

Herald Sun

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# HIT TV

**AMANDLA  
STENBERG**  
FIGHTING  
HATE WITH  
LOVE

**RUFUS  
WAINWRIGHT**  
STRIKING  
HIS BEST  
POSES

**LEIGH  
PAATSCH**  
BEST HUGH  
JACKMAN  
MOVIES TO  
STREAM

# CRY *for* HELP

From Queen Victoria to  
country Victoria — why  
The Cry left Jenna Coleman  
emotionally shattered

+

**inside**  
YOUR WEEKLY  
7-DAY  
TV GUIDE



COVER STORY

# Wave of emotion

TV's Queen Victoria goes through an emotional wringer as a young mum battling depression, a missing baby and a torturous trip Down Under, writes **Colin Vickery**

**J**enna Coleman is at her wit's end. In *The Cry*, the 32-year-old British star is playing young mum Joanna Lindsay, who is an emotional wreck.

Joanna is at home caring for four-month-old son Noah, who won't stop crying. Husband Alistair (Ewen Leslie) is too busy in his job as a media adviser for a senior British politician to be of much help.

Adding to Joanna's pressure is that Alistair is determined to travel from Scotland to Australia to fight ex-wife Alexandra (Asher Keddie) for custody of their teenage daughter Chloe.

The early scenes of *The Cry* also hint that worse is to come. Viewers see Joanna hounded by the media as she heads to court.

Coleman — eyes filled with tears and completely dishevelled — is a world away from the crinolines and imperiousness of Queen Victoria in *Victoria*.

"Joanna goes on quite an extraordinary journey in *The Cry*," Coleman says. "When we meet her she is not very confident and doesn't have a lot of self-worth."

"She has got post-natal depression. There is post-traumatic stress. She is tortured and haunted. We know something isn't right."

"Filming *The Cry* is definitely an emotional endurance test in a lot of ways. There are days when I'm completely shattered. What I am doing is pacing myself."

*The Cry*'s shock moment comes when, during Joanna and Alistair's visit to Australia, baby Noah goes missing.

The couple arrive in Melbourne and are making their way to a rental cottage in coastal Wilde Bay when they stop at a convenience store. When they return to the car, Noah has disappeared.

The story structure of *The Cry* is fractured. There are constant time-shifts as viewers see how Joanna and Alistair

met and became lovers, Alexandra discovering the affair, and a horror flight to Australia. "It is one of those tricky shows where it is a minefield," Coleman says. "And it is all about characters having secrets so you have to know how much to give away and when."

"I've never worked on anything that has been so complicated. It is a constant walking of a tightrope or like spinning plates."

"I'd seen Ewan in *Top Of the Lake*. I've been really lucky with the male co-stars that I've had."

It becomes obvious early that all of the characters in *The Cry* are not all they seem. Behind Alistair's calm facade is someone controlling and manipulative.

Alexandra is much



more than a jilted ex.

The four-part series was written by Jacquelin Perske, one of the forces behind the award-winning *Love My Way*, which starred Keddie.

"*The Cry* is the sort of drama I was pretty heavily involved in before I did *Offspring*," Keddie says.

"All the characters are exceptionally complex. Alexandra is dealing with very difficult emotional territory — with a man who has breached trust on such a deep level."

"There is years of grieving for what they had and the horrible betraying choice he made. You can look at her and think 'she's a tough cookie, she must be a villainess' but we get to see her vulnerabilities," Keddie says.

"We can't all be our best selves when there are breaches of trust on that level. This is a woman who works really hard to be the best and strongest she can for her daughter. That is the truth of it. I kept coming back to 'how would I be in this situation?'"

Coleman's career is something of a miracle. Like Aussie Margot Robbie, she has gone from soapie stardom (in Coleman's case playing Jasmine Thomas on *Emmerdale*) to respected actor. Coleman has acknowledged that she was initially stereotyped by her northern, working-class *Emmerdale* character.

She spent three years playing Clara Oswald on *Doctor Who*. The television version of *Titanic* by Julian Fellowes and *Room At the Top*, from John Braine's famed novel, were other highlights.

*Dancing On the Edge* and *Death Comes To Pemberley* were followed by the title role in *Victoria*, which has been a huge hit, with about eight million viewers an episode in the UK.

"The only reason I could do *The Cry* is because filming of *Victoria* got pushed back," Coleman says.

"I only had a brief period when I was leaving *Emmerdale* when it was difficult in terms of meetings (to be considered for serious roles because of her soapie background).

**"I'VE NEVER WORKED ON ANYTHING THAT HAS BEEN SO COMPLICATED"**

"Since then I've gone from playing a third-class maid in *Titanic* to Queen Victoria to *The Cry*. It has been really fun."

"*Room At the Top* (was a game-changer). I played against type (as naive and childish Susan who is wooed by a cad). It was a part so far from myself."

"*Death Comes To Pemberley* (a three-part crime thriller) came from *Room At the Top*."

"Then (*Victoria* creator) Daisy Goodwin saw me in *Death Comes To Pemberley* and *Victoria* came from that."

"I much prefer playing parts that are a long way from the real me. I find that a lot easier. I don't think you can have long-term plans really. Picking roles is always on a script-by-script basis. I never know which direction it (career) is going to take."

**WATCH THE CRY, ABC, Sunday 8.40pm**



JENNA COLEMAN STARS IN *THE CRY* ALONGSIDE ASHER KEDDIE (ABOVE)

## HOT

**SAMUEL JOHNSON ON DWTS**  
The king of using social media for good has this in the bag, surely



**I'M A CELEBRITY'S RAX**  
Their stuffed Hyrax has more appeal than most of *MAFS*, *TBQH*



**HOTTEST 100**  
Will we hear the stoner grooves of Ocean Alley's *Confidence* on commercial radio now?



## NOT

**KAK vs YUMI**  
Because *Studio 10* is where you turn to for enlightened debate about indigenous affairs



**MKR RATINGS**  
The final year? Send Pete into the sunset (with no "poisonous" sunscreen) and try something new



**TONY JONES ASKING WOMEN TO SMILE**  
Gross. Channel 9 didn't quite cull all their dinosaurs

