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THE WHITE AUSTRALIAN

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Abstract

is a nameless guy in asia he travels with a face borrowed from europe he is careful not to allow his melbourne or sydney accents to show through and he has a good reason: they wouldn't understand it if i do not speak like an english or american he is an intellectual you know

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is a nameless guy in asia
he travels with a face borrowed from europe
he is careful not to allow his melbourne or sydney
accents to show through
and he has a good reason:
they wouldn't understand it
if i do not speak like an english or american
he is an intellectual
you know

not many people know about australia
or care
he is too lazy to explain
better pretend to be something you are not
and get better treatment

is a woman
and feels very superior
'cause she comes from a democracy
sometimes mispronounced by her stupid students
as demoncrazy
she would then grow justly indignant
and deplore the lack of sanitation and education
as well as too much hospitality
designed she said
to deceive
she'd sometimes show off her feminism
again sometimes mispronounced as famileechn
by refusing the friendly offer of a male hand
or by taking any bewildered boy students
to task

for daring to crack jokes with her
it is sad however to see
her back to normal
in her native land australia
where she speaks in subdued tones
very demure and coy

is a writer
who becomes interested
doesn't know the language
and is not going to worry about it
the country abounds in cheap efficient interpreters
they not he
are going to provide him with the info
he's got the imagination
he wouldn't be bothered with facts
he is a fictionist someone good at intertextuality

at other times
he is a university administrator
he is not happy with the present state of affairs
at the heart of hearts
too many asians
who do bring in a lot of money
but not as many manners
and respect
they should be kept in their right place
especially the male:
factories fruit and vegetable markets grocery stores
milk bars take-away restaurants
as secretaries as telephone receptionists as library assistants
at best as foremen as students even phd
but not he thought to himself
as university lecturers except to teach in their own language
the administrator was as inscrutable as ever
when he had just done the interview
in which an asian appeared
the decision came out fair and square:
he didn't get it because others had better qualifications
or more experience

while his secret thought was:
that guy should really congratulate himself on being shortlisted

the white australian is a literary editor
who is highly proficient in deciphering identities of names
this is a chinese pretending to write in bad english
that is an indonesian struggling with right diction
that is obviously someone from vietnam
who has not even learnt his basics in grammar
he can get around his political correct corner however
by picking something from within the commonwealth

some srilankan some indian someone who learned english as a baby
though with a different skin
in the end the editor is triumphant:
the quality of english is ensured
and so is the purity

at home he is different
he defines himself and others by the strange word
un-australian
as if it is not in their nature to be bad
which only the un-australian can do

the white australian is everywhere
who is only skin deep
s/he smiles with body
never with eyes
s/he is nice when you first meet
like a trained air-stewardess
there is no hope of becoming their friends
just as there is no hope of their becoming us
because they like their borrowed mothers in england
imitated fathers in america
and blood brothers in europe

is fond of pretty words

but don't accuse him of being a racist
he is not
he doesn't look like one

he isn't one of those blaineys howards diques
he is only a white
australian

too right