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# Crossing Over

By John Reidy

FIRST DRAFT  
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1. INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD - SYDNEY AUSTRALIA - DAY

Saturday night. Two psychiatric patients watch 'CROSSING OVER' with popular medium JOHN ANDREWS. JOSEPH LIVINGSTONE has schizophrenic behaviors, amongst other disorders. Sitting next to him is another paranoid schizophrenic named PATRICK. There are numerous other patients watching television also, some rocking back and forth. Highlight Psychiatric state of those present. CHRISTIAN POWERS is also sitting there without any apparent disability.

JOHN

(on the television)  
I'm picking up a 'C' or a 'K' word.  
do you have someone in the family,  
recently passed on, starting with a  
'C' or a 'K' - it's a 'khe' sound?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

(she starts sobbing)  
Yes, Karen, my daughter Karen.  
it's my daughter Karen.

JOHN

Yes it is Karen, she's here today.  
(audience member breaks down in tears).

She says not to be upset, she is in  
a better place. But I'm hearing an  
'N' word, a short word.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Nan, her Nanna passed recently also.

JOHN

Is that what Karen called your mother?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Yes, she called her Nan.  
(she continues to cry).

JOHN

Karen is saying she's with her Nan  
now, and wants you to know that she  
is sorry about the mess or the mistake.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

The mess, she died when she was cleaning up. It's so like my Mum to worry about that.

The audience applauds JOHN. JOSEPH laughs aloud as he watches the television. This disturbs some of the other patients - they look at him with annoyance.

JOSEPH  
It's all a con!

RANDOM PATIENT  
Shut up!

PATRICK  
He's right, they're out to get us!

RANDOM PATIENT  
Shut up!

JOSEPH  
It's all a con. John Andrews can't speak to the dead, I can, I hear dead people. Ask Christian here, he'll tell you.

The shot pans to CHRISTIAN sitting nearby. JOSEPH points to CHRISTIAN again as if to encourage the others to ask him. The shot turns to the view from the other patients. PATRICK looks in an attempt to support his conspiracy theory, but back tracks when there is no CHRISTIAN present (CHRISTIAN is a ghost who can only be seen by JOSEPH).

## **2. INT. STUDIO - SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - NIGHT**

Saturday night. 'Crossing Over' studio. JOHN ANDREWS discusses the next show with two assistants, PETER and MARY. As the conversation begins CHRISTIAN enters the room.

PETER  
Okay, we've got a couple of really good plants for the audience this week.

JOHN  
Look if you're getting an actor

that's going to have some follow up commercials, make sure they are done up and unrecognizable. It nearly blew up in our faces last time.

PETER

Yes, yes, sorry, it won't happen again.

JOHN

It better not. How did next week's audience investigation go?

MARY

Great, we have a lot of leads to run with. There is a Kelly Whitley in row 4, seat 6 who lost her husband recently. She carries a locket with his photo in it religiously. She is a believer.

MARY pauses then looks through her notes. The shot is then interrupted by CHRISTIAN who suddenly appears in the scene. He is yelling at JOHN ANDREWS.

CHRISTIAN

Go to the Caritas Psychiatric ward. 'khe', 'khe' (he yells as loud as he can). It's a 'K' word - Caritas.

JOHN ANDREWS is oblivious to the yelling, as are all the others in the room.

CHRISTIAN

For God's sake, you are meant to be a medium. 'khe', 'khe' Caritas. (he yells again).

MARY

In row 8, seat 12 we have a Sharon Parker. She just lost a child at birth. The baby was named Chloe on the birth certificate, and there is some post natal depression going on. We could use the positive affirmation line here - Betty, her

mother has also passed.

JOHN

Yeah, that one's easy. Anything else?

CHRISTIAN is now seated in the background, as if he has given up trying to reach the medium. He pops up on his seat with Mary's next comment.

MARY

Here's a touchy one. We have a Steve Carmichael in row 5, seat 12. He lost a son recently in suspicious circumstances. Now wait for this, he had some raving psycho claim to know where his body is. The guy is a Joseph Livingstone and is currently in Caritas Psych Ward.

CHRISTIAN is up and jumping around in a manic state. He is yelling positive affirmations in an attempt to draw attention to this. There is no response again.

JOHN

You know what I think about these ones. Is it a murder? I can't have raving lunatics on the show screaming blue murder, when the Police couldn't find the body.

MARY

What if it was something as simple as Police inaction. And this Psycho actually knows where the body is. It could make us look really good.

JOHN

(pauses) Okay, go and see if you can find anything out. But be very careful, I'm not going to get into the whole murder medium thing. I want something open and closed.

### 3. INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD - SYDNEY AUSTRALIA - DAY

MARY gets visitor access to Caritas Psychiatric Ward. She is escorted to an interview room - under the guise of being a relative of JOSEPH LIVINGSTONE. JOSEPH is brought into the room by a member of the staff named THEO - he is a large Afro-American male.

CHRISTIAN enters the room with JOSEPH. As he enters SUZY, THEO'S deceased wife, also Afro-American, enters yelling at CHRISTIAN in an attempt to speak to THEO. Standing in the corner of the room is HEATHER, MARY'S deceased sister. She has the appearance of a ghost who has given up trying to reach her sister, after years of trying. She is sparked to attention by the desperation from deceased SUZY yelling at CHRISTIAN. The scenes to follow are a mix of views. MARY only sees JOSEPH. JOSEPH sees Mary and CHRISTIAN. CHRISTIAN and the other spirits see everyone.

SUZY

(To Christian) Just get him to  
talk to Theo. Quickly before...

SUZY holds her hand out in despair as THEO leaves the room.

MARY

Hi, Joseph, my name is Mary and  
I would like to talk to you  
about a Mark Carmichael.

HEATHER

(To Christian responding to the  
actions of Suzy) Can you communicate,  
can you reach this guy?

CHRISTIAN

(Brushes Heathers comments away)  
Tell her John Andrews is a con  
man, tell her he's a con.

JOSEPH

Who are you? I've already talked  
to the Police about Mark.

CHRISTIAN

Tell her that John Andrews is  
a con man.

MARY

But the Police thought you were crazy, I don't think you're crazy.

HEATHER

This is my sister, can you communicate through this guy or not?

JOSEPH

(As if talking to someone who isn't there). She's not a cop... just leave me alone.

There is a pause as MARY looks at JOSEPH as if perhaps he is crazy. JOSEPH is talking to another personality in his head, and it isn't CHRISTIAN. He is hearing another voice in his head (not present). HEATHER looks around to determine who JOSEPH is talking too. CHRISTIAN looks also - discards it as if it happens regularly. SUZY looks to HEATHER as if she is wasting her time trying to talk to CHRISTIAN.

JOSEPH

Just leave me alone!

HEATHER

(To Suzy) Who is he talking to?

SUZY

CHRISTIAN here is the medium. He can communicate with some of the receptive living. We have no idea who else this guy is communicating with. We think our living friend here might actually be a little bit loopy?

HEATHER

Is this true, can you reach this guy? This is my sister you have to help me.

CHRISTIAN

(to Heather) Shut up!

Joseph  
(this time to CHRISTIAN)  
No, you just shut up.

MARY pauses nervously. She only see's JOSEPH in the room.

MARY  
Umm, can I ask who you are  
talking too?

JOSEPH  
They want me to tell you that  
John Andrews is a con man.

CHRISTIAN  
And so is she.

JOSEPH  
And so are you.

MARY  
(pauses) What are you talking  
about?

CHRISTIAN  
She works for John Andrews. She  
helps deceive.

HEATHER  
Leave her alone, it's just a  
job. She doesn't hurt anyone.

JOSEPH  
So that's it. You work for the  
con man of the century, John  
Andrews.

MARY  
What do you mean?

JOSEPH  
You don't know anything about  
the dead do you? We aren't  
mediums, certain dead people  
are the mediums. And they  
communicate with those who

have the ability to listen.

MARY sits up a little more at ease. She has a confidence in her manner. She understands this con, and how it is played. She feels more comfortable in the presence of a con man as opposed to a lunatic.

MARY

and you can communicate with the dead?

JOSEPH

No, you're not listening, one of them communicates with me. And you do nothing but deceive the world.

MARY

and what does this contact say to you about Mark Carmichael?

JOSEPH

He was murdered.

MARY

(pauses) and did you have anything to do with this murder.

JOSEPH

(Again talking to a voice that isn't present) Shut up, she's not a cop. Just shut up.

HEATHER

Let me talk to my sister for a while. Tell her Heather is here.

CHRISTIAN

Heather, just shut up! Now Joseph, you need to get rid of the others in your head. You need to communicate with me. I can get you out of here.

JOSEPH

(pauses) You can get me out?

Who's Heather?

MARY

(pauses) What do you mean Heather?

JOSEPH

(to Mary) Look just shut up!  
(to Christian) who's Heather and  
how can I get out?

CHRISTIAN

This lady will help you get out  
if you repeat what I say.

JOSEPH

(to Mary) Is this true, can you  
get me out of here?

MARY

Well, I'm .....

JOSEPH

(as if repeating Christian)  
Kelly Whitley is in row 4,  
seat 6. She lost her husband  
and carries a locket with  
his photo in it. She is a  
believer.

In row 8, seat 12 is a Sharon  
Parker. She just lost a child at  
birth. The name Chloe is on  
the birth certificate, she is  
suffering from post natal  
depression.

You want to know about Mark  
Carmichael because you think  
I murdered him.

MARY was frozen, unsure of what to do. She looks around  
and pauses again.

MARY

How do you know these things?

JOSEPH

(to other voice) Just shut up,  
She can get me out of here.  
(to Mary) John Andrews is a con  
man, my friend is the real medium.

MARY

Now this isn't funny. I know  
how this works, and this isn't  
funny at all.

HEATHER

Tell her HEATHER is here. Its  
why she got into this business  
in the first place. Tell her  
'Hetty' is here.

CHRISTIAN

(gives Heather an annoying look)  
Okay, tell her Hetty is here,  
it's why she got into the  
business in the first place.

JOSEPH

Hetty is here, she is the reason  
you got into this business in  
the first place.

MARY

(a tear streams down her face)  
Look, this isn't very funny,  
I don't know where you get off  
doing this shit, but it's down  
right rude. (she gets up to  
leave)

HEATHER

(to Mary) What are you doing.  
You've been trying to contact  
me for years.

CHRISTIAN

We can take you to the body,  
you just have to get us out  
of here.

MARY

I'm sorry, but this is cruel.  
(she leaves in tears)

THEO hears the commotion and enters the room. SUZY jumps back to life and begins squealing at CHRISTIAN again.

SUZY  
This is Theo. Tell him Suzy  
is here. Let me talk to him.

CHRISTIAN  
Suzy is here too. The big fellow's  
wife.

JOSEPH  
(to Theo) Suzy is here too, your  
wife.

THEO  
Yeah, that's great, it's time to  
go now.

SUSAN  
(to Theo) What do you mean, 'that's  
great'. You have just been  
told your dead wife's here, and  
that's the response I get.  
What do I have to do to get  
your big black arse to listen  
to some common sense. I'll  
give you.. and what's with  
that hussy you're screwen!!

SUSAN continues to yell at THEO, who just nods at JOSEPH'S obvious mental illness. MARY leaves in a distressed state. HEATHER yells at CHRISTIAN as MARY leaves. CHRISTIAN continues to yell at JOSEPH.

JOSEPH  
Just shut up and leave me alone!

#### **4. INT. STUDIO - SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - NIGHT**

JOHN ANDREWS is met by MARY at the studio. Mary is in a distressed state.

JOHN

Hi Mary, how did the inquiry go?

MARY

I don't know. Well, it just, wasn't right. I don't know how he did what he did, but I don't want anything to do with this business anymore. Here is my resignation.

JOHN

What do you mean? I don't understand.

MARY

Look this guy, pulled the same con on me. He was supposedly talking to my dead sister. I'm sorry but it wasn't fun being on the receiving end.

JOHN

You shouldn't be distressed by this, you know how it works. He probably just had a contact, some way of getting your sister's name.

MARY

He knew her nickname actually, and our next week's clients - almost verbatim from what we said at our last meeting. This info could only have come from you or Peter.

JOHN

We didn't do anything, I'm sure it is just a coincidence.

MARY

And I wish you all the best with your coincidences. Don't worry, your business is safe with me, but I don't want to be a part of it anymore.

JOHN ANDREWS is a little astounded as MARY leaves - her resignation is left on his desk. HEATHER walks out the door behind her.

**5. INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD - SYDNEY AUSTRALIA - DAY**

JOHN ANDREWS is escorted to the interview room at the Caritas Psychiatric Ward. JOSEPH is brought into the room, again By THEO.

CHRISTIAN enters again with JOSEPH and smiles when he sees JOHN ANDREWS - JOSEPH smiles also. Standing behind JOHN ANDREWS is a crowd of deceased people. They smile when they see CHRISTIAN and JOSEPH. SUZY also enters again with THEO, but this time isn't harassing CHRISTIAN. SUZY follows THEO out the door.

SUZY

Don't you worry about us ghosts anymore. No I'm just gonna follow your big black ass around and put a hex, or whatever I can, on you and that black hussy. Do you hear me?

After an exchange of smiles, like the calm before the storm, there is a flurry of yelling and abusing as the crowd behind JOHN ANDREWS begin yelling at CHRISTIAN. Comments along the line of 'Tell him what he did' 'I didn't say that the bitch that killed me should be content that I'm in a better place' - a lot of aggressive comments about incorrect reading etc. CHRISTIAN finally yells back stopping their accusations.

CHRISTIAN

There are also a lot of angry dead people yelling behind him, yelling at him right now.

JOSEPH

Mark's body is buried in a shallow grave off Noonan Drive. (pauses)

JOHN

So, you're the one who scared my friend Mary!

JOSEPH

(pause) 'D' 'Der' I hear the  
'D' word. Ahh, 'dead people'  
You should be aware that  
there are a lot of dead people  
behind you right now, angry about  
what you have done and said  
about them.

JOHN

(pauses and smiles) Is that right.  
You should be aware that your  
mother is behind you right  
now, and she is angry about  
what you are doing?

JOSEPH

(to Christian - shocked as if he  
was telling the truth and wasn't  
aware) Is that right, is my  
mother here?

CHRISTIAN

No, she's not even dead. He's  
a con man remember.

JOSEPH

Oh you son of a bitch!  
My mother isn't even dead.  
You're no medium, you're  
nothing but a con man, and  
a bad one at that!

JOHN

I didn't mean it literally,  
I was talking figuratively.  
Your mother wouldn't be happy  
with these things you are trying  
to allege.

JOSEPH

(to Christian) Give me  
something on this lying deceiving  
son of a bitch.

There is a clash of calls from the crowd behind him.  
CHRISTIAN yells back asking for personal stuff only.

JOHN

You obviously think your talking to a novice, but I should advise you that I am one of the best in the business.

JOSEPH

Shut up, look okay (as if fighting other voices in his head - then to Christian) Okay, is his mother really here? Will she tell me anything?  
(Joseph smiles)

JOHN

(smiles back) I'm no idiot young man. You're obviously involved in some sort of a murder. I normally don't get involved in that sort of stuff, but I might have to just to teach you a lesson for treating my employee like you did.

JOSEPH

Your mother is telling you to sit down, shut up and listen. (pause) She says that you never listened growing up, and for once you should listen to your mother.

JOHN

Okay, let's play your way for one minute. If my mother is really there ask her what the name of my little brown toy pony was when I was 9 years old.

JOSEPH

(pause) Don't play it smart with me John. You are playing with a powerful supernatural world that you don't understand, and you're doing it for nothing less than commercial gain.

JOHN

As I thought, look I'm out of here.  
And if you had anything to do  
with that murder, the Police will  
be paying you a visit.

JOHN gets up and leaves as the crowd of dead people follow.  
As he leaves JOHN hears JOSEPH'S string of comments. His  
heart pounds as he leaves the interview room. THEO guides  
JOHN towards the exit.

JOSEPH

The ponies name was Toby, and it  
wasn't brown, it was red. Your  
cat's name was 'Puskins', your  
dog was called 'Bruiser', you even  
had a few budgies, one of them was  
'big bird'.

THEO

I've heard you're in the business  
of the afterlife. You want to be  
careful listening to these crazies,  
they come out with all sorts of  
weird shit.

SUZY

I'll give you weird shit, you big  
black ton of lard. And I hope that  
hussy gives you gonorrhoea, cause  
that's what you deserve.

JOHN

(stunned by the comments - then  
recovers) Clinically insane, if  
you ask me. Now I understand why  
these people are behind lock and key.  
Don't know why I follow these crazy  
leads, but I guess it's part of  
the job.

As JOHN ANDREWS leaves the Psychiatric Ward he calls Peter  
on his mobile.

JOHN

Can you do me a favour. Have a look around and see what you can find out about the death of Mark Carmichael. See if the location of Noonan Drive means anything. I have a hunch the body might be buried somewhere there. If you do have any luck finding some sort of shallow grave, don't touch it, get some snap shots and report it back to me. We don't want to get tied up in a murder enquiry.

**6. INT. STUDIO - SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - DAY**

Meeting between JOHN ANDREWS and producer associated with the 'CROSSING OVER' program.

JOHN

I have made some enquiries in relation to tomorrow's program, and I have come across some startling information. I met a young man in a Psychiatric Ward who has (pauses) abilities beyond anything I have ever seen in the industry.

PRODUCER

How presentable is this guy?  
Can we use him in the show?

JOHN

He's not, and no we couldn't use him. It's just that..

PRODUCER

(snorts) you think he might be the real thing,... not implying that you're not of course.

JOHN

Well, I don't know how he does what he does, but....

PRODUCER

Let me make this very clear.

You are the figure head of a multi million dollar program. If there is someone I can use better than you, I am only too happy to look at him - at your public demise. We have however already built you up, if there is some way of using any information you have obtained, if it promotes the program, I am only too happy to use it.

**7. INT. STUDIO - SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - DAY**

Recording of 'CROSSING OVER' the following day. JOHN ANDREWS presents to a packed audience. It is half way through the program.

JOHN

(pointing to row 8 seat 11 - just one seat away from the target audience member) I'm sensing a broken tie here. Someone who has the greatest love but doesn't know it. Almost as if ..... you hadn't seen, or didn't even know ...

SHARON PARKER

(Starts crying but says nothing)

JOHN

I'm sorry, I'm not really sure of the message I am getting, just that it comes with an intense love. Like a mother and child.

(to the crying audience member)  
Have you lost a child recently.

SHARON PARKER

(Wiping her tears) Yes, my daughter died at birth.

JOHN

Oh my, hang on... I'm getting a sense of support. Like your

daughter is being looked after on the other side. Do you have another family member passed on like, Clara, or Cleo?

SHARON PARKER  
We named her Chloe.

JOHN  
Is that your mother, or a close relative?

SHARON PARKER  
No, that's what we named my daughter.

JOHN  
No, there's someone else saying Chloe. She's going to be okay. (pausing as if trying to understand then simply blurts) Betty.

SHARON PARKER  
(Starts crying) That's my mother. My mother's name is Betty.

JOHN  
She wants you to know that Chloe is fine and she's being well looked after. She wants you to know that there are others that need your help, and not to worry about them.

SHARON PARKER  
(Crying) Thank you, thank you.

JOHN  
(Pauses as if trying to understand) I'm sensing another. Do you have another relative passed? A Mark or a Michael?

SHARON PARKER  
(thinks) No, not what I know of.

JOHN  
(Pauses) Actually, I'm getting mixed reading here. Something to

do with a car. Did you have,  
hang-on, I don't think this relates  
to you. He turns towards row 5.  
I'm sensing something about a  
Mark or a Michael.

STEVE CARMICHEAL  
My son, his name is Mark Carmichael.

JOHN  
Carmichael, so it may just be the  
name. Did he die in a car accident?

STEVE CARMICHEAL  
No, we're not sure.

JOHN  
(Pauses, as if he wants to walk  
away from the reading - long pause).  
I'm not sure here, but I'm sensing  
some tension. (pause again as if  
wanting to walk away). No, it's  
anger. Mark is angry about something.

STEVE CARMICHEAL  
We believe he was murdered.

JOHN  
(Stops as if wanting to avoid it)  
A lot of anger. Does driving at  
noon mean anything - noon. Did he  
pass at noon.

STEVE CARMICHEAL  
We don't know, we haven't found his  
body yet.

JOHN  
(More hesitation) Noon driving and  
a lot of anger. He wants his body  
to be put to rest. Noon driving,  
I'm not sure what I am reading.

STEVE CARMICHEAL  
Actually, the back road near our  
house, that leads to the National

Park is called Noonan Drive.

JOHN

Noonan Drive, that's what I am hearing. What does this mean?

STEVE CARMICHEAL

I don't know.

JOHN

Mark doesn't want you to give up. He wants his body to be put to rest. I'm sorry, I don't know what more to tell you.

#### **8. INT. STUDIO - SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - DAY**

The final scene is in a dark room with a television at the foot of the bed. The shot pans to the 'TODAY TONIGHT' current affairs program which is discussing the breaking news of the MARK CARMICHEAL murder. A reporter is conducting an interview with JOHN ANDREWS.

REPORTER

Extraordinary news today, forget Detective based investigation, forget DNA testing. Now-a-days it would appear the dead can actually solve their own murders.

The murder of Mark Carmichael, unsolved for the past 18 months was solved today, and it would appear by.... Mark Carmichael. According to 'Crossing Over' John Andrews, the body's location came to him in a reading with the father of the deceased. Tell me John, what did Mark tell you?

JOHN

To be honest, it wasn't quite that way. I just felt really uncomfortable with the reading and kept hearing the words 'noon' and 'driving'. Steve, Mark's father,

put the rest together and found Mark's body in a shallow grave earlier today.

REPORTER

So tell me John, does this mean your psychic skills may be expanding into unsolved mysteries?

JOHN

Actually, it was quite the opposite. I felt very uncomfortable at the reading, very awkward. I'm just happy that Steve now has the security of knowing what happened, that his murderer has been caught, and that Mark can now rest in peace.

REPORTER

(to the audience) Believe it or not, the lead sent Steve straight to Mark's body and the evidence at the scene lead them straight to his murder, a psychiatric patient name JOSEPH LIVINGSTONE. Suffering from multiple personality disorder, apparently it is one of Livingstone's alternate personalities who is alleged to have carried out the deed. And you get the chance to judge for yourself. Foxtel's 'Crossing Over' will air this program on Friday night. So now is your chance to be judge and jury. Do you believe in psychic ability or is it just a dangerous scam?

The shot pans from the television and slowly moves from the 'Today Tonight' program and changes to a vegemite commercial. The shot then pans over a lady's legs, up her body, then onto a SHARON PARKER who appears to be sleeping peacefully. The shot then pans to the bedside draws where medicine bottle is laying on its side - some tables are scattered around the bottle. There is a suicide note near the bottle asking forgiveness stating, "my daughter needs her mother". It then shows the ghost of SHARON PARKER looking over the scene shaking her head.