

1 INT. TRUCK CABIN - AFTERNOON 1

Looking out from the inside of a truck cabin we can see thick scrub then a dry paddock. (The driver is not shown.) The truck pulls up behind an old rusted bus stop sign. The time on the truck's dashboard clock says 3:33.

2 EXT. DRY Paddock - AFTERNOON 2

We hear the cabin door slam and a crunch of gravel. Walking by the side of the road are men's highly polished crocodile skin boots sticking out from under frayed jeans. A GIRL, in school uniform, walks away from the side of the road on a meandering track through tall grass towards a grove of thick trees. The hands on a man's watch reads 3:35.

MACK (OS)

Humph, same time as yesterday.

We see the legs of the man climb over a broken patch of fence and follow the girl. The girl (age 13), has a backpack slung over one shoulder and her uniform shirt is pulled out. Her head is bobbing to the music coming from her MP3 player. The girl suddenly stops. The man, MACK, drops to the ground as he doesn't want to be seen. He watches the girl pull out a mobile phone from her pocket and pull her ear buds from her ears. While she answers the phone we can hear the beat of loud music, from her MP3 player, playing in the background.

GIRL

Yeah Mum, I'm almost home. Stop checking up on me.

(Pauses)

I'm okay, there's no one around.

(Sighs heavily)

Yeah, yeah, I'll be home soon. Stop worrying.

The girl puts away the phone and screws the MP3 buds back into her ears. The music becomes a lot quieter and the girl walks away through the trees out of view.

MACK (OS)

(Chuckles)

We'll see what happens tomorrow.

3 EXT. SYDNEY SKYLINE - MIDDAY 3

The sun shines brightly off the Sydney Opera House.

4 EXT. MODERN APARTMENT BUILDING - MIDDAY 4

Establishing shot of a 10 story apartment building in a nice neighborhood.

5 INT. MAIN BEDROOM - MIDDAY 5

JULIA (age 23), who is awkwardly holding her baby girl JASMINE (age 5 months), is pacing back and forth across the messy bedroom. Jasmine is very distressed.

JULIA

Shush, shush. Stop crying, please stop.

6 EXT. HALLWAY - MIDDAY 6

From the hallway we can hear Jasmine. The hallway is a complete mess. There is an opened box of nappies, bags of old clothes and junk left lying around.

7 INT. MAIN BEDROOM - MIDDAY 7

We see in the reflection of the dressing table mirror the messiness of the room. There is a pile of clothing in a basket in one corner. The bed is unmade and dirty bottles are left on the bedside table. One bottle has been knocked over and milk is dripping onto the carpet. Dirty dishes and coffee cups litter the floor. Julia moves into the mirror's reflection. She hasn't had a shower in days, her hair is matted and her clothes are stained. She has dark rings under her eyes and her skin is pallid from lack of sleep. Jasmine is red faced and crying. Julia shifts the baby onto her other arm and increases her rocking until she is practically throwing herself from side to side.

JULIA

Why can't he help out more? Why can't he just fix it?

The baby quietens down slightly so Julia slows down her rocking. Looking into the mirror, she runs her fingers through her limp hair and grimaces. She then tries to pinch some color into a cheek.

JAMES (OS)

Come on Julia, they don't hate you. Come on, unlock the door.

(CONTINUED)

Jasmine starts to scream. Julia moves so close to the mirror that all we can see is her face etched in tiredness and misery.

JULIA

Unlock the door, is that all he
fucking wants? Well that's what
I'll do. Unlock the fucking door.

8

INT. HALLWAY - MIDDAY

8

JAMES (age 32), is wearing a crumpled business shirt and pants. His tie is half undone. His hair is sticking up as though he has run his fingers through it all day and he looks tired, but not as tired as Julia. Julia flings the door open.

JULIA

Your parents hate me and you've
never loved me! You never help! You
are always at work!

James reaches out as if to take the baby from Julia's arms. She holds the baby too tightly and Jasmine screams in protest.

JAMES

Don't yell. You're making Jasmine
cry.

JULIA

Don't you tell me that it's my
fault that she's crying when you
bang on the door and yell at me.
Bang, bang, bang that's all we get
from you. Can't you stay at home
and help more? Can't you take over
sometimes and just keep her quiet
so that I can sleep? It's been days
and days. I don't even have time to
wash. She doesn't even start to
settle unless I hold her.

Julia shoves James in the chest and pushes past him to the living room.

9

INT. LIVING ROOM - MIDDAY

9

JULIA

Where were you last night?

(CONTINUED)

JAMES

I was at my parents'. You knew that. We were all supposed to go but you changed your mind.

JULIA

Well that's not good enough. I was up all night and I've had it. I want you to leave. Just get out. Go. I can't stand being around you anymore.

James's face is etched in misery. He hesitates, then moves towards her as if to pull them into his arms.

JULIA

No. Fuck you, damn it! I'll leave!

JAMES

No Julia, please stay. We'll work it out. I promise.

JULIA

No, don't touch me. Don't come near me. I...I hate you!

JAMES

Julia I love you. Don't leave.

JULIA

Fuck off!

She slams the front door in his face as she walks out.

10 INT. APARTMENT BUILDING FOYER - MIDDAY 10

Julia, with Jasmine clutched tightly in her arms runs towards the lift. She compulsively pokes the lift button multiple times until the door opens. Sobbing she crumples down into a ball on the lift floor.

11 INT. LIVING ROOM - MIDDAY 11

James leans his head against the closed door.

JAMES

I will always love you.

12 EXT. STARBURST CARAVAN PARK ROADWAY - DAY 12

A dirty Greyhound bus pulls up on a gravel road beside the run down Caravan Park. Julia, holding her sleeping baby, climbs wearily down the bus steps. She looks up at the Caravan Park's derelict sign. The bus driver opens up the luggage storage compartment underneath the bus, pulls out two mismatched suitcases and a carry bag. He dumps them unceremoniously onto the dusty ground. Julia sneezes as the bus pulls away leaving her standing there at the side of the road. She swings the carry bag over her shoulder and settles the baby onto her hip. She struggles to pick up one suitcase and pull the other over the rocky ground.

13 EXT. STARBURST CARAVAN PARK - AFTERNOON 13

Most of the caravans in the park are run down but some are just shells eaten away with rust. Well-worn clothes jerk grotesquely in the breeze and the mournful tone of an old wind chime can be heard. A mangy cat makes its way through black rubbish bags stacked against an overflowing dumpster. A woman yells in Bulgarian which competes with a muted Italian love song.

14 EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - AFTERNOON 14

We glimpse Julia as she pulls the curtain back slightly. She looks out then lets the curtain drop.

15 EXT CARAVAN PARK - EARLY MORNING 15

In the distance, BILL SMITH is struggling to push a lawnmower over a scraggly lawn that is mainly dust and dirt. COLONEL JOHNSON is polishing his old cannon, wiping the dust from its turret. We hear a motorbike starting up.

16 EXT. CLAUDIA'S CABIN - AFTERNOON 16

BETHANY (age 13), opens the cabin door and walks down the steps while her mother, CLAUDIA, yells at her.

CLAUDIA (OS)

Make sure you're not too long. I's want to go visit'n this arvo. And stay away from that lake.

BETHANY

(Mutters)

Yeah, yeah.

As Bethany wanders past Julia's caravan she hears a baby crying and sees the curtain twitch. Bethany reaches the back of the park and squeezes through a roughly cut hole in the fence that separates the bush and lake from the Caravan Park.

17 EXT. CARAVAN PARK - DUSK 17

Colonel Johnson, in silhouette, plays *Taps* poorly on an old trumpet. An old rocking chair creaks in the breeze as if of its own accord.

18 EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - DUSK 18

The caravan door creaks open and Julia looks tentatively out. She looks tired and stressed. Her hair and clothes are a mess and she is wearing black crisscrossed sandals on her feet. She sits down on the top step and closes her eyes relaxing in the breeze. We hear a screen door slam. Julia starts at the sound then rises to go back inside but stops when Claudia calls out to her. Claudia, dressed as if she belongs back in the eighties, is hurrying across the gravel drive towards Julia.

CLAUDIA

Hey, wait, don't go inside. I want to talk to ya.

When Claudia reaches Julia she hands her an old ratty shopping bag.

CLAUDIA

Here ya go, a little pressie from us all in the park. Now it's nothin' special just a welcome gift. I'm Claudia, glad to meet ya. I's live across the ways there in number twenty-one with my man, Ricky, and my daughter Bethany. We's been here a year now and it's like the friendliest park out here in the bush. Whatcha name honey?

JULIA

Julia.

CLAUDIA

Well ain't that a sweet name and like's I heard that you have a baby tucked away back there.

Claudia grabs Julia's hand and tugs her back down onto the step. She then uprights a fallen plastic chair, sits down and reaches into another ratty bag.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

Um.

CLAUDIA

Now don't be shy. I's know that you haven't got a man around honey I can see it in your face. Having to take care of that little itty bitty baby all by yourself.

Claudia pulls out a stubby of beer and hands it to Julia.

CLAUDIA

Here, crack open one of these and let's get to know one another. Don't mind ya thinkin' that ya have to pay it back at all. I get them cheap from the liquor store that I work at in town. Ricky takes me there and picks me up three times a week on the back of his hound dog bike. Ooh I love the feel of that bike in between my thighs girl.

(Sighs)

Ya know the vibrations and all. Have a hard time saying goodbye to Ricky at the store. Got to give him a big old kiss that has to keep me for hours until he picks me up again. Then wait 'til we get home, whoooo, I'm ready to go then I'm telling ya. There's no way I'm ever getting rid of that bike, no way. It was the thing that turned me on to Ricky in the first place. So, what's the name of your baby honey and how did ya come to be here?

JULIA

Jasmine.

CLAUDIA

Ooh, that's a lovely name, never thought of that one when we was naming our baby girl. My old man, Frank, he's dead now bless his soul, only wanted to name her Bethany. Found the name in one of the magazines down at the garage and didn't want anythin' to do with any other name, so Bethany she is. Funny child, likes to be by herself a lot. Strange one that one, but

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA (cont'd)
there is one in every park they
say.

Julia's a bit stunned by Claudia's speech. She rubs the cold
bottle between her hands before taking a small sip.

CLAUDIA
Come on honey drink up, beer's
getting warm and drinkin' it warm
will go straight to ya head. Now,
when Mr Fernandez, in number
twenty-eight, drinks his beer hot
well, I'll tell ya. No-one is
allowed to speak a sentence over a
whisper the next day near his place
or he comes out roaring with a
fryin' pan in his hand. He'll take
a swipe at ya, mark my words. He's
a bad one when his head is sore.
Now my Ricky, he can drink them
cold or warm, doesn't affect him at
all except make him better in the
sack. See, he works hard all day as
a musterer so the beer doesn't make
him stupid. Just makes him horny.
(Giggles)
Like I really mind.

Julia looks down at the red marks that the straps of her
sandals have made on her bloated feet.

CLAUDIA
And the two pro's, in number four,
Candy and Suzie well they never
bring any johns back, but they sure
bring back a bit of booze. They're
really nice too, you know, for a
couple of sluts and they share
their grog around if they's got
extra. Not that they pay for it
mind. I never see them in the
liquor store, maybe they get paid
in booze as well as cash. The park
owners, ya know Bill and Ethel,
well they turn a blind eye to some
of the shenanigans that go on in
the park, but they won't let them
sluts bring any johns back. But
they don't mind sharing a bottle of
cheap bubbly if it's in the
offern'.

(CONTINUED)

The ladies turn at the sound of Jasmine feebly crying from inside the caravan. Julia gets up to go inside but is halted when Claudia catches her arm.

CLAUDIA

Now don't be a stranger honey,
bring your baby and come out with
me tomorrow. I'll introduce ya to
all of the residents. There's
nothin' that I don't know about
them and I'm sure that they'll make
ya feel right at home.

Julia nods and goes into the caravan.

19

INT. CLAUDIA'S CABIN LIVING ROOM - EVENING

19

RICKY is sitting on the couch watching the football finals while Bethany is sitting in a bean bag in the corner of the room. She is listening to her MP3 player.

Claudia walks into the room and dumps the empty beer bottles onto the bench. She then moves to the back of the couch and leans over Ricky. She slides her hands down his bare chest until she is close enough to suck on his neck.

RICKY

Oh come on Claudia, it's the
finals.

CLAUDIA

Mmmm, I'm not disturbing ya honey
am I?

RICKY

Humph.

BETHANY

(To herself)

I might as well be invisible. Jeez
can't they wait until they get to
their room?

She gets up from the bean bag and slams out of the cabin.

CLAUDIA

(Giggles)

Didn't even realize that she was
here. You'd think that she'd be
used to us by now. I mean it's not
as if she's never seen us necking
before.

(CONTINUED)

Ricky shrugs, then roars in frustration at the game. He almost dumps Claudia onto the floor.

CLAUDIA

Whoops, never mind honey. They'll get it next time.

20 EXT. CLAUDIA'S CABIN- EVENING

20

Bethany grabs a torch from a shelf near the door. She pulls her hood up over her head and makes her way through the park.

BETHANY

Bloody Mum and Ricky, do they have to paw each other all the time? Jeez, they didn't even notice that I was there.

Bethany stops in the middle of the park to listen to wavering Italian music competing with the shrill Bulgarian accented voice of Petra berating her mother and Jasmine's cries. Bethany makes her way through the park, her sneakers crunching through the gravel, until she stops at the hole in the fence. She climbs through and fades into the darkness of the scrub.

21 EXT. LAKE FRONT - EVENING

21

Bethany makes her way through the bushes climbing over rocks and past a small waterfall until she sits down on a partially hidden flat rock. She digs around in the bush behind her and pulls out an old rusty tin box. Startled at the sound of a twig snapping, she peers into the trees. Seeing no-one, she opens up the box to reveal a packet of cigarettes and an old rusted lighter. She selects a cigarette and with difficulty, lights it. Coughing and spluttering she chokes on the fumes. After finally getting her coughing under control she turns up the volume on her MP3 player and settles back smiling.

22 EXT. DRY Paddock - AFTERNOON

22

The girl, in school uniform, is walking slowly through long grass until she stops, sensing something or someone behind her. She quickly turns to see nothing out of the ordinary but when the long grass moves behind her she panics and runs until she disappears into the trees.

23 EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - MORNING 23

Bethany reaches up to knock on Julia's caravan door, but hesitates. She hears indistinct sounds of Julia mumbling to Jasmine and sounds of movement. Sensing that all is okay she tentatively taps on the door, but when there is no response, knocks harder.

24 INT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - MORNING 24

Julia, holding a crying Jasmine, opens the door to see a shyly smiling teenage girl dressed in old jeans, sneakers with a hoodie pulled up over her hair.

BETHANY

Hi I'm Bethany, Claudia's daughter.
Mum wanted me to see if I could
help you with your baby while you
and Mum went around the park.

Jasmine's cry gets louder at the interruption. Bethany looks at Jasmine with longing. Julia pushes a lock of hair out of her eyes while Bethany gently reaches over and touches Jasmine on the cheek. Jasmine settles immediately at her touch.

JULIA

(Shocked)

Wow, she never settles that
quickly. She must like you.

Julia shifts Jasmine onto her other hip.

JULIA

(Reluctantly)

Come in and I'll give her her
bottle and then I suppose we'll go.

BETHANY

Can I give her the bottle please? I
know how and I know how to burp her
just right; I learnt in school.

JULIA

Um, sure come in and sit down
there. Here, take her and I'll get
the bottle out, it's almost ready.

Julia watches as Bethany gently takes Jasmine and positions her correctly. Jasmine settles quickly and smiles at Bethany.

(CONTINUED)

BETHANY

Who's a pretty girl then? Can you catch my bubbles? Come on sweetheart give me a smile.

Julia hands a warmed baby bottle to Bethany.

JULIA

Here Bethany.

Bethany tests the milk on her wrist and rubs a small amount on Jasmine's bottom lip. She responds greedily and opens up her mouth to accept the teat. Julia watches with tears in her eyes until she can't take anymore and turns to sob quietly. Bethany is so absorbed with Jasmine she doesn't notice.

25

EXT. CARAVAN PARK - MORNING

25

Claudia and Julia are walking through the caravan park with Bethany carrying a happy Jasmine a couple of steps behind them. Julia is carrying a plastic shopping bag full of sweet potatoes.

CLAUDIA

We'll visit Marjorie first, she's already asked about ya but I didn't have much to tell her. See, she's curious about new people; likes to read their fortunes. Keeps her busy. Never understood how she does it, but she read her cards last April and told everyone that a flood was coming down the river that would wipe out Old Reggie's hay barn, but not to panic for it wouldn't get anything else. Well, the mob on the weather station told us all to get out as the whole town would flood. Well maybe those TV folk should ring Marjorie to find out what's going on 'cause she was right. She's a bit weird mind. I've seen her go into a trance and watched her eyes roll clear back into her head. She's normally nice though, even though her mind wanders sometimes.

26 EXT. MARJORIE'S CABIN - MORNING

26

A rickety, faded 'Tarot Reading' sign swings in the breeze as the ladies walk up to the mystic's cabin. The brightly colored curtains twitch open slightly to show a pair of eyes. When they almost reach the front of the cabin a garishly designed gypsy blanket is pulled back from the door opening to show MARJORIE, a large, eccentrically dressed woman. She has no eyebrows, heavy makeup and wears a turban on her head.

MARJORIE

Come in ladies; the cards told me that you would visit today.

CLAUDIA

(Whispers to Julia)

See, I told ya that she could see things.

Bethany sniggers into Jasmine's hair.

27 INT. MARJORIE'S CABIN - MORNING

27

The cabin is lit with different colors from the sunlight penetrating bright curtains that move with the breeze. Varied spiritual paraphernalia is strewn around the cabin. An oil burner, positioned up high on a shelf is issuing pungent smoke that infuses the air. Julia coughs.

Sitting squarely in the middle of the room is a card table already laid out with a deck of tarot cards and a glass tumbler half filled with brown liquid.

MARJORIE

Come in, come in and have a cup of my special herbal tea.

Glancing around at the haze in the room, Julia turns to Bethany.

JULIA

Bethany, would you mind taking Jasmine outside while we visit?

Gratefully Bethany leaves.

MARJORIE

Come, sit. You're here my dear for me to read your fortune?

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

No, no, Claudia invited me to visit with the residents and to give you some of these.

Julia hands Marjorie an couple of sweet potatoes from the bag.

MARJORIE

Ah Claudia, your lovely husband has brought home treats for us. Thank him for me my dear.

Marjorie takes the potatoes to the kitchen and pours three cups of tea. She offers the cups to her guests then gestures for them to sit down.

CLAUDIA

Yeah, he's always thinkin' 'bout us. If Julia doesn't want to have her fortune told maybe you could do a reading for me. It's been such a long time since you've done one and I'm just hangin' to know.

MARJORIE

Well, if you've got time. I'll consult the cards and see what your future holds. Have a long drink of tea then close your eyes and think of the exact questions you would like the cards to answer. What path you would like them to lead you down, what mystery you would like solved. You too Julia, close your eyes and focus on Claudia and what questions she would like answered.

Julia is very skeptical of the woman and her talent. She narrows her eyes pretending to close them and watches the other two women.

MARJORIE

Enough! Let's get started. Cut the cards my dear and I will lay them out for you.

Claudia cuts the cards. Marjorie sweeps the deck into her bejeweled hands then taps the deck three times and lays the cards in rows out onto the table. She turns the first card over.

(CONTINUED)

MARJORIE

Ah, Judgement. Claudia I see a new relationship, maybe a new lover or friend.

CLAUDIA

Can't be a new lover, my Ricky keeps me pretty worn out.

She turns to Julia.

CLAUDIA

Hey, we're going to be friends. I knew it and now the cards are telling me so.

Marjorie taps the deck and turns the next card.

MARJORIE

The Moon. The card senses that you have some disquiet in you; some unanswered questions. See the animals braying at the face of the moon? They sense it too.

CLAUDIA

Yes, they're right. You're right. I keep wonderin' whether Ricky still loves me. Sometimes he's distant.

MARJORIE

Well, let's see then what card will reinforce the Moon. Claudia, ask a specific question of the cards and it will be answered.

CLAUDIA

(Thinks for a second)

Does Ricky still love me and will we be happy in our marriage?

MARJORIE

Yes my dear, look. The Star Card is the faith card. It's saying to have faith in your love for Ricky and his love for you. Have faith that you will be happy in life and your marriage.

Claudia sighs in relief. Suddenly a strong breeze blows into the cabin. The thin curtains flutter causing spirals of color to dance on the walls. The candles flicker and the smoke wafts more strongly from the oil burner.

(CONTINUED)

MARJORIE

I sense a change in the next card.
Let's see what the wind has brought
us.

Claudia and Julia strain forward to see the next card.

MARJORIE

The Empress. The card of intuition.

Julia slightly shakes her head and her eyes widen. She
starting to think that the cards are really for her not
Claudia.

MARJORIE

Don't close yourself off to the
intuition of others. I see others
telling you things that you think
are untrue, that are unbelievable.
But don't dismiss them, listen to
them, take note of them, they could
be right.

Marjorie closes her eyes as if going into a trance and then
speaks with an unworldly voice.

MARJORIE

Your daughter...listen to your
daughter.

Startled at Claudia's unbelieving snort, Marjorie opens her
eyes.

CLAUDIA

Listen to Bethy's intuition. She
doesn't have any. I've never known
her to be intuitive about anythin'.
That can't be right. What does the
next card say?

The three women take a sip of tea at the same time.

MARJORIE

The Emperor card. Claudia someone
that you have not met will come
into your life and will cause
upheaval. You must listen to your
daughter and your friends, don't
discard their thoughts and
feelings. Because if you do...

Marjorie's eyes open up very wide as if she is seeing into
the future. She stares right at Julia.

(CONTINUED)

MARJORIE

You may live to regret it.

The cabin is deathly silent until after a while Marjorie turns over the next card.

MARJORIE

The Tower Card. It says that you will lose faith either in people or your world.

Claudia's face falls.

MARJORIE

But don't let this card get you down my dear. Let's see what the last card is and whether the Tower Card is reinforced.

She turns the last card over. At the appearance of the Death Card Claudia shrieks then bursts into tears. Julia gasps.

MARJORIE

There there my dear, don't cry. It's not what you think. Remember these cards are not literal, they only guide us. The Death Card doesn't mean that someone will die.

CLAUDIA

(Hiccups)

It doesn't?

MARJORIE

No. In the study of Tarot, we learn that the death card means that you need to focus on new beginnings, on new opportunities. It means the end of your anguish, the end of your uncertainty. It's telling you to look forwards, to expect more and you will achieve more.

CLAUDIA

It does?

Marjorie stares right at Julia.

MARJORIE

Yes my dear, the Death Card is not the end. It is the beginning.

The ladies turn towards the door at Jasmine's cry.

The gypsy blanket flutters closed behind Julia and Claudia. They start walking along the street to the next cabin.

CLAUDIA

Now, wasn't that the most interestin' thing ever? I'd never thought that Bethy would have any intuition at all. No, nothin' would make me believe that.

BETHANY

So Julia, will you be getting your fortune read?

JULIA

I doubt it. I've never believed in that mumbo jumbo.

CLAUDIA

Oh come on, ya got to. Don't cha find it exciting knowin' a bit about your future. It's not as if she tells ya bad news. She always ends up reading some good news in the cards that ya may not understand as yet, but you will. I love hearing what she says even if I don't believe it...sometimes. But I can't wait to find out who will cause me to lose faith in mankind.

She lowers her voice as they approach the next cabin.

CLAUDIA

Could be Petra.

JULIA

Petra?

CLAUDIA

Yeah, Petra Petrovic daughter of Helena. They live there in number 18, the one with the ramp. Helena's in a wheelchair and can't get around much. She's awfully nice; for a Bulgarian. Though sometimes I cannot understand a word she says but...

Claudia lowers her voice even more.

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA

Her daughter, well, she's a wicked one. Let me tell ya. She's got some secrets. I know it, but they won't let on. But sometimes...

Claudia's voice fades away.

29

EXT. PETRA'S CABIN - DAY

29

From inside the cabin PETRA is yelling at her mother in Bulgarian until there is a loud bang. Julia turns as if to run away, but is stopped by Claudia. Petra's yelling becomes louder and the cabin's walls and door vibrate from the noise. There is a sound of a slap, then soft sobs come from behind the closed door. Claudia raises her fist to bang on the door.

JULIA

No don't. It sounds bad.

CLAUDIA

There's no way that I'm not checking that all's okay in there.

JULIA

No, don't. I just can't stand it.

CLAUDIA

We've got to check that everythin's okay.

Claudia starts pounding on the door until it opens up a crack to show an old lady, HELENA, in a wheelchair.

CLAUDIA

Ah, Helena, good morning. Is all okay in there?

The wheel chair is moved back and the door flung open to reveal Petra.

PETRA

Enter, enter, welcome to our home.

Bethany makes her way into the cabin while Claudia, seeing Julia's hesitancy, grabs her arm and pulls her in after her.

PETRA

Ah, you must be the new one, Julia
isn't it? Welcome to our home.
Come, sit.

Julia looks around the cabin until her gaze settles on an
old woman cowering in a wheelchair in a shadowed corner.

PETRA

Don't worry about my mother, she
falls over sometimes. Don't you
Maman?

Claudia reaches into the plastic bag and pulls out two sweet
potatoes and places them into Petra's hands.

CLAUDIA

My Ricky brought these back for ya.

Petra places the vegetables on the kitchen table.

PETRA

Wonderful, wonderful. Now come and
sit down and tell us Julia, how did
you come to join us in our
Starburst Park?

Julia clasps her hands tightly together in her lap. She is
annoyed at the nosy questions.

JULIA

No reason.

PETRA

Now, now don't be like that. We're
all friends here.

CLAUDIA

Yeah, what made ya pick this spot?
Bet it wasn't the view.

JULIA

I don't want to talk about it.

CLAUDIA

Come on love, ya can tell us.

JULIA

(Whispers)
No, no I can't.

(CONTINUED)

Jasmine gives a startled cry and Julia, thankful for the interruption, takes Jasmine from Bethany.

JULIA

Got to go. Jasmine needs her bottle
and she only likes me giving it to
her.

She stumbles towards the cabin door and fumbles to turn the handle until she eventually gets it open. She remembers her manners and turns back to the women.

JULIA

Thanks Claudia, Bethany for this
morning.

She nods to Petra and Helena and exits the cabin.

31 EXT. PETRA'S CABIN - DAY 31

Julia, anxious to leave, stumbles out onto the ramp and trips, almost turning an ankle. She hobbles over the gravel to her caravan.

32 INT. PETRA'S CABIN - DAY 32

Claudia and Bethany exchange quizzical looks.

CLAUDIA

Go on Bethy, go and check that
she's okay.

33 EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - DAY 33

Julia's eyes are filled with tears as she fumbles with her keys, trying to get it into the lock with Jasmine becoming more and more upset. Julia drops the keys and they fall in between the cracks of the stairs. She wipes her eyes with the back of her hand then crouches down, groping through the cracks to try to reach the keys.

BETHANY

Here, let me help you.

Bethany picks up the keys then unlocks the caravan door. Julia pushes past her and slams the door but it fails to catch. Bethany, upset by Julia's rudeness, presses her ear against the door and listens to Julia and Jasmine crying. Bethany opens up the door and slips unnoticed inside.

34

INT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - DAY

34

Julia is sitting on the bed rocking Jasmine tightly. She doesn't even register Bethany when she sits on the bed beside her until Bethany gently places her arms around her.

BETHANY

Shush, shush it'll be okay. Shush, shush now.

Bethany rocks with Julia until eventually her crying subsides. Getting up, Julia hands Jasmine to Bethany. To Julia's chagrin Jasmine settles in Bethany's arms almost immediately.

JULIA

She's so good for you. I just make her upset all of the time. You're not even her mother yet she prefers you to me.

(Sobs)

BETHANY

No, that's not true, It's just cause you're upset and that just makes her upset.

JULIA

I don't want her growing up resenting me. Hating me.

(Chokes back a sob)

I don't want her to be ashamed of me.

BETHANY

(Placating)

She won't be.

JULIA

How do you know? How can you be so sure? Aren't you ever ashamed of your mother?

Bethany guiltily looks down at Jasmine.

JULIA

I don't want to be so broken, so needy. She'll resent me and feel that she has to treat me like...like, that.

Julia gestures in the general direction of Petra's cabin.

(CONTINUED)

BETHANY

You won't.

JULIA

You are so good with her and I'm
just...awful.

Bethany places a sleepy Jasmine back into Julia's arms. She quietly lets herself out while Julia looks down at her child.

35 EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - DAY 35

Bethany leans her head against the caravan door and listens to Julia quietly sobbing inside.

36 EXT. COLONEL JOHNSON'S CABIN - AFTERNOON 36

Pieces of newspaper, being blown by a vigorous breeze, scatter down the gravel drive of the park until they catch on the wheels of a cannon. Some then fly up past a Union Jack flying at full mast. There are faint sounds of Italian love songs and a car door closing. Julia, Colonel Johnson and Bethany, holding a giggling Jasmine, sit at a wrought iron table. There is an Old English Tea service spread out which include cucumber sandwiches with their crusts removed. The gardens around the cabin and cannon are set out with military precision and the cabin is freshly painted in the Union Jack colors.

COLONEL

So my dear that's how the Battle of Britain was won. It was not as if they didn't have setbacks. Oh they had plenty, let me tell you, but they eventually learned from their mistakes and England won in the end.

He takes a sip of tea while Julia smiles at how Bethany is making Jasmine laugh by pulling funny faces.

JULIA

So Colonel, did you have any relatives who fought in the war?

COLONEL

Oh yes my dear. I had several great great great Uncles...actually I'm not sure how many greats they were, never mind...who fought in the war and my great grandfather was just a boy in the first war. My

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

COLONEL (cont'd)
 grandfather was in the second. All great heroes they were...couldn't be more proud. My family's pride's intact. I still remember bouncing on my grandfather's knee, just like Jasmine there, listening to the stories that he used to tell. The good and the bad. What a soldier's life was like. How the battles were fought and won. Sometimes I think that I was born too late. Not that I would have liked the times, mind you, when the only thing that they had to eat was hardtack, and in winter when the cold seeped into your bones four of you had to share one mouse chewed blanket. But to watch the legends of battle, the generals making the ultimate decisions. Oh to have been there.

They both take a sip of tea.

COLONEL
 Oh the pride.

The colonel stares off into space lost in dreams of war. Julia indicates to Bethany that they should go. They quietly leave and walk through the park until they reach the jagged hole in the fence.

JULIA
 Now, you were going to show me your favorite spot.

BETHANY
 It's down here.

37 EXT. LAKE FRONT - DAY

37

Bethany leads Julia through the bush over rocks and through the scrub until they reach the lake foreshore.

BETHANY
 Watch your step. It's over here.

Bird calls and the sound of a trickling stream can be heard over their footsteps. They round a corner to the flat rock and then sit down. They remain quiet listening to the sounds of the bush.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

This is great Bethany. I can see why you love it here. Just being here, next to the waterfall and the lake, surrounded by nature. The quiet is bliss. Does anyone else know about this place?

BETHANY

Yeah some old guys know. Sometimes I see them fishing here, but I never see anyone else.

JULIA

I bet your friends like it here to.

BETHANY

(Quietly)

I don't have any; not until you came.

JULIA

Why not?

BETHANY

Cause I live out here away from the town and the kids at school don't want anything to do with me. Trailer trash, that's what they call me, like after the American movies.

JULIA

But surely there is someone that's friendly to you? Boyfriend maybe?

Bethany shrugs and picks up a couple of twigs and throws them into the water.

JULIA

Come on! Is there someone? You can talk to me you know.

BETHANY

Not really, there's this one guy he seems nicer than most. But...

JULIA

But what?

BETHANY

I'm not really interested in boys. They just seem so, stupid.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

Well, if you ever want to talk about it I'm here okay.

BETHANY

Okay, thanks.

JULIA

What about your Mum or Ricky? Do they know about this place?

BETHANY

(Shakes her head)

Well, they know that there is a lake and that you can climb through the fence to get to it. But I don't think that they have ever been here. Fishing is not really something that Ricky thinks about. It's more football for him and can you really see Mum traipsing through the bush with those heels.

JULIA

(Laughing)

No not really.

They sit for a while thinking their own thoughts, throwing leaves and sticks into the water. Jasmine is asleep on Bethany's lap.

BETHANY

Are you going to the card game tonight?

JULIA

Yeah. Claudia won't let me miss another Friday night. She's been on my case for weeks and I'm running out of excuses. Are you still able to look after Jasmine?

BETHANY

Yes. If she's not asleep we might come over for a while and then when she's tired, we'll kip out at your place until you get back.

(Pauses)

Are you sure you really want to go?

The birds fall silent as a twig cracks behind them. They both turn to see no-one there.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

Yeah, I'm sure, and even if I didn't, I don't think that I could put her off much longer.

BETHANY

Yeah she's persistent, I'll give her that.

JULIA

She says that she needs me there to try and stir up the cards, whatever that means. She said she's sick of Marjorie winning all of the time.

38 EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - EVENING

38

Julia closes her caravan door quietly behind her and makes her way across the gravel to the Common Room. A moth lands in her hair and she swats it away. She looks up to see lots of moths swarming around the street light. In the background indistinct voices can be heard with music and a peal of laughter from Claudia.

39 INT. COMMON ROOM - EVENING

39

The ladies, all dressed up, are sitting around a table set out with cards and drinks. Ricky and Colonel Johnson are sitting on the kids swings, chatting, while MR FERNANDEZ and MR MONTANO are playing chess in a corner of the room with MR OLSEN looking on. There is eighties rock music playing from an old fashioned stereo.

CLAUDIA

Now come on Marjorie don't cha cast your inner eye on those cards and make all of the best ones come to ya. It's not fair that you seem to get the best cards all the time. Come on spill them and let's do a real shuffle to mix them up.

Claudia grabs the deck from Marjorie and tips them onto the table. She swishes them around with her hands.

MARJORIE

I can't help it if the cards are drawn to me but when I read the Tarot tonight it said that some new influence was in the air and would stir up the cards.

Claudia smiles at Julia as she enters the room unseen by Marjorie.

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA

Well, I know a change is coming so watch out.

To Julia.

CLAUDIA

Glad to see ya honey, come on drag that chair over here next to me and help us gather up the cards. See Marjorie, having Julia here will change the pot and mix up your cards, so don't bet too heavily tonight or one of us is going to take ya shirt for sure.

A phone rings in the office and Bill Smith answers it, talking inaudibly.

CLAUDIA

Okay Petra, your turn to deal.
Oops, here's your chips.

Claudia tips out worn gambling chips from a zip lock bag onto the table in front of Julia.

JULIA

(Whispers)

I can't afford to pay you for them.

CLAUDIA

Don't cha worry, we don't play for money, it's just for shits and giggles. If we played for cash we'd all be broke to Marjorie over there. She's the lucky one, always winning. We gather up the chips at the end of the night and split them up all even again so that we all start the same but...

(Pauses and smiles)

I got a surprise for ya all.

She reaches under the table and the women squeal when she pulls out a flagon of sherry.

CLAUDIA

Goin' cheap at the liquor store this week.

She opens the bottle with a flourish.

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA

I know that you love sherry Mrs Montano, straight from Italy it is. I hope that it's a favorite of yours?

MRS MONTANO accepts a glass, sips and closes her eyes with relish.

MRS MONTANO

Buonissimo, how wonderful.

CLAUDIA

Now Petra deal the cards and let's get this game under way.

40 INT. COMMON ROOM - LATE EVENING

40

All of the women look slightly worse for wear. ETHEL SMITH speaks to Julia.

ETHEL

So, how do you like living at Starburst Caravan Park?

Ethel throws down a five dollar chip which rolls around and around until it stops on a small pile of chips in the middle of the table. Julia takes a nervous sip of her sherry.

JULIA

It's okay, I suppose.

MRS OLSEN

So my dear, where's the father of your little one? Fold.

JULIA

(Sharply)

He's not around anymore.

CLAUDIA

Come on Julia tell us. It's just us here and we're worried about you. A young mum looking after that lovely baby all by yourself with no man sniffing around. Not that we haven't wondered.

Claudia glances around the table.

CLAUDIA

We wouldn't gossip about ya.

(CONTINUED)

Julia look around at the women feigning innocence at the obvious lie.

CLAUDIA
But we do wonder.

JULIA
(Hesitantly)
He was driving me nuts so I left.

CLAUDIA
Yeah men, they drive us all nuts.
Even my Ricky sometimes drives me
crazy when he comes home and just
dumps his stuff and doesn't put it
away properly. I'm sure men think
that women are just put on this
earth to clean up after them.

She looks lovingly over at Ricky on the swing.

CLAUDIA
Not that I mind though.
(Sighs)
I'd pick up after Ricky anytime.

PETRA
(Chuckles)
That's because he's got you right
where he wants you.

CLAUDIA
(Smirks)
Yep, right between his sheets.

All the women laugh then Mrs Montano says to Julia.

MRS MONTANO
But do you miss him? I would miss
Frederique if he wasn't around.

JULIA
Yes, sometimes I miss having a man
around.

She looks into the distance.

JULIA
Sometimes I miss being held, being
taken out for dinner, kissed and...
(Laughs lightly)
I do miss someone around to take
out the garbage.

(CONTINUED)

(Pauses)
But it wasn't meant to be.

MARJORIE
No my dear, I've seen it in the
cards there is someone for you,
some one close. But be wary, he is
not all that he seems.

Claudia rolls her eyes.

CLAUDIA
Oh come on Marjorie whenever is a
man all that he seems. Men always
give ya the sweet talk that they
know ya want to hear. They know the
plays and hide the stuff they know
that ya don't want to see until
it's too late and then you're
caught.
(Sighs)
Except for my Ricky, he's perfect.

All the ladies laugh.

CLAUDIA
I expect that ya feel the same way
about Mr Montano and Mr Olsen.

Mrs Montano and MRS OLSEN exchange looks then nod at the
other women.

41 INT. COMMON ROOM - ABOUT 2AM

41

Claudia is sitting on Ricky's lap at the table whispering
into his ear while Marjorie counts the huge pile of chips in
front of her. Mr and Mrs Montano dance cheek to cheek
humming a love song and Colonel Johnson is stretched out on
a hard wooden bench fast asleep. Petra and Helena are still
at the table but Petra is berating her mother in Bulgarian
for drinking too much.

PETRA (BULGARIAN)
Why do you drink so much. You
embarrass me.

JULIA
I'm going to call it a night.

Julia stumbles slightly as she rises from her chair and has
to hold onto the table for support.

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA
(Giggling)
Oops looks like ya may have had a
wee too much to drink hon.

Julia gives Claudia a hazy smile.

JULIA
I'm okay, just my legs were stiff
from sitting down too long.

CLAUDIA
Sure. Okay. Good night.

JULIA
Good night everyone.

As Julia stumbles and weaves through the caravan park in the distance a truck's compression brakes sound off.

42 EXT. MACK'S CARAVAN - EARLY MORNING 42

Mack comes out of the caravan and sits on the top step. He sits there smoking and watching the residents of the park. In the distance Bill Smith is using an electric blower on some leaves and dust, and outside their cabin Ricky and Claudia are kissing.

Ricky starts up his motorbike and rides away while Claudia waves goodbye. Colonel Johnson is wiping the dust off his cannon and Mrs Olsen is hanging up the washing. Mack stares at Bethany when she leaves her cabin to walk to Julia's caravan. She has her hoodie up so you cannot clearly see her face. We can tell by her posture that she is aware of Mack watching her.

43 EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - EARLY MORNING 43

Bethany stops and knocks on Julia's door and when the door opens she turns to Mack and gives him the finger before she goes inside. Mack laughs at her reaction and after a last drag of his cigarette, stubs the butt out on the step and goes inside.

44 EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - LATE AFTERNOON 44

Julia has Jasmine on her hip as she reaches, with one hand, to remove clothes from the line when she senses someone looking at her. She glances around but cannot see anyone. When Julia turns back to her clothes line the curtains twitch in Mack's caravan.

CLAUDIA

Come on, come on. Aren't ya excited
to meet our new resident?

Behind Claudia's back Julia and Bethany both roll their eyes at the same time as they follow her down the drive towards Mack's caravan. Claudia, in her high heels, stumbles on an unseen rock and nearly turns an ankle. With arms flailing, the plastic shopping bag filled with jams and chutneys almost falls from her arm. She straightens herself up and pats her hair back into place.

JULIA

Here Claudia, let me help you.

CLAUDIA

'Bout time ya caught up.

Claudia's eyes Julia's clothes choices disdainfully.

CLAUDIA

Don't cha want to make a good
impression on him honey. I mean
it's been months and ya said the
other night that ya missed having a
man around.

She brushes some fluff off Julia's cardigan.

CLAUDIA

Now's could be the chance to pick
up a new one...

She tugs ineffectually at Julia's sleeve.

CLAUDIA

But only if he's halfway decent of
course.

(Giggles)

Not that we can be too picky, hey.

BETHANY

But mum what if she doesn't want a
man around?

CLAUDIA

Now honey, every woman wants a man
around. I mean who wouldn't want a
man like my Ricky.

(Sighs)

He's perfect. He takes care of me,
he's good in the sack and he was

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA (cont'd)
willing to adopt ya when we's got
married. Now who wouldn't want a
man like that?

Claudia turns and continues walking.

CLAUDIA
Don't cha Julia?

Julia shrugs.

JULIA
(Sarcastically)
Yeah, sure.

Julia winks at Bethany.

CLAUDIA
Even you'll want a man someday
Bethy. Mark my words.

Claudia raps sharply on Mack's door.

MACK (OS)
Who's there?

CLAUDIA
It's just us here to welcome ya to
the park.

MACK (OS)
Who's us?

CLAUDIA
It's me and Julia and Bethy, but if
ya don't want to meet us you'll be
missing out on the best chutneys
this side of Melbourne.

Mack flings open the door and stares at Claudia.

CLAUDIA
Nice to meet ya, I'm Claudia and
this is my daughter Bethy. We live
in number 21 with my husband Ricky
and this here is Julia, she lives
in number 15.

Claudia grabs hold of Julia's arm and pulls her forward.
Mack's eyes soften and glisten with interest as he looks at
Julia.

(CONTINUED)

MACK

Well I'm Mack, nice to meet you.

He turns to Bethany.

MACK

And who's this gorgeous girl?

Bethany blushes thinking that he is referring to her.

MACK

No, not you sweetheart, even though you are pretty. I was talking about the baby in your arms, surely she's not yours?

Bethany embarrassed, flushes.

BETHANY

This is Jasmine, she's Julia's baby.

MACK

Well, she's a lovely girl, isn't she...

Mack catches Julia's eye.

MACK

Just like her mother.

Claudia grabs the plastic shopping bag and shoves it into Mack's hands.

CLAUDIA

So, whatcha think of Starburst Caravan Park? Betcha it's the friendliest park that you've ever seen. Lots of good people. Hey, we have a ladies card night every Friday and the menfolk come over to keep us company. Ya free to join us if ya want. The game starts at eight. Now open up that bag and see what's in there, Julia got them ready especially for ya. The best chutneys in the country.

MACK

Well I'm sure they are. Will you also be at the card night Julia?

Julia swallows nervously.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

Yes I will be if Jasmine doesn't play up.

CLAUDIA

Yeah, Bethy takes care of the baby in Julia's caravan so that she can join in the fun. Bethy doesn't mind, do ya honey? Bethy is just great with kids and Julia doesn't worry when Bethy looks after her, but she's the best baby in the world so f'sure Julia will be there Friday night. So do ya think you'll come?

Mack puts the bag on the step and pulls a crumpled packet of cigarettes from his pocket and lights one up. His eyes don't wander from Julia's face.

MACK

(Drawls)

Yeah, I'll be there.

46

EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - MORNING

46

Julia is hanging washing on the line while Claudia visits. Mack and Colonel Johnson are in the background hanging a new flag.

CLAUDIA

So, whatcha think?

JULIA

About what?

CLAUDIA

'Bout him?

JULIA

Not much.

CLAUDIA

Oh come on, he seems really nice. He's helped Mr Montano fix his aerial, he's restrung Candy and Suzie's washing line and he's even greased up Helena's wheelchair.

Mack grins and nods at the women when he catches them watching him. Julia turns away embarrassed.

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA

And he seems to like you.

JULIA

So.

CLAUDIA

Come on, give him a chance.

JULIA

He hasn't even spoken two words to me since the other day.

CLAUDIA

So, everyone knows that he's interested. I know that I wouldn't turn down a bit of smiling and flirting if it happened my way. Before I met Ricky, of course.

PETRA (OS)

You hoo, Mack.

Mack turns and acknowledges her with a smile and a wave. He winks at Julia when he turns back.

PETRA

When you're done there can you spare a minute?

MACK

Sure, be right there.

Claudia whispers into Julia's ear.

CLAUDIA

See, he's really nice.

47

INT. COMMON ROOM - EVENING

47

All of the ladies are playing cards at the center table while Mr Fernandez and Mr Montano play Backgammon on another table in the corner of the room. Colonel Johnson, Bill and Ricky are playing darts and giving each other a hard time. Bethy is dancing with Jasmine to the tune of seventies songs while Julia with a gentle smile, looks at her cards held loosely in her hands.

Mack enters the room carrying a slab of beer for the men.

MACK

Here you go boys, my contribution to the night's festivities.

(CONTINUED)

MEN

Whoop.

Ricky takes an offered beer.

RICKY

Thanks Mate.

48

INT. COMMON ROOM - LATE EVENING

48

The residents are laughing and talking. The card game is well under way and Marjorie only has a small pile of chips in front of her. Bethany, with Jasmine asleep on her lap, is sitting beside Claudia watching the game. Marjorie squints suspiciously as she observes Mack with the men. She notices that his attention is divided between Julia, Bethany and the men's conversation. Julia notices Mack looking at her and flushes at his attention.

MARJORIE

Humph.

CLAUDIA

What's up Marj?

MARJORIE

The cards are not as favorable as I wanted them to be tonight.

MRS FERNANDEZ

How so Marjorie?

MARJORIE

Another card please Julia.

Julia tosses her another card.

MARJORIE

Strange undercurrents kept popping up. It was like as if they couldn't make up their mind; no card was supported by another. Strange undercurrents, strange.

(Sighs)

Fold.

She places her cards face down on the discard pile.

The lights are dimmed and playing on the radio is a slow love song.

Mr and Mrs Montano, Claudia and Ricky are dancing cheek to cheek while Mrs Fernandez counts the large pile of chips in front of her. Julia is helping Ethel tidy up. Mack walks up to Julia, he stands a bit too close to her and crowds her a bit. She feels uncomfortable and keeps moving away from him picking up the empty bottles. He follows her around the room.

MACK

Would you like to dance?

Julia, flustered, keeps picking up bottles and placing them into a rubbish bin.

JULIA

Oh no, I don't think so.

Claudia gestures with her eyes for Julia to accept.

MACK

You look lovely tonight.

JULIA

Um, thanks.

MACK

Where's that beautiful baby of yours?

Mack takes the bottles from Julia and puts them onto the table. He then pulls a reluctant Julia into his arms. She stiffens but relaxes during their conversation.

JULIA

Bethany took her home, she was sleepy.

Mack encourages Julia to dance with him.

MACK

Is Bethany good with her?

JULIA

Yes, she is wonderful. I wouldn't know what I would have done without her. She's such a calming influence on Jasmine.

Mack pulls her closer.

(CONTINUED)

MACK

Jasmine seems like a good baby, you must be a wonderful mother.

JULIA

(Laughs a bit sadly.)

No, I'm terrible. She never settles with me at all, well, not in the beginning anyway. But she is getting a bit better now.

MACK

Maybe you're the one getting better.

(Pauses)

Why are you all alone Julia?

Julia startled at the change of conversation stops dancing. Embarrassed, she pulls out of his arms.

JULIA

(Sharply)

'Cause I am.

She walks to her chair and picks up her cardigan then starts to walk towards the door.

CLAUDIA

Where's ya going honey?

JULIA

It's getting late and I should've let Bethany go home ages ago.

CLAUDIA

Oh she doesn't mind honey, stay.

Julia opens up the screen door.

JULIA

No it's late. I'll see you all tomorrow.

Mack follows her to the door and while leaning on the door frame he stares at Julia hurrying across the gravel drive. His eyes narrow and he very slowly lights up a cigarette.

50

INT. MARJORIE'S CABIN - MID MORNING

50

Julia has the curtain partly pulled back just enough for her to peer out and not be seen. She has Jasmine on her hip. Marjorie is seated at the tarot table shuffling her tarot cards.

MARJORIE

He's an interesting man, isn't he?

Julia lets the curtain drop and turns towards the table head bowed, embarrassed that she's been caught looking for Mack.

JULIA

I don't know what you mean.

MARJORIE

Yes you do, but I wouldn't trust him too much my dear. The cards are unfavorable at this time.

(Mumbling)

They've been reading strangely ever since he's got here.

Julia's not really listening. She wanders around looking at all of the trinkets that Marjorie has around her cabin.

JULIA

What Marjorie?

MARJORIE

Nothing my dear, do you want your cards read or are you just hiding from that man?

JULIA

(Sighs)

Just hiding out I guess, but I always love your company. Do you want to hold Jasmine?

MARJORIE

Love to, come here my precious.

Julia hands Jasmine to Marjorie.

MARJORIE

Can't wait until you get older to see what the cards foretell for you.

Julia smiles gently then absentmindedly turns back to the window. She pulls back the curtain again and looks out.

51 EXT. DRY Paddock - AFTERNOON 51

The girl climbs over the fence and starts to walk quickly through the paddock. A male hand covers her mouth and drags her down into the long grass. Her eyes fill with terror. The girl tries to scream. Mack laughs wickedly.

He punches her in the face then pulls her MP3 buds from her ears and tosses the player into a nearby shrub. We pan back to the girl's legs being spread open in the dust and to see denim jeans fall down over crocodile skin boots.

52 EXT. GRAVEL ROAD OUTSIDE THE CARAVAN PARK - AFTERNOON 52

A rickety old school bus pulls up and Bethany gets off. She is hunched over with her head bowed down. From the corner of her eye she sees Mack leaning on the side of his truck. He has a bunch of flowers in his hand and is watching her closely. She pulls her hood further up over her head as if to remove herself from his gaze and walks very quickly down the drive.

53 EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - AFTERNOON 53

Bethany runs up, out of breath, and hammers on the door. Impatiently she bangs and bangs, again and again.

JULIA (OS)
Alright, alright I'm coming.

The door opens and Bethany barges in. She drops her backpack on the floor with a thump.

54 INT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - AFTERNOON 54

The local radio station is playing an up beat tune.

JULIA
Hold on, hold on are you okay?

BETHANY
(Lying)
Yeah, just in a rush to see
Jasmine.

Bethany picks up a happy Jasmine.

BETHANY
(Crooning)
How are you my cutie pie? Who's a
pretty girl then?

(CONTINUED)

JULIA
Are you sure?

BETHANY
Yeah.

JULIA
You don't seem alright?

Bethany gasps at a loud knock on the door. She cuddles Jasmine closer then moves behind the privacy curtain so she is hidden from sight of the door. Julia looks at her quizzically then turns back and opens the door to find Mack smiling, holding a bunch of flowers.

MACK
Hi.

JULIA
(Smiling)
Hi.

Mack hands her the flowers.

MACK
These are for you. You look lovely today.

JULIA
Thank You Mack, they're wonderful.

Julia breathes in the perfume of the flowers.

MACK
I wanted to get you something especially nice.
(Pauses)
Will you be at the card game tonight?

JULIA
No not tonight.

MACK
So Bethany is not looking after Jasmine tonight?

JULIA
No, she said that she had something on, but that's okay I didn't really want to go tonight anyway.

(CONTINUED)

MACK

Really, well, if you want some company I can come over later and bring some drinks. We could get to know each other a little better. How does that sound?

JULIA

(Smiling wider)
That sounds great.

MACK

Great, see you later then.

Mack's eyes fall to Bethany's backpack as he leaves. Once he has gone Julia pulls back the privacy curtain.

JULIA

You're sure nothing's wrong?

BETHANY

Yeah I'm sure.

JULIA

You're sure? You're acting strange.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (OS)

Special news bulletin from your local radio station.

Homicide is requesting information from locals on the rape and murder of a young school girl. Anyone who has any information or has traveled on the B87 past Griffith is asked to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Shocked, Bethany and Julia look at each other.

JULIA

Oh my God, that's just down the road.

55

EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - EVENING

55

Julia and Mack are sitting and talking. On the old plastic table are two glasses, a beer bottle and a candle that is burning low. Mack has a cooler beside his chair. The light overhead shines down onto Julia's hair. Julia is laughing at something that Mack has said. Sounds of merriment and occasional shouting can be heard coming from the Common Room. Julia and Mack watch CANDY, and a giggling SUZIE,

(CONTINUED)

leave their caravan and hop into a waiting taxi. Bethany leaves the Common Room with a bag of rubbish with Claudia berating her.

CLAUDIA (OS)
(Indistinct)
Bethany, Bethany do ya hear me?

Bethany dumps the bag into the dumpster then she walks behind the caravans and cabins trying not to be seen by Julia or Mack. Mack pours some more beer, with a lot of foam on top, into Julia's glass. She drinks and some foam is left on the side of her mouth. Mack leans over and gently kisses it away. Julia kisses him back and then leads him into her caravan. Bethany watches the couple from the shadow of a nearby caravan. Before he enters Mack's eyes seem to find Bethany in her hiding place. She shrinks further back into the shadows. We hear Julia's caravan door close and Julia laughing. Bethany leaves the shadows and walks over to the hole in the fence. Just as she is about to climb through, she turns back to watch the light go out in Julia's caravan. As she turns away to crawl through, a curtain is pulled back and Mack watches her go. As she disappears into the bush he lets the curtain drop.

56

EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - LATER THAT EVENING

56

Mack quietly leaves the caravan and gently shuts the door behind him. The door lock makes a small click. From the caravan we hear Jasmine grumbling and Julia trying to soothe her with cooing noises. Mack steps down and walks a little way from the caravan until he pauses underneath a streetlight and lights up a cigarette. He moves towards his own caravan but pauses, again, beside the hole in the fence seemingly unable to make up his mind whether to go through the hole or go to his caravan. He pulls back away from the fence when a taxi pulls up and two car doors slam. Candy and Suzie blow kisses to the driver and with giggles and loud shushing go into their caravan.

SUZIE
Shush.

Mack walks to his caravan, unlocks the door and goes inside. Bethany is hiding behind Colonel Johnson's cannon watching Mack.

57 INT. CLAUDIA'S CABIN - MID MORNING

57

Claudia is cutting a slice of a badly made chocolate cake. She has a cup of coffee by her elbow. Julia is sitting at the table warming her hands around a mug of coffee. Bethany is sitting in a beanbag in the corner of the room, bouncing Jasmine on her knee.

CLAUDIA

So tell me honey, did he treat ya nice?

JULIA

(Choking a bit)

I don't know what you mean.

CLAUDIA

Oh come on now, we's all know that ya couldn't resist him any longer honey. Me, if it wasn't for my Ricky, well I would've has him in my bed real quick...if he offered. Gotta love it when a man pays attention to ya.

Claudia slides the plate over to Julia.

CLAUDIA

So was it good?

Julia picks off some of the icing and licks it off her finger.

JULIA

Yeah, he was nice.

CLAUDIA

Yeah I bet he was real good, an experienced man and all that. Well I bet he was better than some of the young ones that you get around here.

Claudia quickly glances at Bethany then back again.

CLAUDIA

Not that I would know, but I betcha that those skinny blokes that hang around the pub and the fat old truckers that pop into the liquor store wouldn't know how to treat a lady. Hell, they would barely be able to say hello real nice, let

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA (cont'd)
alone be able to have a
conversation. And wooing, jeez,
that would be way out of their
comfort zone. They probably
wouldn't even think of it. Lucky
for Candy and Suzie, cause if they
had to wait for a bit of romance
they wouldn't be able to pay the
rent. So it's great that you've
found someone that treats ya good.
So, whatcha going to do now honey?

JULIA
What do you mean?

CLAUDIA
Are ya going to let him stay over
again?

Bethany stops bouncing Jasmine and listens intently.

JULIA
I suppose so, but not straight
away. Just doesn't seem right.

CLAUDIA
No, I suppose not. But don't leave
it too long honey. Now that you're
back in the game don't leave him
hanging or you may find that he'll
leave his boots outside someone
else's door.

Embarrassed, Julia changes the subject.

JULIA
Did you hear about that awful thing
that happened to that girl down in
Griffith?

CLAUDIA
Yeah, they were talkin' about it a
the liquor store. None of the
truckies that popped in for their
regulars saw anythin' and Ricky
said that no one had seen anything
at his work.

JULIA
How many times has this happened?

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA

About three times I think. Not sure, but it's too close to home I reckon.

Claudia turns to Bethany.

CLAUDIA

Now Bethy I don't want'cha walking around by yourself anymore; especially down by the lake.

Bethany rolls her eyes.

CLAUDIA

Don't roll your eyes at me girl, this is serious.

BETHANY

Aw Mum, nothing's going to happen, no one visits the lake.

Bethany eyes implore Julia.

BETHANY

Right Julia?

JULIA

The lake does seem safe enough, but you must do what your mother says, she's only looking out for you.

Julia stands, lifts Jasmine away from Bethany and gives her a tight cuddle so that she squeals.

JULIA

I don't know what I would do if anything should happen to this little one.

Julia passes Jasmine back to Bethany.

CLAUDIA

So you mind what I tell ya and stay away from that lake.

BETHANY

(Placating)

Yes Mum.

58 EXT. MACK'S TRUCK - EARLY EVENING

58

Mack opens the truck door and steps out holding a bunch of flowers and a plastic bag with a fluffy teddy bear inside. He walks through the park greeting first Mr Fernandez, who is watering a dried up flower garden, and after removing his hat bows to Petra. He stops and has a chat to the Colonel who is holding a large flat carton that contains a satellite dish.

MACK

How are you going Colonel?

COLONEL

Fine Mack. Say, what are you doing later? Could you help me with my new satellite dish?

Mack looks at the unopened box in the Colonel's arms.

MACK

Sure, just got to see Julia and Jasmine first.

COLONEL

(Nods knowingly)

Sure, sure take your time. You're starting to really like them aren't you?

Mack reaches into the bag and pulls out a small jewellery box and opens it to reveal a small cheap looking silver necklace.

COLONEL

Nice, well take your time. I'll see you later.

Mack knocks on Julia's caravan door.

59 INT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - EARLY EVENING

59

Julia opens the door to see Mack hiding his face behind a large bunch of flowers. He hands them to her.

JULIA

Oh Mack, they're lovely.

He then gives her the jewellery box which Julia opens with delight. She throws her arms around him and kisses him. Mack enters the caravan and closes the door behind him. He then takes out the teddy bear and holds it up for Jasmine to see.

(CONTINUED)

MACK

Have you been a good girl for your Mum today? You have? Great. Since you've been a good girl I brought a present for you.

Jasmine squeals in happiness.

60 TITLE CARD:THREE MONTHS LATER

60

Throughout the caravan park pitiful attempts at Christmas lights and decorations have been strewn around over the caravan and cabins. The reception desk is partially decorated with a tattered gold banner that reads Merry Christmas. There is a gaudily decorated plastic tree in the Common Room, sprayed with clumps of fake snow of which some has dripped down forming dirty lumps on the floor.

The gnomes in Mr Fernandez's garden have dirty Santa hats on their heads. Claudia's cabin has a nice wreath on the door and battery powered overlarge candy canes are shoved any which way into old pot plant pots leading up the path to her front door. A blow-up deer is tethered by a dog collar and lead to a scrubby bush near her cabin. Colonel Johnson's cannon has a British looking wreath pushed over the end of its barrel.

61 EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - EARLY MORNING

61

Julia's caravan door opens and Mack steps down leading a very wobbly Jasmine down the steps. She has just started to walk and is grumbling. Mack has a very angry look on his face.

MACK

When we get back I want my coffee ready and you need to have this place cleaned up, it's a mess.

A very tired and disheveled Julia watches Mack and Jasmine walk through the park. Mack talks baby talk to Jasmine and she starts giggling at him and listens intently. Julia's shoulders slump and she turns back into the caravan.

62 EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - LATE MORNING

62

Julia's appearance hasn't improved. She is hanging washing on the line and Claudia is sitting on a plastic chair on one side with a coffee mug in her hand. Jasmine is in a rough playpen that has been set up under the shade of a nearby tree. Toys are scattered inside the playpen and she seems happy throwing them out and watching them land in the dirt. Every so often she rattles the bars like a small gorilla wanting to get out.

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA

So, on New Year's Eve we're having the biggest bonfire you've ever seen; lots of crackers to go off at midnight. Everyone's goin' to come so ya got to be there, being Ricky's birthday as well as New Years.

JULIA

But what about Jasmine? Bethany hasn't been around for a while and even when she does look after Jasmine for me she always takes her back to your place.

CLAUDIA

Maybe it's the heat. Sorry to say this hon but that caravan of yours is like a boiling hot oven in summer. I don't know how ya can bear it in there. Our cabin was pretty hot as well but now that my Ricky has put in some ceilin' fans it's a bit cooler.

JULIA

Maybe...she just seems more distant than she used to be.

CLAUDIA

Well she is a teenager ya know.

JULIA

Yeah, I know.

Julia leaves her washing and goes over to Jasmine and picks up her toys from the dust. She brushes them down and places them back into the pen. Picking up Jasmine, she squeezes her in a tight cuddle. Jasmine squirms to get down.

JASMINE

Ack, ack, ack.

CLAUDIA

What's she sayin'?

JULIA

(Sighs)

Mack, she really seems to love him.

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA
Is that her first word?

Julia, with tears in her eyes, nods.

JULIA
Yeah, she thinks the sun shines out
of him. Unfortunately no 'Mum's'
yet.

Julia puts Jasmine down and harshly wipes the tears from her face with the back of her hand. She returns back to hanging out her washing. Jasmine picks up a toy and throws it out of the playpen into the dust.

JASMINE
Ack, ack, ack.

63

INT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - EARLY EVENING

63

Julia seems to have made an effort to dress better, but her dress has faded and there is a stain from Jasmine's food that she hasn't noticed on her bodice. She has brushed her slightly greasy hair, tried to brighten her face with some overly bright lipstick but she still looks tired. She is tending a saucepan on her tiny gas grill.

Jasmine, in an old highchair is playing with her dinner, smearing it across her face and throwing some of it on the floor. We hear the crunch of boots on the gravel drive outside and then the stomp of the boots on the stairs. Julia, anxious, drops the spoon into the pot and sauce plops out onto the counter. Her color fades as the caravan door is pulled open. Mack thumps his way into the caravan and tosses his dirty bag onto the floor. He goes to Jasmine and ruffles her hair. He then kisses Julia on the cheek while giving her bottom a hard pinch. She flinches. Mack's eyes grow hard as he surveys the mess on the floor near Jasmine. He sits down at the small table while Julia spoons out a bowl full of sausages and beans and places it in front of him with a bottle of beer.

MACK
What the hell is this?

Julia flinches at his harsh words and seems to shrink into herself. She clenches her shaking hands.

MACK
Can't you hear me? I said what the
fuck is this?

(CONTINUED)

JULIA
(Whispers inaudibly)
Sausages and beans.

MACK
What?

JULIA
(A tiny bit louder.)
Sausages and beans.

MACK
Well it looks like crap and smells
like it too. I'm not eating that
shit.

He shoves the bowl away and some of it slops over the side. He takes a long drink of beer and takes delight in Julia's distress. He indicates the mess on Jasmine's face and on the floor with his beer bottle.

MACK
And what the hell is going on here?
Can't you even look after your
daughter properly and keep her
clean? Look at the mess she's
making. Aren't you going to clean
it up?

Julia grabs an old dishcloth and tries to wipe Jasmine's face, but smears the food further as Jasmine screams and pulls her face away. Jasmine grabs her bowl and throws it on the floor with food flying everywhere.

MACK
Great, just great. Look at what
you've made her do. Get the fuck
down there and clean up that shit.

Julia gets down and tries to wipe up the mess with the dirty dishcloth. She is in tears and her hair falls over her face hiding them from Mack. Jasmine is now giggling at the noise and mess that she has made. Mack grins cruelly at Julia on the floor. He goes to the fridge, gets another beer and pulls open the door of the caravan. Julia looks up at him.

JULIA
You're leaving?

MACK
Yeah, I don't want that crap food
that dish up to me everyday. I'm
going to the pub.

(CONTINUED)

He steps out and slams the caravan door behind him.

MACK (OS)

And I'll be back when I'm good and ready.

Julia bows her head and her hair falls further over her face. Quietly, she cries.

64

EXT. CLAUDIA'S CABIN - MIDDAY

64

Bethany, who is starting to look a bit more feminine, is dressed in cut-off denim shorts and an old rocker tee-shirt. She is wearing ratty sneakers and has a cap pulled down over her eyes. She quietly closes the cabin door and sneaks down the stairs trying not to be seen by either by Claudia or Julia. She slips between the cabins and caravans to the hole in the fence. She takes one last look back before she slips through. She crunches through the dry leaves and makes her way down to the lake.

The waterfall is just a small trickle that falls down into the low lake. She sits down on her rock and listens to the sounds around her. Birds warbling in the trees, water trickling into the lake and the small cracking sound of a couple of twigs doesn't concern her. She puts her MP3 buds into her ears and turns up the volume. The muffled thump of the music and inaudible vocals seem foreign mixed with the bush sounds. She reaches behind her under the bush and pulls out the same old tin box. She places it on her lap and opens it.

Inside the box is a packet of weed, papers, a lighter and a rolled up joint. She reaches for the joint and lighter then closes the box and puts it to one side. With some effort she gets the lighter working and lights up the joint. Closing her eyes she leans back and enjoys the smoke. Unbeknownst to her, someone is looking at her through the leaves and twigs of the bush. Bethany smacks at a mosquito that is biting her leg leaving a smear of blood.

We hear heavy male breathing and see the held back branches carefully let go. We see a pair of tattered jeans and dusty crocodile boots making their way through the bush.

65

INT. CLAUDIA'S CABIN - AFTERNOON

65

Claudia is in the kitchen preparing dinner. We hear a screen door slamming shut.

CLAUDIA

Bethy, is that you love?

(CONTINUED)

BETHANY (OS)
(Mumbles to herself)
Who else do you think it is?
(Louder)
Yes Mum.

CLAUDIA
Can you come here love?

Bethany drops her MP3 player off into her room and blows her breath into her hand to check for the smell of smoke. She grimaces, then grabs a piece of chewing gum from the packet on her dresser and pops it into her mouth. She leaves the bedroom and goes into the kitchen, slumping down into a chair as far away from her mother as she can.

CLAUDIA
Where have you been honey?

Bethany shrugs her shoulders. Claudia looks at her sharply.

CLAUDIA
You haven't been down at the lake again, have you?

BETHANY
(Clearly lying)
No Mum, I was over at Helena's helping her with something.

CLAUDIA
Well okay then.

Bethany waits for her Mum to speak, when it seems that the conversation has ended she starts to get up. She grudgingly sits back down when her mother begins to speak.

CLAUDIA
Bethy, Julia and I were havin' a chat today about 'cha. She was wonderin' about why ya don't go over there so much anymore?

Bethany lowers her eyes and shrugs.

CLAUDIA
It's not like that she's angry with ya honey, but she misses ya and...

BETHANY
Oh, I don't know Mum.

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA

And, Julia says that when ya do look after Jasmine ya either bring her here or take her to Marjorie's. What's wrong sweetie?

BETHANY

(Shrugs)

I just don't like being around there so much anymore.

CLAUDIA

It's not Jasmine is it?

BETHANY

Oh no it's not Jasmine, she's lovely.

CLAUDIA

Well I know it can't be Mack, I mean he's great, so helpful and charming and he's not there all the time anyway. I told Julia it was just the heat inside her caravan. You were never much one for hot weather and those caravans can get really stinkin' hot.

Claudia moves so that she is directly underneath the ceiling fan. She raises her face and flaps her top relishing the cool breeze.

CLAUDIA

Nothing like our place anyway now that Ricky has installed these fans.

Bethany's eyes start to glaze over.

CLAUDIA

He really cares for us ya know and I only had to ask him twice.

BETHANY

(Resigned)

Yeah Mum, that's it.

CLAUDIA

Well if that's the only problem I'll let Julia know, maybe Mack can buy her a fan, one of those ones on one leg that she can move around.

(CONTINUED)

BETHANY

Pedestal.

Claudia starts to drift.

CLAUDIA

Yeah, one of those pedestal things.

Bethany gets up and leaves.

CLAUDIA

Wonder whether one of those could
be any good in...

66

INT. MARJORIE'S CABIN - AFTERNOON

66

Marjorie is humming a wordless tune as she lights up the candle underneath her oil burner. She moves around the cabin lowering her colorful curtains making the room right for her to read her cards. Nature sounds play on her CD player. She moves into the kitchenette and pours herself a cup of tea. Taking down an old bottle, with a faded label, from the shelf she uncorks it and pours a healthy draft into the tea. She stoppers the bottle and puts it back. Picking up the cup she carries it to the card table. After sitting down heavily, she lifts the cup up and breathes in the aroma. With her first sip a measure of calmness passes over her face.

There is a knock at the door. Marjorie puts down her cup and answers the door letting in Julia carrying a sleeping Jasmine.

MARJORIE

Good Afternoon my dear. Just lay
her down on the couch, she'll be
fine.

JULIA

Thanks.

Marjorie goes to the kitchenette and pours a cup of tea for Julia.

MARJORIE

Come and have a cuppa my dear and
we'll get started.

Julia lays Jasmine on the couch where she curls up still asleep and takes the offered cup.

(CONTINUED)

MARJORIE

I know that you're skeptical my dear about having your cards read but you are actually doing me a favor. The cards for me have been unsettled and when I read them with you in mind, they become even more so. I am hoping with your presence they they may become clearer.

JULIA

I don't mind but if I'm not a believer will they work?

MARJORIE

That is uncertain but I have never had these problems before so I am sure that it will work out fine in the end. Now, take a sip of tea and close your eyes. When you're ready, open them and cut the deck for me and we will see what unfolds.

After Julia opens her eyes and cuts the deck Marjorie gathers the cards and taps the deck against the table three times.

MARJORIE

Ah the Magician, the card of smooth talkers and salesmen. Watch out for those my dear. Now let's see what comes next.

She taps the cards three times then turns over the next one.

MARJORIE

The Fool, quite a strong card there. The Fool must learn to pay attention before it's too late. Do you feel as though you have been a fool my dear?

JULIA

(Shrugs)

Sometimes I do. I felt foolish when I left Sydney. I feel foolish all the time now when Jasmine prefers the company of Bethany and Mack over mine and I feel stupid that I'm just like other women who want a man's attention.

(CONTINUED)

MARJORIE

Humph. Let's see what's next.

She taps again.

MARJORIE

Three Swords, ah, this card indicates that the truth is going to come out.

JULIA

What truth? What does that mean?

MARJORIE

Whatever truth is hidden from you at the moment. Could be a secret, a person's true nature or can even lead you to a truthful event. Let's see what's next, hey?

She taps and turns the next card.

MARJORIE

(Gasps)

The Tower. This is an important card; see how the tower is falling. It means that whatever is believed to be true will be learned later to be false. By being shaken up or knocked down by a revelation allows us to find out what is true and reliable. False beliefs are going to tumble down, suddenly, violently and all at once. These rude awakenings are not going to be pleasant or painless or easy but they will be necessary and for the best in the end.

JULIA

That doesn't sound good.

MARJORIE

No, I suppose it doesn't. But who wants to be a fool forever. Do we want our foolishness to continue? Do we still want to live in dreams or have the truth outlined for us so we can learn from it? I suppose the truth could reveal itself slowly and less painfully but would we learn from a gradual change? No, I believe this card is right, the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MARJORIE (cont'd)
truth will reveal itself suddenly
and violently.

Jasmine stirs on the couch and Julia turns to check that she's okay.

MARJORIE
Let's see what the Tower Card is
reinforced by.

She taps and turns the next card.

MARJORIE
Ah, the Knight of Swords. Yes this
reinforces it nicely.

Marjorie taps her finger on the card.

MARJORIE
Yes, yes this card indicates that
it is the right time and
environment for rapid change.
(Pauses)
Have a sip of tea and we'll see
where this leads.

Jasmine settles back to sleep and both Julia and Marjorie take a sip of tea. The CD changes track to a more upbeat tune.

MARJORIE
Okay, let's see what's next.

Julia gasps as the Judgement Card is turned over.

JULIA
(Gasps)

MARJORIE
No, don't be frightened my dear,
this is a good card. Judgement asks
us to resurrect the past and
forgive it and then let it go. It
wants us to learn from it, forgive
it and then forget it. Ah, these
cards are making my own readings a
lot clearer.

JULIA
They are?

MARJORIE

Oh yes my dear. I can see now that my readings have been influenced by the turmoil from your past life and the decisions that you are going to make in the near future. Oh yes, this explains a lot of messy readings. Now drink the last of your tea and we'll turn over the final card.

Both women drain their cups. Marjorie taps then turns the last card to show the Ace of Swords.

MARJORIE

Yes, this reinforces it nicely. This card means that the mind is clearer, sharper and more focused. It indicates that the decision that has to be made is the right one and there is no other possible solution.

(Mumbles)

Very good, very very good.

Just as she stops, Jasmine wakes up and Julia goes over and picks up her sleepy baby.

Julia looks back at Marjorie who is still concentrating on the cards on the table.

JULIA

Well I'd better be off then, this sleepy girl likes to be fed as soon as she wakes.

Julia goes to the cabin door.

JULIA

I hope the reading helped.

Marjorie is still distracted by the cards.

MARJORIE

What dear?

JULIA

I hope I helped.

MARJORIE

Oh yes, yes, you helped a lot. Thank you for coming my dear. I'll see you out.

67 TITLE CARD:CHRISTMAS DAY 67

68 INT. CLAUDIA'S CABIN - MORNING 68

Claudia, Ricky and Bethany are sitting around a medium sized fake Christmas tree that is decorated with all the trimmings. We can hear rain easing off. Ricky is opening a brightly wrapped parcel and unveils a shirt. Claudia claps her hands happily at his smile.

69 INT. MR AND MRS FERNANDEZ'S CABIN - MORNING 69

Mr and Mrs Fernandez are sitting at their table in silence eating breakfast with pictures of their grandchildren propped up on the table.

70 INT. COLONEL JOHNSON'S CABIN - MORNING 70

Colonel Johnson is in his kitchen flipping eggs and bacon. He is happily humming *Good King Wenceslas* to the tune that is playing on his radio.

71 INT. PETRA'S CABIN- MORNING 71

Petra and Helena are sitting in their lounge. Petra is reading out a letter in Bulgarian that they received from their family.

PETRA

(subtitled in English)

Souva is doing well and had graduated from Tech School and young Inga, was Mary in the school Nativity play....

72 INT. CLAUDIA'S CABIN - MORNING 72

There is a knock on the door and Claudia opens the door wide to a very wet Julia.

CLAUDIA

Goodness, come in you're soaked. I didn't realize that it was raining so hard. Bethy, grab a towel would ya.

Bethany throws a towel at her Mum and it falls on the floor at Julia's feet.

CLAUDIA

(Sarcastically)

Brilliant Bethy, just brilliant.

(To Julia)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA (cont'd)

We're just opening our pressies,
come and see what my Ricky's got
me.

JULIA

(Protesting)

No, it's okay I'm too wet. I'll
drip on everything.

CLAUDIA

Nonsense, come in and take a look.

They go to the lounge room where Claudia picks up a fake
leopard skin jacket.

CLAUDIA

It's beautiful isn't it?

Claudia slips it on and parades around.

JULIA

It's lovely. It suits you.

Claudia slips the jacket off.

CLAUDIA

I know, it's gorgeous, even if it's
too hot in this weather. Now, what
can I do for ya honey?

JULIA

Mack sent me over to pick up the
beer that you got for him.

CLAUDIA

What? In this weather?
(Shakes her head and titches)
Well, never mind, I'll get it for
you.

Claudia goes to the back of the couch and drags out a carton
of beer.

CLAUDIA

You're right to carry this all by
yourself? It's darned heavy. It
couldn't wait for later until the
weather clears up?

JULIA

No, Mack wants it now so that it
has time to get cold.

(CONTINUED)

(A bit panicky)
I've got to get it now.

CLAUDIA
Alright love.
(Calling)
Ricky, Ricky come here love and
carry this for Julia.

JULIA
(Protesting)
No, no I'm fine. I didn't mean to
interrupt, go back to your present
opening.

Julia struggles to lift the carton up from the floor but manages it. She smiles pretending that it isn't heavy.

JULIA
I'm fine, fine.

She walks carefully to the door. Claudia looks longingly at all the unopened parcels under the tree.

CLAUDIA
Well, alright honey. If you're
sure.

JULIA
Yeah, I'm sure. You have a great
time and I'll see you later.

CLAUDIA
Okay love.

Claudia opens the door for her and Julia leaves her arms straining under the weight of the carton. She struggles with the carton across the gravel drive to her caravan. When she arrives she nearly drops it but manages to put it down onto a plastic chair. She rests a bit under the small awning that barely covers the stairs. She leans against the caravan listening to Mack chatting to Jasmine.

MACK (OS)
(Baby talk voice)
You're a lovely girl Jasmine,
You're going to love the presents
that I got for you.

We can hear Jasmine making happy cooing noises.

(CONTINUED)

MACK (OS)

And later on when you're a bit bigger I'll take you on a holiday won't that be nice? We can go somewhere real special just you and me. Here baby, eat up. That's a good girl. Mummy will be back soon and she would love to see that you've been a good girl and eaten up all of your food.

Julia smiles at Mack's baby talk. She picks up the carton again and struggles to open the door.

73

INT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - MORNING

73

MACK

(Angrily)

What the hell have you been doing? It's taken you long enough.

JULIA

(Stutters)

Clau...dia wanted to show me her new jacket.

MACK

I don't give a fuck.

Mack grabs the carton from Julia and puts it on the floor.

MACK

Now the beer's all wet.

JULIA

(Feebily)

It's raining.

MACK

So. Grab a towel and dry it before the cardboard all falls apart. You stupid or something?

Julia just stands there stunned. Mack turns back to Jasmine who is giggling at the loud noises.

MACK

Your Mummy's stupid isn't she?

Mack picks up a spoon and spoons baby food out of a jar.

(CONTINUED)

MACK

(Baby talk voice)

Okay sweetheart, where were we? Oh
yes, here comes the train, choo
choo.

Jasmine opens her mouth wide.

74 EXT. THE MONTANO'S CABIN - EVENING

74

Mr and Mrs Montano leave their cabin and lock the door. Mr Montano is carrying a large bowl of steaming hot pasta. They are talking to each other in Italian. Mrs Montano is carrying a bottle of Italian Wine. There is indistinct 90's music playing, laughter and loud talking are heard in the distance. They make their way over to the Common Room.

A large bonfire is burning in the grassy area outside the Common Room. Strewn around is haphazardly is a mixture of plastic chairs and camp chairs. There are two signs hanging crookedly over the door of the Common Room. One says *Happy New Year* and the other *Happy Birthday*. The Montanos open up the screen door and make their way inside. Mrs Montano places her bowl onto the fully laden buffet table while Mr Montano shoves his bottle into a tub full of ice.

75 INT. COMMON ROOM - EVENING

75

Most of the residents are tipsy with Claudia more than most. She is reveling that the party is going so well and that Ricky is happy and enjoying himself. Everyone is dressed up. Bethany is looking very grown up in a dress rather than in her usual jeans and tee shirt.

Claudia addresses Mr and Mrs Montano.

CLAUDIA

Welcome. Wow some of your lovely
pasta Mrs Montano. Can't wait to
taste it. Come over here and let me
get you a drink. Here, sample some
of Petra's goodies; she says that
she's been baking all day.

Claudia offers a tray of small baked pastries to the couple.

MRS MONTANO

Thank you Claudia. That would be
lovely. My, doesn't Bethany look
lovely tonight?

Claudia looks over at Bethany and blushes happily at the compliment.

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA

Yes, I am so pleased that she is starting to dress more like a young lady. I never thought she would grow out of dressing like a slob but she has thank goodness. You also look lovely. Is that a new shawl?

Ricky, Bill, Mack and the Colonel are playing darts. All four the men cheer when Ricky throws a bulls-eye.

Claudia and Mrs Montano smile at the men's antics. Julia, bouncing Jasmine on her knee, is sitting in a corner with Bethany and Helena. She has made an effort to dress up, but misses, Her smile is brittle and doesn't reach her eyes. She seems distant and withdrawn. It is like she was, in the beginning, when she arrived at the park, awkward, introverted and unsure of herself. She is wearing the necklace Mack gave her. She keeps looking over at Mack worried that she could be doing something wrong. Jasmine is giggling and Bethany is listening to Ethel.

At the darts game, Mack gives Ricky a congratulatory slap on the shoulder, then moves over to the drinks table. He checks that no-one is watching as he pours three drinks, wine for Julia and Helena and lemonade for Bethany. Unnoticed, he opens up a small bottle of pills, cracks one in half, and slips one of the halves into the lemonade. Giving the glass a swirl to make sure that tablet is dissolved, he moves over to the three women.

MACK

Here you are ladies. Don't you look lovely tonight Helena. In fact you all look beautiful.

Mack hands out the glasses and then takes Jasmine from Julia's lap.

MACK

Especially my gorgeous girl here. Come here my darling and give your Mum a rest.

Mack takes Jasmine over to the central table where Petra, Marjorie and Mrs Fernandez are seated.

Bethany looks extremely worried.

76

EXT. COMMON ROOM - CLOSE TO MIDNIGHT

76

Eighties music is playing. The festivities have moved outside to the bonfire. Sparks are flying up from the fire into the night sky. Around the bonfire Claudia is sitting on Ricky's knee, whispering into his ear. Mrs Montano, Mrs Fernandez and Marjorie are sitting on old cushions on a log beside Helena in her wheelchair. Bill is handing the Colonel pieces of wood so he can lay them on the fire.

COLONEL

Now, this is the way that they built a fire during the war. Not that they had much wood to burn, just enough to keep a cooking fire going. There wasn't even enough to boil water to treat the soldier's injuries...

Petra and Ethel are chatting to Candy and Suzie. They are sitting on camp chairs with a laden plastic table in front of them. Mr Montano and Mr Fernandez are chatting while swinging on the playground swings.

The Common Room screen door slams closed.

Julia, with a large bowl of chips, stops outside the closed door. She glances, with a half smile, at all of the groups of people. Her eyes narrow when her gaze finds Mack and Bethany, who is holding a sleeping Jasmine, off to one side well away from the fire and other people. It looks as though Bethany is swaying slightly and her eyes appear to be unfocused. Mack is leaning close to her, too close. Bethany starts to back away into a tree trunk. Mack moves in closer, following her. She re-positions Jasmine and tries again to move away from him. Mack feels Julia's eyes on them and turns to meet her gaze. He returns her look with one of contempt and disgust. Julia cringes and with slumped shoulders, and a look of dejection, walks around the groups offering the bowl of chips.

77

EXT. COMMON ROOM - MIDNIGHT

77

The radio announcer is counting off the seconds until midnight.

Everyone is around the bonfire with their glasses raised. Bethany is trying to keep upright by leaning on Helena's chair.

They all count down the seconds until midnight.

(CONTINUED)

EVERYONE

Six, five, four, three, two,
one...Happy New Year.

They all clink glasses and cheer.

CLAUDIA

(Shouts)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RICKY!

She gives him a resounding and passionate kiss which makes all of the residents cheer with approval. Other couples kiss as well and the Colonel kisses Marjorie on the cheek.

78 EXT. COMMON ROOM - 1AM 78

Ricky and the Colonel are performing a drunken dance around the fire with everyone cheering and clapping.

79 INT. COMMON ROOM - LATER 79

Marjorie is doing the dishes and Julia is tidying up the room. Bethany slides open the screen door and stumbles in. She looks worse-for-wear, disheveled and unsteady on her feet. Jasmine is asleep in her arms.

BETHANY

(Slurring)

'Ulia?

Julia stops what she is doing and turns.

JULIA

What Bethany?

Bethany tries to pull herself together.

BETHANY

'Asmine's asleep. I'm goin' to take
her back.

Julia takes a good look at Bethany and notices her unsteadiness.

JULIA

Okay. Are you sure that you're
alright?

BETHANY

Sure. Just tired.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

Are you okay with Jasmine? Do you want me to come back with you?

BETHANY

No, 'tis okay.

JULIA

Okay, if you're sure.

Bethany nods and turns to leave.

JULIA

Bethany?

Bethany looks back. Julia walks over to Bethany and gives her a hug.

JULIA

Thanks for looking after Jasmine. I wouldn't have been able to cope without your help this past year. I know that I've had trouble with her when she's in one of her moods, but with your help and friendship I know that I have coped better. Especially in these last few months. You've come to mean a lot to her...and also to me.

Bethany smiles a wobbly smile and gives Julia a one armed hug back.

BETHANY

That's okay. I love her as much as you do. She's like a sister to me.

JULIA

And she loves you. Just like I do. I 'll come and get her from you soon. Okay?

BETHANY

Okay.

80

EXT. COMMON ROOM - LATER

80

Mack, smoking a cigarette, watches Bethany trundle unsteadily down the drive to Julia's caravan. He removes the cigarette butt from his mouth and drops it to the ground. He looks around at the other residents to see if they are watching Bethany or him and when he is certain that no-one is watching, he follows Bethany, keeping to the shadows.

81 EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - LATER 81

Mack is in the shadows, watching and listening. Bethany and Jasmine are in the caravan.

BETHANY (OS)

Are you a good girl? Did you like the party? Here honey, hold onto your teddy he will help you get to sleep.

Mack creeps closer to the door.

82 INT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - LATER 82

Bethany is getting Jasmine ready for bed when the caravan door silently opens and Mack creeps inside. The floor creaks and she turns. Mack grabs her and she lets out a partial scream before he can get his hand over her mouth. Bethany, with terror in her eyes, tries to scream again but it is muffled by his palm. He punches her in the stomach, winding her. Then punches her in the face knocking her out cold. Mack's expression has turned cunning and to one of satisfaction.

83 EXT. COMMON ROOM - LATER 83

Claudia and Ricky are dancing close, mainly just swaying to the music. Most of the residents have gone home except Bill who is leaning against a log by the fire, fast asleep. Julia and Ethel are still inside the Common Room.

84 INT. COMMON ROOM - LATER 84

Julia places the last dirty plastic plate into the trash then gathers her things.

JULIA

Night Ethel.

ETHEL

Night Julia.

Julia walks past the bonfire, pauses, then watches with longing at Claudia and Ricky dancing. She looks around searching for Mack.

JULIA

Claudia, have you seen Mack?

Claudia raises her head from Ricky's shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIA

No honey, not for a little while.

JULIA

Okay then, see you guys later. I'm going home to bed. If Bethany's asleep I will leave her there until morning.

CLAUDIA

Alright honey, see you tomorrow.

Julia walks casually down the drive.

85 EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - LATER 85

Julia approaches the door and turns the handle, it's unlocked. A look of concern crosses her face.

86 INT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - LATER 86

She enters the caravan and looks around to find that no-one is there, but two things are out of place, Jasmine's party clothes are on the bed and her teddy is gone. Julia looks worried.

87 EXT. JULIA'S CARAVAN - LATER 87

Julia rushes out of her caravan to Claudia's cabin. She tries the handle but it is locked. She pounds her fist on the door.

BETHANY

Bethany? Bethany, are you in there?

When there is no answer, Julia listens at the door. The cabin is dark and silent. Starting to panic, Julia rushes over to Mack's caravan.

88 EXT. MACK'S CARAVAN - LATER 88

Julia bashes her hand against his door.

JULIA

Mack, Mack, open up.

When there is no answer she pushes on the door handle to find it unlocked.

89 INT. MACK'S CARAVAN - LATER 89

The caravan has been cleared out, there are no clothes, dishes or personal items around. Julia, in a panic, rushes around the caravan and pulls open drawers, cupboards and the fridge to find them all empty.

JULIA
Oh No! Oh God! FUCK, FUCK, FUCK.
WHERE ARE YOU?

90 EXT. MACK'S CARAVAN - LATER 90

She flings open the door and rushes down the gravel drive to the outside of the caravan park. She looks up and down the street to find Mack's truck missing.

JULIA
FUCK, FUCK!

She turns and runs back through the park to the hole in the fence. Stepping through the hole she trips over something in the grass and falls to her hands and knees.

JULIA
Shit!

91 EXT. COMMON ROOM - LATER 91

RICKY
Hey, where's Julia going in such a hurry?

Claudia follows his gaze. They see Julia climb through the hole in the fence.

CLAUDIA
Don't know. Something must be wrong.

Claudia and Ricky start running down the drive towards the fence.

Julia picks herself up then looks down at what she tripped over. Julia gasps when she sees Jasmine's teddy bear lying on the ground.

JULIA
Oh no, Jasmine, Bethany where are you!

Julia picks up the teddy and holds it close to her for a second, then she runs through the trees stumbling over branches and plants.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA
Oh God! Oh No! BETHANY! JASMINE!

Her hands and arms are cut as she pulls back branches to make her way through.

JULIA
JASMINE, BETHANY!

Finally she reaches the lake. She rounds the waterfall to Bethany's usual place to find it empty. Julia is very distraught. She screams the children's names over and over.

JULIA
BETHANY, BETHANY! JASMINE, JASMINE!
Oh god where are they? BETHANY,
BETHANY, BETH...ANY!

92 EXT. MACK'S TRUCK - 2:30AM 92

Mack drops Bethany to the ground. She is awake but is still dazed by his blow and the drugs. Mack takes Jasmine to the truck. He opens up the door and steps inside.

93 INT. MACK'S TRUCK - 2:30AM 93

Jasmine wriggles in his arms.

MACK
Here you are darling. I've got a lovely place for you to sleep.

He places Jasmine into the sleeper section of the truck cabin.

MACK
Look, it's nice in here.

Mack tucks her up tight in an old blanket.

MACK
It's a bit cold isn't it darling.
I'll make it warm for you.

He turns on the truck and adjusts the heater.

MACK
There you go. Now go to sleep.
we're going on a trip Bethany you
and I. That's going to be fun isn't
it?

(CONTINUED)

Jasmine's eyes start to flutter closed at the steady hum of the truck's motor. Mack looks out at Bethany stirring on the ground.

MACK

Go to sleep honey I'll be back in a moment with Bethany. Won't that be nice, just the three of us together? Go to sleep beautiful.

Mack opens a storage compartment and takes out a roll of tape. He gets down from the truck, his highly polished crocodile boots reflecting the cabin's light. He walks over to Bethany.

94 EXT. LAKE FRONT - LATER

94

Julia turns at the sound of the truck motor starting up.

JULIA

JASMINE! JAS...MINE!

Filtered light from the truck's headlights pierce the bush and casts eerie shadows onto the lake. Julia starts running towards the sound.

JULIA

JAS...MINE!

95 EXT. MACK'S TRUCK - LATER

95

Mack leans down beside Bethany and shows her the tape.

MACK

Am I going to have to use this? Or are you going to be good and quiet?

Bethany just looks at him. Her eyes trying to focus. She reaches up to touch the cut and bruising on her cheek.

MACK

Yeah that's right. You need to be quiet or you'll get another one of those...but if you're not...I'll take it out on Jasmine in there. You don't want that, do you honey?

Bethany carefully shakes her head.

MACK

Good girl.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA (OS)
 (Yells from a distance)
 JASMINE, BETHANY!

Bethany pulls herself up into a sitting position and yells back.

BETHANY
 JULIA!

Mack punches her in the face and Bethany collapses onto the ground.

MACK
 Shut up you bitch. Now I'll have to
 tape you.

Mack rips off some tape with his teeth and tapes up Bethany's mouth. He then secures her hands and ankles with more tape.

They can hear Julia crashing through the bush towards them. Mack mockingly holds his finger in front of his mouth indicating silence. He then steps into the shadows and waits.

96 EXT. BUSH - LATER

96

Julia trips over an exposed tree root and falls onto her hands, cutting them on exposed rocks on the forest floor. Wincing at the pain, she gets up and starts running again towards the lights.

She finally stumbles out of the bush straight into the beam of the truck's headlights. She holds her hands up to her eyes trying to block out some of the light. Blinded she doesn't see Bethany on the ground or Mack in the shadows.

JULIA
 Jasmine, Jasmine, where are you
 honey? Mack are you in there?

Julia makes her way around the truck to its door. Opening it she climbs inside.

97 INT. MACK'S TRUCK - LATER

97

Jasmine is asleep, but wakes and blinks at the sound of her mother's voice.

JULIA
 Jasmine, Jasmine? Oh honey, come to
 Mummy.

(CONTINUED)

Julia reaches for her daughter.

Mack grabs Julia by the waist and pulls her out of the cabin. She scrambles to get away.

Julia screams. Jasmine starts crying.

98

EXT. MACK'S TRUCK - LATER

98

Julia falls backwards from the truck onto the ground. Mack picks her up and punches her in the stomach and then throws her back down. She scrambles up again and backs away tripping over Bethany. Julia sprawls on the ground winded. She sees Bethany.

JULIA

Oh my God...Bethany.

Julia crouches beside her.

Bethany has a black eye and a cut on her face. The eye that is not swollen shut is filled with terror and helplessness.

Mack moves menacingly towards them. Julia looks up when his shadow falls over them.

JULIA

What are you doing? Let her go!
What are you doing with Bethany and
my daughter?

Julia ineffectually tries to release Bethany's ankles from the tape.

MACK

(Cackles)

We are going for a little drive the
three of us. Leave that tape alone.

Julia shakes her head as if trying to clear it.

JULIA

What?

MACK

We both know that Jasmine prefers
me to you and I've had my eye on
Bethany for a while now.

JULIA

(Confused)

What? What are you saying?

(CONTINUED)

She goes back to trying to remove the tape. Mack shoves her away from Bethany and she falls backwards near a large stick.

MACK

Leave her alone you bitch! Bethany will do for a while until Jasmine gets a bit older.

JULIA

What are you talking about?

Mack moves his jacket aside as he reaches for a cigarette packet in his jeans pocket. This movement reveals a knife in a sheath attached to his belt. Julia watches Mack slowly light up his cigarette and while he is distracted she reaches behind her for the sturdy stick, but it's just a little too far away. Mack takes a deep drag of his smoke and blows the smoke into Julia's face. She coughs.

MACK

You stupid bitch, it was never you that I was interested in. I only like young girls, not old hags like you.

Julia shuffles back to get closer to the branch.

MACK

Stop moving or I'll...

He touches the knife in its sheath. Julia stiffens.

MACK

(Boastingly)

The rapes and murders of those three girls over the past year...

He takes another long drag of his cigarette and lets the smoke out slowly.

MACK

Well, let's just say, after the the first one, I just wanted more.

JULIA

(Horrorified)

That was you, those three local girls? That was you?

MACK

Yep, and they were great too. But why waste them.

(CONTINUED)

He nudges Bethany with the toe of his boot then reaches down and strokes her cheek.

MACK

I've learnt not to be wasteful.
This gorgeous girl here, she will
do anything to keep Jasmine safe.
She's a much better mother than you
and Jasmine loves her.

(Taunting)

You know that Jasmine loves her
more than you, don't you? Bethany
here, well, she will keep me
satisfied for a long time I'm sure,
until Jasmine is ready.

Julia's hand closes over the branch. Unsteadily she stands keeping the stick hidden behind her back.

JULIA

You sick fuck, you think that I
will let you take my daughter? You
think that I will just let you take
Bethany, who is just like a
daughter to me?

MACK

Sit the fuck back down or you are
going to get this earlier rather
than later.

JULIA

(Defiant)

No, I'm not going to let you. I'm
not going to let you take them.

Mack takes a menacing step towards her and undoes the clip on his knife sheath.

MACK

SIT - THE - FUCK - BACK - DOWN!

Julia pulls herself up as upright as she can. She takes a step towards him and looks him full in the face. She has finally broken through her depression.

JULIA

(Defiant)

No, I've had enough taken from me
and I won't let you take my
daughter too.

(CONTINUED)

There are sounds of Claudia and Ricky crashing and pounding through the bush. Claudia and Ricky are yelling for Julia and Bethany.

CLAUDIA
JULIA! BETHANY! BETHANY!

RICKY
BETHANY! BETH...ANY!

Mack, distracted by the sounds, turn slightly away from Julia towards the sounds.

Julia looks down at Bethany whose eyes plead for help. Encouraged, Julia, with all her strength, swings the sturdy branch at Mack's head.

At the last moment, Mack turns back and the branch cuts him across the nose breaking it and shattering his cheekbone.

MACK
YOU BITCH!

He snorts the blood out of his nose. He slides his knife out of the sheath and slices at Julia. Dazed by pain he cuts her shoulder rather than her chest. Julia swings again with the branch and it connects with his arm. He grunts with pain but it doesn't stop him. He leaps at her knocking her down and causing her to drop the branch. He then jumps on her and bears his knife down towards her neck.

Mack's sweat and blood drips down onto Julia's face. Her hands come up and she hits his shattered cheek bone. He screams with pain.

MACK
YOU FUCKING BITCH!

The sounds of Claudia and Ricky running through the bush are louder.

CLAUDIA
JULIA!

Mack brings the knife down closer until the tip scratches her neck. Julia screams and struggles harder.

There is a loud crash as Ricky runs out of the trees. He shouts and throws himself at Mack just as he is about to cut Julia again.

(CONTINUED)

RICKY
YOU FUCKING BASTARD!

Mack and Ricky roll on the ground fighting. Ricky is trying to force the knife out of Mack's hand. Mack stabs down and cuts Ricky's arm. He retaliates by punching Mack in the nose. The knife falls to the ground as Mack reels from the punch and holds his bleeding broken nose.

Claudia runs out of the scrub and rushes towards Bethany. She drops to her knees and gathers her close. She gently touches the bruising and cut on her face.

CLAUDIA
Oh my God Bethy. Bethy what has he
done to you?

Julia pulls herself up off the ground holding a hand to the cut on her neck. Claudia turns to her.

CLAUDIA
Julia, you saved her, you saved my
Bethy.

Claudia notices the blood on Julia.

CLAUDIA
(Gasps)
Oh my God, you're hurt.

The men grunt and groan and the women turn to the fighting men.

Claudia lays Bethany down gently and picks up the branch that Julia dropped. Unnoticed by the two men, she moves towards them. Mack has Ricky pinned down, his hand that is holding the knife, is caught under Mack's knee.

Claudia swings the branch and it slams Mack on the back of the head. He jerks and starts to fall releasing Ricky's arm. Ricky drives the knife into the side of Mack's chest.

Mack falls to the ground dead.

Claudia lets the branch drop and goes back to Bethany. She slowly removes the tape from her mouth then kisses her multiple times all over the face being careful of the bruises and cuts.

CLAUDIA
Oh Bethy, Bethy love.

Ricky moves over to Bethany and Claudia and gathers them up into his embrace.

(CONTINUED)

BETHANY

Dad, oh Dad.

RICKY

Love you Bethy.

BETHANY

Love you too.

Julia gingerly gets up off the ground and stumbles to the truck and climbs unsteadily holding onto her sliced shoulder. She winces as fresh blood trickles through her fingers.

99 INT. MACK'S TRUCK - LATER

99

JULIA

Jasmine, Jasmine.

Julia reaches out for her daughter and gathers her close, holding her with her good arm. She kisses and rocks her, with tears she cannot control, running down her cheeks.

JULIA

(Sobbing)

Jasmine, Jasmine my baby, I love you. You're safe, you're safe.

(Quieter)

You're safe...

Jasmine reaches out and hugs Julia back.

JASMINE

Mum, Mum, Mum, Mum.

100 FADE OUT

100

101 CREDITS

101