

SERIES TWO

THE GAMES

EPISODE

04

IOC MAN

BROADCAST DATE
10/07/00



John and Gina are walking down hallway.

- GINA** John, did you hear about the Bolivian soccer team?
- JOHN** Morning, Gina. No, I've just spent most of the morning in the company of Michael Schumacher's considerably less talented brother, Trevor Schumacher, who has had the shock absorbers taken out of his taxi and is picking up a few bob driving the wrong way up one-way streets all over Sydney at the speed of sound. Tell me about the Bolivian soccer team.
- GINA** *Beaten 2–nil by Poland on Saturday. Got home yesterday. Last night the goalkeeper was shot.*
- JOHN** Shit.
- GINA** Shot, and they've just announced the captain and striker are missing.
- JOHN** Pretty punishing incentive scheme they've got going, haven't they?
- GINA** Yes, they thought this might happen. They'll want a guarantee now if they come here.
- JOHN** A guarantee? But surely these shootings are happening when the people get home afterwards.
- GINA** No, they're not worried that the shootings are going to happen here. They'll want a guarantee that they won't be beaten here.
- JOHN** No, you can't give people a guarantee that they're going to win.
- GINA** They might be happy with a medal.
- JOHN** No, you can't guarantee anything. This is the Olympics. This is the most prestigious sporting event on earth. We cannot tamper with the results – it's sacrosanct. Ask them if they'd settle for a place in the top six.
- GINA** How can you arrange that if you can't fix them up with a medal?
- JOHN** No, I'm not offering to arrange it, I'm just saying, you know, that if they went particularly well they might perhaps finish in the top six, but it's a little bit difficult to imagine them finishing in the top three, isn't it?
- GINA** Why?
- JOHN** Well, because they've just been beaten by Poland and they've lost their three key players. They've got a bit of rebuilding to do.
- GINA** John?
- JOHN** Yes?
- GINA** You know how we've been running the Olympic torch through the countryside?
- JOHN** Oh yes, a celebration of our famous egalitarianism in which the torch is spirited through a number of desolate rural hamlets by the businessmen who destroyed them.
- GINA** It's missing.
- JOHN** The torch is missing?
- GINA** Not really, I'm just trying to get a gauge on how well you're dealing with disasters today.
- JOHN** Disasters? What have you got for us?
- GINA** It seems an IOC delegate from America is about to pay us a visit and we have to look after him.
- JOHN** No, no... surely we have convinced these people we were corrupt? A brilliant display, Gina. I thought we were going to pick up a couple of nominations.

GINA Well, maybe we could put him off. We could tell him that our dollar's really strong against the greenback at the moment.

JOHN I think we've got to be a little bit adult about it. I mean, he's not going to believe that. Surely he reads the papers. Is that the itinerary? Have the IOC sent his itinerary through?

GINA The IOC isn't organising it. He is.

JOHN He is? No, no, he doesn't organise it. The IOC organises the itinerary for all their delegates. This was all agreed. Remember the great blood-letting of 1999?

GINA Yes, I know.

JOHN This is exactly what it was designed to prevent.

GINA I know.

JOHN This is why the guidelines were established in the first place.

GINA I know.

JOHN The IOC organise everything and they simply send us a bill.

GINA Well, he obviously wants us to organise it direct.

JOHN Well, when does he get here?

GINA Eleven o'clock this morning.

JOHN Oh, plenty of time then.

GINA Don't 'oh-plenty-of-time' me.

JOHN Well, why wasn't I told about this earlier?

GINA Well, I just got the fax from Tim myself.

Gina shows John the fax.

JOHN Oh, for goodness sake! Thanks very much, Gina.

GINA Oh no, thank you, John.

JOHN No, thank you. I'll look forward to wasting my day on that. I was anticipating getting a couple of other things done but no, now I'll do this. I don't suppose he asked us to organise any work for him while he's here, has he?

GINA Not that I can see.

JOHN Well, what has he asked us to organise?

GINA Oh, you know. The usual meals, hotels, transportation.

JOHN Nothing else?

GINA Such as what?

JOHN Well, from my reading of the papers, Gina, they normally put the bite on us for something else while they're here. Having their children educated at our expense, for example, is a fairly common one.

GINA Oh, come on, John. That's a bit old hat, the corrupt IOC delegate.

JOHN Old hat? Gina, in the scientific world when they see that something is happening again and again and again, repeatedly, they don't call it old hat. They call it a pattern.

- GINA** He won't be corrupt.
- JOHN** Why? Because he's American?
- GINA** Look, some of these IOC people have had a tough time. Isn't it really the system that's the problem? I mean, it's not really their fault, is it?
- JOHN** Well, we could ask the jury to take that into account. Your Honour, I would like you to bear in mind that my client was taunted as a small boy. Terms such as 'liar', 'cheat' and 'arrogant arsehole' were used openly in the schoolyard.
- As a result he became repressed and emotionally maladjusted. He ascribed an unnatural value to coins and watches. Later on, Your Honour, as an adult, when the opportunity arose for him to generate a huge tax-free dungheap in a number of different currencies and to have all of his inflated expenses paid for by the poor and to be written about in the international press as if he was a great and noble citizen, it was simply too great a temptation for a vain and corrupt impostor to resist.
- GINA** Well?
- JOHN** Give him nothing.
- Gina follows John into his office.*
- GINA** He's from the IOC, John. He's entitled to a certain standard and he's from America.
- JOHN** So he'll want it all with a bloody great big smile too.
- GINA** Americans have certain expectations when it comes to service. You know that...
- JOHN** I reckon we've been colonised by America.
- GINA** Not this again. Please, John.
- JOHN** I reckon we have. We've got American television. We've got American fast food. We've got American clothes. There are kids out in the street, Gina, with American baseball caps turned round backwards and we don't even bloody play baseball. I heard a guy on the radio last night saying that in respect of his right to bear arms he thought he might plead the fifth amendment. These people think they live in America.
- GINA** Well, they're going to be the biggest national group visiting the Games. That's a fact.
- JOHN** Well, a lot of Germans went to France during the early 1940s.
- GINA** They'll be the biggest spenders.
- JOHN** And they shall go to the ball. Of course.
- Bryan enters at this point.*
- BRYAN** Hey Gina, you are way late for that media briefing.
- GINA** What?
- BRYAN** The troops are out there doing a slow hand clap in E major.
- GINA** Oh shit. When is it?
- BRYAN** It's in ten minutes ago. It's unusually well attended this morning too.
- GINA** Why?
- JOHN** Could be the leaked budget forecasts if I'm any judge.

GINA What will they want to know?

JOHN They'll want to know if the Games are going to run at a profit.
Gina looks agitated.

GINA Christ. I suppose it's possible one day somebody might ask me a question about sport.

JOHN Oh, you won't get a question about sport, Gina. No chance of that. Very old hat, sport. No-one will ask you about that. Every Olympics has got sport. The thing that differentiates the Australian Olympics, Gina, is that it's going to be paid for by Australians.

GINA What do I tell them? Are the Olympics going to make a profit? What's the latest? (To Bryan) Well, money man, what do I tell them?
Brief silence from Bryan.

BRYAN Tell them that they're not going to make a loss.

GINA Really?

BRYAN Yes, tell them that.

GINA Tell them that?
Gina visibly brightens.

BRYAN Yes, tell them that.

GINA Well, what have I been waiting for? Let's do it!
As Gina walks away, John turns to Bryan.

JOHN Bryan, that's one of the cruellest things I think I've ever seen.

BRYAN Well, she was going to be here forever.

JOHN That's true.

BRYAN Listen, grab a cup of tea. I want to show you something.

JOHN Right, just coming. Where are we going?
Bryan walks out of John's office. John follows.

BRYAN Up here.
Meanwhile, Gina walks confidently into the press conference, beaming.

GINA Good news!
Bryan puts a video in the VCR in the board room.

BRYAN John, remember that environmental package we promised as part of the Games launch?

JOHN We thought a lot of things would be good ideas at that stage, didn't we Bryan?

BRYAN Yes, we planted over 100,000 trees around the city.

JOHN Did we?

BRYAN Yes, you remember? Minister out there, on his knees with a shovel.

JOHN Ah yes, a lingering memory.

BRYAN Yes, part of our ongoing commitment to the environment.

JOHN Yes, filed in my mind, Bryan, under 'C' for cheap stunt: gratuitous publicity, minister for the use of.

BRYAN Well, all of those trees we planted were uprooted and blown away in last week's hailstorm.

JOHN I take it you're not telling me this in order to demonstrate the awesome power of nature. When are we replanting the trees?

BRYAN We're not. The trees were planted as part of the environment and the environment has chosen to destroy them.

JOHN This is the 'It's God's will' argument, is it?

BRYAN Precisely.

JOHN You don't think God's will extends to replanting the trees?

BRYAN John, hailstorms are part of the environment. You can't pick and choose which parts of the environment you like.

JOHN I have no doubt, Bryan, that the Minister will be using the occasion of his failure to replant the trees in order to reiterate for the broader public his deep and abiding commitment to the environment.

BRYAN I doubt very much if the Minister will be in attendance during that announcement.

JOHN Who will be announcing we're not going to replant the trees, he asked rhetorically.

BRYAN I was under the impression that he was expecting you to do it.

Tim comes to the door.

TIM (To John) The Minister wants you at his office.

JOHN Ah!

TIM Now.

JOHN Did he specify if I was to bring my own sword or will I be falling on one provided by the Minister? You'd better give us another quick look at the video, Bryan.

Bryan walks out to see John, who's waiting at the lift. Gina arrives.

BRYAN John, can you give this to Nicholas? (Hands something to John) And give him my warm regards.

JOHN Yes, I will.

GINA Good news. They loved it. You should have been there. There were jokes. We were laughing. Why didn't you tell me we weren't going to make a loss? I have been worrying myself sick about it.

JOHN (Pushing lift button) As I said, I'm due at the Minister's.

BRYAN I beg your pardon?

GINA It would have made things a little more enjoyable around here, Bryan, if you told me we weren't going to make a loss.

BRYAN Gina, I didn't say we weren't going to make a loss.

JOHN God, I'm late.

GINA Yes, you did.

BRYAN No, I didn't say we weren't going to make a loss. I said tell them we weren't going to make a loss.

JOHN (Pushing lift button repeatedly, anxious to be gone) Have I got everything?

GINA Are we going to make a loss, Bryan?

JOHN Pen, briefcase, disappearing cream.

BRYAN I'm afraid so.

GINA Then I've just told them a lie.

BRYAN Well, Gina, if you're worried about telling lies then maybe you should be a bit more careful about what you say.

Lift doors finally open.

JOHN That's me then.

GINA John! And I've got to pick up this bloody American from the airport.

JOHN Give this American the minimum comforts required for prisoners under the Geneva Convention, Gina, and not a breadcrumb more. He shall not have limousines, he shall be given taxi vouchers. He shall not have the bridal suite, he shall be given a standard Sydney hotel room and not a cockroach more than he's entitled to. Give him three square meals a day and under no circumstances whatever is he to be offered tickets to anything.

GINA Are you finished?

JOHN And if he's got any bloody time, he might like to rip himself apart from his carpetbag steak and come in here and give us a bit of a hand with the filing.

He might as well be of some bloody use.

A few minutes later John is in his car.

JOHN It's the fact that they think they can fool us with all this 'I am a selfless servant of sport' crap that really infuriates me. They don't fool me, these people.

He puts the car into gear and reverses into the back wall.

JOHN Now why would you put a wall in there?

John is sitting downstairs at the Minister's office. The Minister's receptionist approaches him.

MINISTER'S RECEPTIONIST The Minister will see you now.

JOHN The Minister? I normally see Nicholas.

MINISTER'S RECEPTIONIST The Minister.

JOHN The Minister? Thank you. (To camera as he climbs the stairs) Well, this will be a moment of excitement. I've never actually met the Minister before. I have only ever seen him on television. Normally just his smile and maybe a tiny bit of his lawyer.

By now John is at the top of the stairs. We see Nicholas, who is talking to someone through a door. We cannot see who Nicholas is talking to.

NICHOLAS Yes, Minister, I'll tell him. Yes, Minister. (To John) Sorry, the Minister's been called away.

JOHN Oh well. It was in the stars, Nicholas. It wouldn't feel quite the same.

They move to the board room.

NICHOLAS Sit yourself down.

JOHN Thank you.

NICHOLAS Good news.

JOHN We're going to replant all the trees?

NICHOLAS Good on you. Don't get much time in the garden myself. Look, John, you have for some time been telling us that we've been ignoring the rest of the country in the staging of these Games.

JOHN What I actually said, Nicholas, was that it is ridiculous for the Games to be held in Sydney and to pretend somehow that Australia is an unrelated, autonomous entity.

NICHOLAS Well, the Minister thinks you're right.

JOHN He hasn't to date.

NICHOLAS Well, he does now.

JOHN In fact, his last recorded statement on this issue, Nicholas, was that the things were awarded to Sydney and the rest of the joint can go and root its boot.

NICHOLAS He's changed his mind.

JOHN He's changed his what? Actually, there was a second tier to his beautifully crafted argument, Nicholas, and that was that as far as the rest of the world is concerned, Sydney is Australia.

NICHOLAS He sees a lot of merit in your suggestion. In fact, as of next Monday our entire effort will be showcased as Australia's Games. Tea-towels, hats, cups, mugs. All the merchandise.

JOHN Shagger the Gumnut Kangaroo?

NICHOLAS Shagger is now Australia's soft toy, John. And we'll be putting the other states back in the giant floral map at the Opening Ceremony.

JOHN They weren't in it?

NICHOLAS They are now.

JOHN That's big of you.

NICHOLAS Thank you.

JOHN I want our office to get some of the credit for this.

NICHOLAS The Minister insists.

JOHN I must say, this is a really pleasant change.

NICHOLAS Oh, you know, credit where credit's due. Tea?

JOHN Thank you, yes.

A pleased John is making a phone call from the back of his taxi.

JOHN G'day, Tim. Is Bryan there? Bryan? Good news.

John walks into the Games office and over to the photocopier, which someone is trying to fix.

JOHN I bet that thing says it's out of toner, does it?

MAN AT PHOTOCOPIER (Reads) 'Out of toner'.

JOHN Yes, what did we do before we got photocopying machines?

MAN AT PHOTOCOPIER Spent a fair amount of time working out a possible use for toner, I would think.

JOHN Yes, it won't actually be the toner. It says it's out of toner but that thing's got more toner in it than you could shake a stick at.

MAN AT PHOTOCOPIER No, it's an electrical fault. Display says you're out of toner, but you're not. Simple.

JOHN Yes, obviously.

MAN AT PHOTOCOPIER I'm surprised no-one's worked it out around here.

JOHN Well, we have had one of your colleagues in here a couple of times a week for the last eighteen months. Mind you, he's an Australian tradesman.

Gina walks past.

GINA I see you two have met.

JOHN Gina, this thing is fixed. What are we paying that other clown by the hour?

GINA That other clown is Bryan's brother-in-law.

JOHN Well, why haven't we seen this guy before?

GINA Well, he's been a bit busy, John...

JOHN I'm not surprised, Gina. He's a dead-set genius.

GINA ...helping run the International Olympic movement. Bill Ten Eyck, North American IOC, John Clarke.

John holds out his hand.

JOHN Speaks to fill embarrassing silence.

BILL Nice to meet you, John.

JOHN Good to know, Bill, that the IOC is well off for fully functioning photocopying machines. Photocopying whatever it is you photocopy up there. What is it? The location of stolen bullion, is it? Nazi escape routes? Something like that?

GINA John!

BILL He's funny.

GINA Not that we've ever noticed. (To John) We're going.

JOHN Off on some giddy round of freebies today, are you, Gina?

GINA No, John. Bill actually wants to have a look at one of our schools.

JOHN Schools, Bill? My word, you're not mucking about, are you?

BILL Well, I'm only here for a couple of days.

JOHN That's right. No time to waste. Thinking of popping the children into one of our better public schools, are you?

BILL Well, I'd love to, obviously.

JOHN Can be pretty expensive, you know. Even with our peso.

BILL I thought education was free here in Australia.

JOHN Yes, I bet you did, Bill.

GINA Is that the lift?

BILL It isn't free?

JOHN Well, no, not where you'd want to be sending young...

BILL Bill Junior.

JOHN Yes, and his sister. Do you bother naming the female children?

GINA John!

- BILL** Well, you get what you pay for, as they say in my country. But, still, I don't think I can get the kids to move.
- GINA** Ah, they wouldn't move.
- JOHN** No, not without some financial incentive, no doubt.
- BILL** Oh, no, no, no. A bunch of stay-at-homes, the lot of them. I couldn't make them move across the street if I tried. They love where they are. I'd love to move, but not for a million dollars.
- JOHN** Two million dollars perhaps, Bill?
- BILL** (Laughs) Oh, no, no. I was just hoping that Gina would take me around and show me some of the sporting programs that you have running in your schools. I'm on my kids' school council and I was hoping to blueprint one of those programs so that it can work for us on a local level.
- GINA** What we would call a noble sentiment, wouldn't we, John? Alrighty, we're off. We're having a welcome drink for Bill at the Morrison tonight. It would be nice if you came.
- JOHN** Yes, got a bit on, Gina, you know. Will try.
- GINA** Could you just hold the lift for me? Thanks, Bill. I just need to ask John to tell Bryan that it's nine o'clock at the Morrison... (To John now that Bill is out of earshot) You can pick your act up, Mister. This guy happens to be a gentleman.
- JOHN** (Still skeptical) Is he really?
- GINA** Which happens to be a nice change from the crap they usually send us, so treat him right.
Gina leaves. The phone rings at a near-by desk. John picks up.
- JOHN** Hello, Dial-A-Victim. John speaking.
Later Bill, Bryan and Gina are at the bar having drinks.
- BILL** I'm king of the world!
- BRYAN** So you got him on top of the Opera House?
- GINA** You should have seen him. It was spectacular. Have a look at this. (Shows Bryan some photos)
- BILL** Oh, Bondi, the Harbour Bridge.
- BRYAN** Yes, it's a beautiful bridge, Bill.
- BILL** Yes, it's beautiful from the air.
- BRYAN** From the air?
- BILL** Yes, Gina hired us a couple of Tiger Moths.
- BRYAN** Just a couple, Gina?
- GINA** He's only here once.
- BILL** Hey, what's on for tomorrow? Are you going to get that seaplane to go up the coast to that restaurant?
- BRYAN** Seaplane? To what restaurant? Le Shirt Off Back? You have to take your title deeds up there to prove you can afford the bread roll.
- GINA** (Looks slightly sheepish) Let's not worry John with that one, hey, Bryan?
- BRYAN** Oh, dear. (Makes to head for the bar) OK, same again?
- GINA** Yes, thanks.

BILL No, no, no, no, no, this one's on me.
He starts to draw his wallet.

GINA Bryan, he's going for his wallet. Take a photo. An IOC man with cash. Put it away, Bill. This Australia. I'll get them.
Gina heads for the bar.

BRYAN This is on us, Bill.

BILL Ah, you're looking happy, Bryan.

BRYAN Yes, just had a bit of a win with the marketing.

BILL Ah?

BRYAN I've just bought 100,000 toy bears from a mob in Moscow. Leftovers from the 1980 Olympics. They've been sitting in a warehouse in Gorky for twenty years. I bought them for a cent each and I'll sell them at \$49.99. Market them as Shagger the Gumnut Kangaroo

BILL Won't people notice?

BRYAN I don't think so. Who's going to know what Shagger the Gumnut Kangaroo looks like?

BILL What do they look like?

BRYAN At the moment?

BILL Yes.

BRYAN Very much like Misha the Russian bear.

BILL Do you think it will work?

BRYAN Well, we've got to do something. Our sponsorship has completely dried up.

BILL Don't worry, Bryan. It will all come together. It always does.
After hours at the Games office. Nicholas is in John's office.

NICHOLAS And here's that brief for the press conference for the launch of Australia's Games tomorrow. You've got a rehearsal first thing in the morning.

JOHN Rehearsal?

NICHOLAS The Channel Seven commentary team are going to be there dressed up as Shagger, Australia's Gumnut Kangaroo.

JOHN All of them?

NICHOLAS I think so.

JOHN Wilko?

NICHOLAS Wilko's its arse, I think.

JOHN The Minister going to be there?

NICHOLAS No, no, no. He's very keen for you to get the credit on this one. You should be pleased.

JOHN (Skeptically) Yes, I should be pleased.
John finally makes it to the bar. The camera follows John as he walks to a table where Gina, Bill and Bryan are.

BILL Did you sleep in?

JOHN I apologise for my lateness, Bill. I realise it's punishable by lethal injection in your country. I did have to see the secretary to the Minister, though, about this press conference tomorrow morning.

BRYAN Are you fronting it?

JOHN The Minister insists.

BILL Beer, mate?

JOHN One perishingly cold, thanks.

Bill doesn't move.

JOHN Yes, that's the other thing, of course. I could get it myself.

GINA (Explaining to Bill the latest move) They're relaunching the Games tomorrow as Australia's Olympics involving the whole of Australia, not just Sydney.

BILL Ah.

GINA Probably hasn't come through to your organisation yet. Bit of a coup for John, actually. He's been arguing for it for ages.

BILL It looks like they're setting up all of Australia to pay for it.

JOHN (Just returning to the table) I beg your pardon?

GINA There are some cricket photos up the back, Bill.

BILL I mean, why would they do it?

BRYAN What do you mean?

BILL What's in it for them? I've seen it all before. I mean, the host-city is always very happy for the Olympics to be about them until they realise it's going to be a financial disaster and then they try to make the Olympics about the entire country so the entire country can help pay for it.

JOHN Listen, Chad, the responsibility for putting on the Games is the state government's. There's a little thing here called the federal constitution and it provides that the state governments can't actually tax the other states.

BILL I see.

JOHN Fundamental constitutional objections to your otherwise very brilliant hypothesis, Bill. The right to tax the whole country rests with the central government. Run, of course, by the Prime Minister.

BILL Where's he from?

JOHN Who?

BILL The Prime Minister.

JOHN He's in Canberra.

BILL No, I mean, where's he from?

JOHN It doesn't matter where he's from, Bill. You see, his job is to represent all the electorates right across the whole country. In fact, this is a point the current Prime Minister's very fond of making. I'm sure I will be borne out here. He is governing for all Australians.

Bryan and Gina agree.

BILL Yes, but say the Prime Minister's from Sydney, just for the sake of the argument.

GINA Yes.

JOHN It doesn't matter where the Prime Minister is from, Bill.

- BILL** Yes, but for the sake of argument.
- JOHN** Well, for the sake of argument.
- GINA** Just let him make his point, John.
- JOHN** Hypothetically.
- BILL** Hypothetically.
- JOHN** If.
- BILL** If the Prime Minister was from Sydney, he'd be under enormous cultural pressure to – you know – get people from his home town out of whatever financial hole they've dug themselves into.
- GINA** Well, how would that sort of pressure be brought?
- BILL** Well, in my country, it usually starts with some moron on talkback radio bleating on and on about how the Prime Minister let everybody down that he grew up with and he left home to get to the top and has now turned his back on everyone who brought him there in the first place. Have you got any morons on talkback radio?
- John, Bryan and Gina are frozen in time.*
- GINA** Morons?
- JOHN** On talkback radio? Actually, even if the Prime Minister wanted to do that, the revenue-raising mechanisms aren't in place.
- GINA** Yes, it's true.
- BILL** Well, that would make it difficult.
- JOHN** Difficult? Yes, it would make it impossible, Bill. That's the word you're searching for.
- BILL** Unless you had the power to invoke a one-off charge to pay for the Olympics.
- JOHN** What sort of one-off charge? What do you mean by that?
- BILL** I mean, say if the Federal Government had the power to invoke a one-off charge in special circumstances.
- Silence makes a comeback.*
- JOHN** What sort of one-off charge?
- BILL** Well, like a levy.
- BRYAN** A levy?
- GINA** A levy?
- BILL** Yes. Do you have federal levies in special circumstances?
- GINA** Like to pay for a health insurance system?
- BRYAN** Or a peacekeeping force?
- GINA** In Timor?
- JOHN** Hypothetically, hypothetically.
- BILL** Hypothetically. It'd be good if one or two levies were in place already to justify it. I mean, it'd be just another levy. But if the Prime Minister wasn't from Sydney and the Federal Government didn't have the power to invoke a levy, and you didn't have one or two of those levies already in place and you didn't have morons on talkback radio, then, you know, I'd probably be wrong.

Silence looks all-over a winner at this stage.

JOHN Yes, I think Gina had some cricket photos she wanted you to look at.

GINA I sure do.

BILL Cricket? I love cricket.

GINA Me too.

One week later. John is at his desk. He shouts.

JOHN Gina! Gina!

Bryan walks into John's office and sits down.

JOHN You're looking well, Gina.

BRYAN Yes, I've done something with my hair.

JOHN I haven't seen Gina for about a week. Where is she?

BRYAN Oh, she's stuck to that American guy.

JOHN Yes, where? Where is she?

BRYAN She's taking him to the airport. He's off home.

JOHN Oh well, all good things must come to an end, I suppose.

BRYAN Yes. Did you hear her good news? Bill's given her the use of his house in Bermuda for a month. Fantastic, free of charge. Generous guy, Bill, isn't he?

JOHN Not that I ever saw, Bryan, no.

BRYAN Hey listen John, I'm releasing this today. What do you think? 'National committees of all competing nations have been warned that any trade in illicit tickets will be referred to Australian police authorities for possible prosecution.' What do you reckon – a bit strong?

JOHN Well, 'trade in illicit tickets'... we'd want to be careful we don't end up having to arrest ourselves.

Tim is at John's office door.

TIM There's a detective here to see you.

Bryan and John exchange glances.

BRYAN Is it possible?

TIM Detective Conroy.

Detective enters.

DETECTIVE Mr Clarke?

JOHN Guilty. John.

DETECTIVE Detective Jane Conroy.

JOHN Nice to see you.

Bryan backs towards the door and departs.

JOHN Detective, have you met my colleague, Mr Dawe? Mr Pontius Dawe? Now, how can I help?

DETECTIVE Now, Mr Bill Ten Eyck would be a familiar name to your ears, I imagine.

JOHN It does ring a bell, yes.

DETECTIVE Well, Mr Clarke, I've got some very bad news for you.

JOHN Oh dear.

Later Gina enters John's office. Detective Jane Conroy is still there, but Gina doesn't see her at first.

GINA Well, Bill's safely off and I, for one, am very, very sad to see him go.

JOHN Yes, a commonly held view as it happens, Gina. For example, Detective Conroy here of the Fraud Squad is also a little dewy-eyed at Bill's tragic departure.

Given that she and most of the international police force have been looking for Bill for quite some time.

GINA Bill?

DETECTIVE Well, Mr Ten Eyck is well known to us. He's been masquerading as an IOC official for some time.

JOHN Sit down, Gina.

GINA Oh my God.

DETECTIVE I was just telling Mr Clarke that in certain cities in the world, local committees are invariably keen to entertain him, sometimes quite lavishly.

And you know, the funny thing is, very few of them in their enthusiasm ever take the trouble of contacting the IOC to check that he is actually with them.

GINA Is that right?

Gina is looking a little wan at this stage.

DETECTIVE Hmm. Yes, he's been living high on the hog at government expense in the most fun spots of the world for the best part of a decade.

GINA Oh, I feel sick.

DETECTIVE He especially loves flying.

GINA (Groans)

JOHN Well, he got none of that here. We have very rigorous guidelines. That couldn't possibly have happened. Gina, Detective Conroy was just asking whether we could provide some estimate on what your charming friend Bill would have cost us during his brief stay.

DETECTIVE Just an estimate for the moment will be fine.

GINA Oh, I think about 25,000 would probably cover it.

JOHN No, in our currency, Gina.

GINA Twenty-five thousand.

JOHN Twenty-five thousand what?

GINA Dollars.

JOHN Twenty-five thousand dollars?

GINA At this stage.

JOHN What? The whole bill not in yet?

GINA One or two items outstanding, probably.

JOHN Gina, he was only here for a week!

GINA The seaplane up the coast.

JOHN The what up the where?

GINA The Tiger Moth.

JOHN No, good grief. No, I don't think she's quite finished yet.

GINA The F18 fly-past.

JOHN You're running an air-show are you, Gina? Is there any benefit in this for us? Did you shift any tickets?

GINA He was a really infectious guy.

DETECTIVE Yes, everyone says that.

JOHN Elton John doesn't spend twenty-five grand a week, Gina!

DETECTIVE If it's any consolation, Mr Clarke, he's got other cities for a lot more.

GINA I don't suppose he actually has a house in Bermuda.

DETECTIVE Bermuda this time, was it?

GINA So the luxury yacht scenario's looking pretty unlikely? Fat prick.

Bryan enters in great excitement.

BRYAN Good news. Listen to this. 'A leaked cabinet document has revealed that the state government's plan to rebadge the Olympics as "Australia's Olympics" has formed part of a hitherto secret deal with the Prime Minister's office to have any Games losses funded by the Federal Government.' Old Bill. Jesus, that boy was on the money, wasn't he?

He notes the lack of enthusiasm from John and Gina.

BRYAN What?

GINA If Bill wasn't really with the IOC how could he have possibly known that was the plan?

JOHN I think Bill could probably spot a real con when he saw one, don't you?