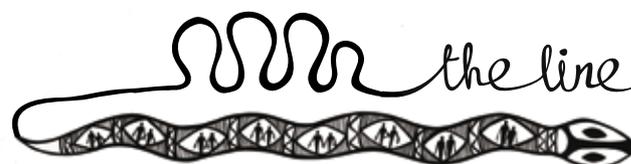
Sally is at the football game with her friends but this time she isn't watching Tom. Instead she's talking to a guy in a fancy shirt (Brendan). As they talk Sally laughs and touches Brendan's arm like he's the most interesting person ever.

FRED (VOICE OVER)

She was with this other dude. He must have been real funny because she was laughing at everything he said.

13. CENTRE OF THE OVAL (FLASH BACK)

Tom stands in the middle of the football field. He can see Sally talking to Brendan and hear her laughter. He's completely distracted by it.



FRED (VOICE OVER)

I think Tom was going to ask her out after the game but instead the jealousy started.

Players start falling back past him as they chase the ball. Fred runs by and shouts.

FRED (CONT'D)

Hey man, you were meant to mark it!

Tom ignores the game as it streams by him. The world goes quiet. All he can hear is Sally's laughter. Tom looks lost.

14. SOFA AT A HOUSE PARTY

Back on the couch a scowl still hangs on Tom's face.

Fred and Skunk look on.

FRED

Then he started doing this.

Tom is lost in his thoughts. He doesn't notice his friends looking at him.

SKUNK

What's he thinking?

FRED

Who cares. He bought this on himself.

You want some pizza?

Fred and Skunk shift off the couch to get some pizza.

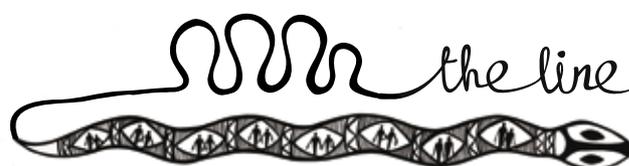
Tom's eyes are a mix of anger and pain. He continues watching Sally like there's no-one else there. The camera tightens on him.

15. HOUSE PARTY

The camera tightens on Sally as she stands talking to her girlfriends. They laugh and joke. Suddenly Sally stops. Something's wrong. Her head pops like a balloon and disappears into a cloud of smoke.

16. SOFA AT A HOUSE PARTY

Tom laughs. He's happy Sally's head has exploded. He's willed it to happen.



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Tom leans back on the sofa smiling, but his smile fades when he realises he's now there with an man and a cop.

Skunk breezes in and does the introductions.

SKUNK

Tom, this is Sally's dad. He wants payback for you making his daughters head explode. Tom looks scared. The man looks stern. They shake hands. Skunk points to the other guy.

SKUNK (CONT'D)

... and this is Sergeant Green. He's here to take you to prison.

Tom looks at Sergeant Green. They don't shake hands.

Skunk leans forward and taps Tom on the shoulder.

SKUNK (CONT'D)

*Tom, you've made Sally's head explode.
It's time to go.*

17. SOFA AT A HOUSE PARTY

Tom is still sitting on the sofa looking scared. Music fills the room. Skunk leans over him tapping his shoulder.

SKUNK

Tom, Tom? You want pizza? It's vego.

Tom looks up and down the sofa. The old man and cop aren't there. He looks across the room and Sally still has her head.

He imagined the whole thing.

Tom takes the pizza and Skunk sits down.

Fred appears through the party with Brendan (Sally's date at the football game). He's wearing the same fancy shirt.

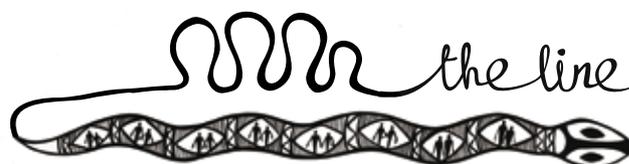
FRED

Hey guys, have you met Brendan. He's Sally's cousin.

Skunk shakes his hand.

SKUNK

Hey bro. Nice shirt.



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BRENDAN

Thanks man. You guys are in the footy team right? I saw you play.

TOM

... with Sally!

FRED

Dude ...

Tom looks angry. He gives Skunk back the pizza, gets up and leaves.

SKUNK

Tom. Where you going?

18. VERANDAH OF THE HOUSE PARTY

Fred, Skunk & Brendan stand on the verandah watching Tom storm-off down the road. Skunk and Brendan eat pizza but Fred is too annoyed. His friend Tom has gone mad and it's time to act.

FRED

This is stupid. Get the remote.

BRENDAN

Like a DVD remote?

FRED

Yeah.

Brendan produces a TV remote (*why's he holding it? - who knows*).

BRENDAN

Will this do?

FRED

Yeah, that. Give it here.

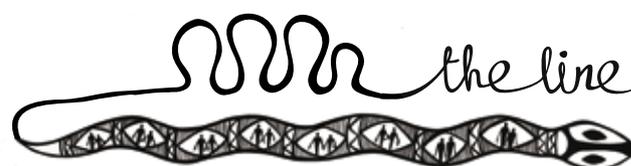
SKUNK

What are you doing?

FRED

I'm rewinding it. This jealousy thing has to stop.

Fred takes the remote and points it up the street to Tom. The lights on the verandah start flickering and a wind blows up. Fred presses rewind.



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FRED (CONT'D)

We're going back to where it went wrong.

Tom stops and like a video rewinding, he starts walking backwards. He walks backwards to the house, up onto the verandah and back in through the door past Fred, Skunk and Brendan.

19. SCENES PLAYED BACKWARDS

The story so far plays backwards. We rewind fast through scenes 17 to 5. Backwards through the party, Sally's head exploding, the park, the road, the shop, the party again and finally back to the part just before Tom tells Fred he's going to ignore Sally to make her jealous.

20. FOOTBALL FIELD (FLASH BACK)

Football practice has finished. Tom, Fred, Skunk and Brendan (still eating pizza) walk out of the change shed with their gear. Ahead is the group of girls who've been watching practice. Sally stands amongst them waiting for Tom.

Tom doesn't seem to notice he's doing this for a second time (or that Brendan and Skunk are now there).

Fred looks ahead and sees Sally.

FRED

Hey, there's that girl. You should say hi.

TOM

Nah man. Watch and learn.

Fred slows down.

FRED

What are you going to do?

TOM

When it comes to girls, you have to treat them mean to keep them keen.

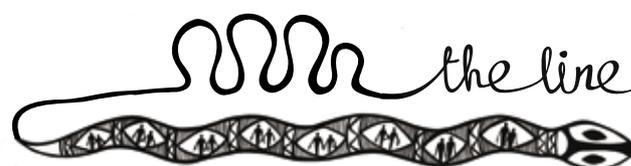
FRED

Aye?

TOM

If I make her jealous, she'll like me even more.

Tom smiles, like he's about to do something funny. Fred stops.



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FRED
But you like her, right?

TOM
Yeah, she's smoking.

FRED
Then don't play with her emotions. If you like her, just say hi. Be nice.

Tom pulls up and looks at Fred. There's an awkward pause, like Fred is betraying him.

After a beat Skunk chimes in.

SKUNK
Yeah Tom, making someone jealous is a futile activity. You risk losing her affection for what? Nothing. Worse, if you get blow-back you might become overwhelmed by your own irrational fears about being replaced and act them out by behaving like a fool at parties.

Skunk fades towards the end of his sentence like he's said too much. He looks at the ground. There's an awkward silence.

The boys all stand in silence for what seems like a long time. Skunk coughs. Brendan drops the football and picks it up.

Finally Tom talks.

TOM
She's sweet-as, aye?

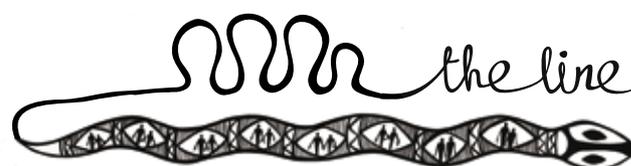
FRED
Sweet-as bro.

TOM
Yeah alright. I'll say hi.

Tom walks over to Sally.

TOM (CONT'D)
Hey.

SALLY
Hey.



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Fred, Skunk and Brendan watch from a distance as Tom and Sally laugh. Fred gives Brendan his remote back.

FRED
Thanks man.

BRENDAN
Too easy.

21. SOFA AT A HOUSE PARTY

Back at the party Fred, Skunk and Brendan sit on the sofa. The party swirls around them. They look across the room.

Opposite Tom and Sally are dancing, smiling and generally having a good time.

BRENDAN
More pizza.

FRED
Yep.

SKUNK
I love pizza.

