

A presentation script of:

FARMSTAY

A romantic comedy with balls...

by
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Revisions by
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*With special thanks to members of the Acorn Theatre for their
wonderful reading of the script..*

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FADE IN

EXT: A STOCKYARD ON A WHEATBELT FARM. THE PRESENT.
MORNING.

The TESTICLES of a RAM. Slowly, we pull back and see the WHOLE RAM. As we pull back further we can see that the ram is standing alone in the corner of a stockyard. As we pull back even further, we can see that there are fifteen or so EWES at the other end of the stockyard. The ram appears disinterested in the ewes.

Two men, GARY BUTLER (35, tall, tanned, rugged good looks, three day stubble) and his older brother DAVE (40) can be seen leaning against the fence of the stockyard. Gary has an arse than women die for...

GARY

What do ya reckon, Davo? Give the old bastard a good dose of Viagra?

DAVE

Poor bugger needs something. He's gone right off his work lately.

Short beat as Gary and Dave continue to wait for something to happen. It doesn't....

GARY

I reckon he's bored.

Dave looks at his brother, slightly puzzled expression.

DAVE

What, with bonking ewes?

GARY

Well, just have a look at the them..

Dave takes his hat off and looks at the ewes...

DAVE

I'm looking... But I don't see your point..

GARY

They're all the fucking same. Balls of wool covered in dags and blowies...

Dave looks at the sheep and ponders for a moment. He shoos a fly away from his face before answering...

DAVE

Yeah, I see what you mean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARY

And there's no challenge in it for the old bastard. They just line up and wait for it... They could at least play hard to get or something...

DAVE

Lonely in the midst of plenty...

GARY

Maybe he's just too choosy...

DAVE

Just like you little brother..
Just like you..

The two brothers continue to watch the sheep. Still nothing happens. We close back in on the ram's testicles and then we DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AN ARTIST'S STUDIO. DAY.

The TESTICLES of a man.. As we pull back we see that the testicles are being PAINTED by a WOMAN'S HAND.

The hand holds the brush over the testicles for a moment.. Suddenly, with a series of angry brush strokes, the testicles are obliterated. The hand then picks up the canvas and throws it on the ground. We see the woman's foot stamp on the painting, punching a hole right where the testicles are...or were...

INT: THE APARTMENT OF DR. JAMES BALLANTYNE. THE PRESENT. LATE AFTERNOON.

A CRYSTAL WHISKEY DECANTER. As we pull back we can see DR. JAMES BALLANTYNE pouring two glasses of scotch from the decanter. James is in his mid 50's, distinguished looking. A FRAMED DOCUMENT shows that he is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. His apartment is lavishly appointed with stylish furniture, antiques and art works. Wealth and taste. Sitting in one of the lounge chairs is his daughter, DR. PENELOPE BALLANTYNE (PENNY). She is thirtyish and attractive.

James finishes pouring the drinks and walks towards Penny. He hands her the drink but remains standing, looking down at Penny.

JAMES

Well, Penelope darling, all ready for your exhibition?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

I've cancelled it. My work is
shit.

JAMES

Cancelled it? God woman. The
gallery won't be pleased.

PENNY

I don't give a damn what the
gallery thinks...

JAMES

Well you should. Prindiville's
are very selective in who they
show. You'll end up getting a
reputation for being
unreliable...

PENNY

I'm not holding an exhibition
that's full of crap.. My
students are doing better work
than me now... And you know what
that cow Sonja Michelson wrote
about me after my last
exhibition...

JAMES

Well, if you stop doing those
boring landscapes...

PENNY

I've tried to do some figurative
work but it's...

JAMES

(Interrupting)
Probably more of your abstract
rubbish...

PENNY

Look Daddy! I don't tell you how
to replace a hip so don't you
dare tell me how to paint!

James patronizingly shakes his head and then sits down
in a lounge chair. Short tense beat.

JAMES

And when are you going to tell
me about this latest boyfriend
of yours?

PENNY

Daddy....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAMES

I mean this one must be serious
if he bought you a car.

PENNY

Just don't interfere again.

JAMES

I take an interest in your life
because you keep making a mess
of it.

PENNY

I do not!

JAMES

Yes, you do. You take the last
one. Roger or whatever his name
was...

PENNY

Well, I didn't know he would
develop a thing about my
underwear..

JAMES

A thing about your underwear?!
He was wearing it for God's
sake!.. Honestly, Penelope. It's
like you have the words '*wierdos
park here*' stamped on your
forehead.

Another tense silence.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Anyway, darling, the reason I
asked you over was to talk about
the conference.

PENNY

I should have guessed. What
about the damn conference?

JAMES

Well, you already know what I
think. Cancel the holiday at the
silly farmstay and go to the
conference instead.

PENNY

The break will give me time to
rediscover my art....

JAMES

Rubbish darling. You're missing
out on a wonderful networking
opportunity...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PENNY

You know I hate networking...

JAMES

If you're to become Dean of the Faculty one day...

PENNY

Look! When will you accept that I want to be recognised for being me and not for being the daughter of Doctor bloody James Ballantyne!

JAMES

Don't you use that tone of voice with me young lady....You're beginning to sound more and more like your mother.

Penny angrily slams down her whiskey glass and stands.

PENNY

Ooohhhh!! I don't blame mummy for walking out on you. You never did let her be herself.

Penny storms off towards the door.

JAMES

You're just like her... Not willing to take advice...

Penny stops at the door and glares back at him.

PENNY

Advice yes. Orders no.

Penny angrily opens the door, and then slams it shut as she exits.

EXT: A GRAVEL ROAD. RURAL WHEATBELT AUSTRALIA. NEXT MORNING. SPRING.

A beautiful spring day. We track a RED MGB SPORTSCAR (circa 1980) as it speeds along the GRAVEL TRACK. WILDFLOWERS abound on the road verges.

Penny, dressed in casual but classy jeans and a top, drives the car. Her RED SILK SCARF blows in the slipstream. She taps her fingers on the steering wheel in time to a CD that is playing Michael Buble's *Sway*. The CD CASE is open on the seat next to her. Penny is eating HARD-CENTRED CHOCOLATES, from a BOX next to the CD case.

EXT. A FARMSTAY- WOMBAT LODGE. CONTINUOUS.

We track Penny's car as it turns into the farmstay. One of the tyres on her car is nearly FLAT.

The farmstay consists of four colonial style BUNGALOWS. Each bungalow has a name: SCRUB WREN, COCKATOO, GALAH and MAGPIE. There is also a function centre called KOOKABURRA.

A hundred metres from the bungalows is the main HOMESTEAD. Other farm buildings complete the scene - machinery sheds, silos, chicken runs, small stock yards - a typical Australian farm.

Penny pulls up in front of the homestead. A large sign reads WELCOME TO WOMBAT LODGE FARMSTAY: OFFICE. Penny gets out of her car and we track her as she walks towards the front door. She is wearing HIGH HEELS and STUMBLES on the gravel driveway. In the distance, we can see Gary emerge from one of the machinery sheds. He smiles as Penny stumbles. Penny hasn't seen him.

Penny rings the door bell. FRAN BUTLER (late 30's) opens the door. Fran is wearing a FLOUR-COVERED APRON.

PENNY

Oh.. Good afternoon.. I'm Dr.
Penelope Ballantyne.

FRAN

Hello Dr. Ballantyne. I'm Fran.
Welcome to Wombat Lodge. Please
come in.

PENNY

Thank you.

Fran dusts some flour from her apron.

FRAN

You must excuse me. I've been
making biscuits.. The boys love
them..

Fran leads Penny towards a small office.

PENNY

Boys?

FRAN

Well, men actually. My husband
Dave and his brother Gary.
You'll meet them later...

PENNY

Oh...

INT: THE OFFICE. CONTINUOUS.

The office is small, with a DESK, a FEW CHAIRS and a COMPUTER. The computer is covered in lots of small 'post it' reminders. A WINDOW offers a view to the outside where we can see SHEEP GRAZING in a paddock.

Fran shows Penny a chair and then sits down herself.

FRAN

Enjoy your drive here?

PENNY

Very pleasant. The wildflowers are so lovely at this time of the year.

Fran takes a sticky post it reminder bearing Penny's name from the computer and then moves the mouse to wake the computer up. She scans the screen quickly and then takes a sheet of paper from an in-tray on the desk. She hands the paper to Penny.

FRAN

I need your autograph please.

Penny quickly scans the document and signs it. She hands the document back to Fran.

FRAN (CONT'D)

Thanks..

PENNY

I used to stay on my friend's farm when I was little..

Fran starts to enter details on her computer. Penny gazes at the scene she can see through the window and daydreams for a moment. Fran is still busy typing things into her computer.

PENNY (CONT'D)

I really miss that.... I loved the solitude. I'd spend hours and hours drawing....

Penny continues to daydream until Fran speaks. Fran finishes what she is entering into the computer and smiles at Penny.

FRAN

Well, I think you'll enjoy staying here. Galah is very comfortable.

PENNY

Galah?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRAN

Galah is the smallest but cutest
of our bungalows.

Penny looks anxious.

PENNY

Small? I hope you haven't
forgotten that my friend is
arriving in a day or two....

FRAN

No, no of course not. There's
plenty of room for two.

PENNY

Good.. My friend will expect
everything to be just right and
....

Gary pokes his head around the corner of the door and
INTERRUPTS Penny. His stubble is speckled with dust and
his hands are covered in OILY GRIME from fixing
engines.

GARY

Sorry to interrupt, Fran. Do you
know where Davo went?

FRAN

Last I knew, he was fixing a
fence down at the end paddock.

GARY

If he comes back can you..

Penny looks very peeved and interrupts.

PENNY

I was talking, you know...

GARY

(To Penny)

I won't be long love..

(To Fran)

If you see Davo, can you let him
know that the new pump has shit
itself. The O rings are stuffed.

Penny looks at him with even more contempt.

PENNY

I hate to intrude on this
fascinating discussion, but I
would like to get my keys so
that I can move in...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GARY

I'll catch you later Fran.
(Eyeballing Penny)
I need to check on an old ewe
with scabby mouth disease....

Gary turns to leave but suddenly changes his mind. He looks at Penny.

GARY (CONT'D)

And can I suggest you don't wear
high heels on a farm. Could be
embarrassing if you fell off
them.

Before Penny can reply Gary has gone. Penny turns to Fran.

PENNY

My keys please?

FRAN

Oh I'm sorry, Dr. Ballantyne.
Let me get them for you.

Fran stands and takes a set of keys from a rack on the wall.

FRAN (CONT'D)

Here you are.

Penny takes the keys and stands.

PENNY

Thank you... Who was that awful
man?

FRAN

Gary. He's my husband's younger
brother. I think you caught him
in a grumpy mood. He hates it
when things break... Come on.
I'll take you to your bungalow.

PENNY

Thank you.

FRAN

Oh, and don't forget the BBQ
tonight. It's included in your
tariff remember...

Fran and Penny leave the office.

EXT: THE VERANDAH OF GALAH. AN HOUR LATER.

Penny is working at an easel. A rural landscape. Gary appears...

PENNY

Oh... It's you.

GARY

Don't sound so disappointed...
Fran tells me you need a hand
with a flat tyre.

Penny puts down her brush...

PENNY

If it's not too much trouble.

GARY

It won't be.

Penny and Gary walks towards her car. As they near the car, Gary looks in and sees the EMPTY CHOCOLATE BOX and the MICHAEL BUBLE CD CASE on the seat.

GARY (CONT'D)

An MG eh. A 1980 model?

PENNY

1983 actually.

GARY

Yeah. Right.

PENNY

I'll get the jack and spanners
for you.

Gary bends down and looks at the flat tyre. Penny opens the boot and takes out the tools.

GARY

Looks like this is well and
truly rooted.

Penny hands him the jack and wheel brace.

PENNY

It's what?

GARY

Rooted. Stuffed... Looks like
you were driving on it when it
was flat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

Can't it be fixed? You know,
patched up or something?

GARY

Nope. It's ratshit. You'll need
to go into town and get a new
one.

PENNY

Do you *have* to keep using that
sort of language?

Gary glares at Penny.

GARY

It's called English. If you have
a problem with it I suggest you
enrol in an adult literacy
class.

PENNY

Good English doesn't need to be
tainted with juvenile
swearing...

Gary answers with another glare and then starts to
loosen the wheel nuts. Gary's hands are covered in OIL
AND GREASE. Penny looks on anxiously.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Your hands are filthy....

Gary stops and looks at his hands.

GARY

Look lady, I've been trying to
fix a bloody pump so you can
have a hot shower tonight...
I'll be careful.

Gary resumes working on the wheel.

PENNY

I don't want to sound
ungrateful, but I would like you
to wash them please. I'd hate to
see the bodywork damaged...

Gary looks up at Penny and gives her another
contemptuous glare.

GARY

Looking at this bodywork I'd say
it's reached an age when it
could do with a visit to the
panel beaters..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PENNY

What do you mean by that???

GARY

Never mind. I'll go and wash my hands.

Gary walks away wiping his hands on his jeans. He looks back over his shoulder and again glares at Penny.

INT. A MACHINERY SHED. LUNCHTIME.

Gary and Dave are sitting on a spare tractor tyre eating sandwiches.

GARY

Worst case of scabby mouth I've seen in a while.

DAVE

You're not kidding.

Short beat as they continue to eat their lunch.

DAVE (CONT'D)

The new lady in the MG's quite cute.

GARY

She's up herself. Thinks her shit doesn't stink.

DAVE

You met her then?

GARY

Sort of. Thought I'd check her out when she booked in... She looked all right 'til she opened her mouth....

DAVE

Probably needs a good root... Reckon you should give her one Gaz.

GARY

Davo, you got to be kidding. Last time I rode a show pony was at the Royal Show. Never again mate. Never again.

Dave hands Gary a large biscuit tin.

DAVE

Fran's bikkies. Want one?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARY

Cheers.

Gary takes the tin and opens it. Inside is a large HUNTSMAN SPIDER. Gary leaps in the air, letting out an involuntary yell. Dave laughs loudly.

GARY (CONT'D)

Fuck you Davo!!! That's not funny!!

DAVE

I get you every time!

Dave continues to laugh as Gary storms from the shed.

INT: SCRUB WREN BUNGALOW. LUNCHTIME.

Four women, LEANNE, VAL, PAT & SALLY, all mid thirties, are seated at the dining table and having lunch. They are drinking wine, all a little tipsy. There is a sudden knock on the door. Val gets up quickly.

VAL

I'll get it.

PAT

It might be him...

VAL

It'll probably be Penelope from Galah. I asked her over to lunch.

PAT

(Slightly
disappointed)

Oh...

Val opens the door. It's Penny.

VAL

Come in! Come in!

Penny enters.

PENNY

Thank you. I hope I'm not intruding.

VAL

Not at all. You're just in time.

Penny and Val approach the dining table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VAL (CONT'D)

Ladies, this is Penelope.
Penelope, this is Leanne..
Sally.. And Pat.

Ad lib greetings. Penny sits down. Leanne picks up a plate of sandwiches and passes it to Penny.

LEANNE

Sandwich?

PENNY

Thank you.

VAL

Wine?

PENNY

Mmm. That would be nice. Thank you.

Val pours Penny a glass.

SALLY

Val tells us that you're an artist.

PENNY

That's right.

PAT

What sort of stuff do you do?

PENNY

Stuff?

PAT

You know, paintings...

PENNY

Well, I suppose my work could be described as contemporary landscape interpretations that deal with the metaphorical rape of the earth in the post industrial era.

Sally half chokes on a sandwich.

PAT

Oh... I see.

PENNY

What about you ladies? What do you all do?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SALLY

We're members of an astronomy group....

PAT

Twat actually....

PENNY

Sorry?

The women giggle...

PAT

The Timberlup Womens' Astronomical Team. Twat..

SALLY

Just our little joke.. We're doing some observing tonight.

LEANNE

Our mentor is a real stud muffin!

PENNY

Your mentor?

PAT

Gary Butler. Gaz. He knows so much about planets and stars and stuff.

SALLY

He works on the farm. Uses his hands really well...

PENNY

You're not referring to Fran's brother in law are you?

PAT

Yes, that's him.

PENNY

A Neanderthal...

SALLY

Cor, if he's a cavemen he could drag me around by my hair any day...

VAL

Sally gets a tad excited when she pictures herself being taken by a wild, passionate man.

Pat, Val, Leanne and Sally laugh loudly. Penny looks uncomfortable. Short beat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LEANNE

(To Penny)

We're all looking forward to the BBQ tonight... Gary is cooking..

PENNY

Oh really.. He can actually cook then?

SALLY

Can he cook!! He does things with his meat that you would die for...

PAT

Like his New York hazelnut crusted steaks. Mmm...

LEANNE

And his desserts are ab-so-lu-tely di-vine.

PENNY

Is there anything he can't do?

The women look at each other quizzically for a moment.

SALLY

No, I don't believe there is...

The other women nod in agreement.

LEANNE

He is scared of spiders though...

PENNY

I'd imagine the feeling would be mutual.

EXT: A SMALL CLUMP OF TREES SOME DISTANCE FROM THE HOMESTEAD. SAME DAY. EARLY AFTERNOON.

An ORB SPIDER in the middle of a web. As we pull away we can see Gary talking to three women, ALICE, JUDY AND SANDY, all in their mid thirties. Gary is showing them a GOLDEN FLOWER BLOSSOM.

GARY

Now this specimen is Nuytsia Floribunda, otherwise known as the Christmas Tree. Very common. It's actually a parasite.

JUDY

A parasite?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARY

Yeah, in part. It attaches its roots to other trees and then feeds off them.... Now, if you come this way I'll show another interesting plant.

Gary leads the way and the women follow. The three women ogle at his backside as he walks in front of them. Alice nudges Sandy and whispers.

ALICE

I've got this overwhelming urge to grab one of his arse cheeks and give it a good squeeze.

SANDY

I know what you mean.

Gary stops and gets down on his haunches. He points to a small orchid. The ladies gather around.

GARY

Now this is a species of the orchid, Caladenia. Sometimes called a spider orchid. Much more friendly than their namesakes. It's entomophilous which means self-pollinating. But, more interestingly, the petals of this orchid are sexually attractive to male Thynnid wasps. The wasps are tricked into attempting to mate with it and, hey presto - we have fertilization.

Gary picks the orchid and hands it to Judy.

JUDY

Thank you.

GARY

A souvenir. But watch out for wasps. You don't want one mating on your hand. Could be messy...

Judy looks at her friends and smiles at them. Gary looks at his watch.

GARY (CONT'D)

Righto ladies. Time to head back. I've got a barbie to get organised.

EXT: A COURTYARD. THE BBQ AREA. EARLY EVENING.

The BBQ area is a semi-enclosed courtyard. At one end of the courtyard is a LARGE BBQ - a top line unit. Gary is placing a variety of EXOTIC SELECTIONS on large serving trays on the table next to the BBQ. He is wearing a garish chef's apron with a picture of a RAM WITH ENORMOUS TESTICLES on the front. A caption reads: MUTTON MAKER.

Near the BBQ is a LARGE OUTDOOR TABLE with a range of BUFFET DISHES, SALADS, BREAD ROLLS etc. Fran is arranging the dishes.

There are THREE OTHER LARGE TABLES. Penny is sitting at a table with the ladies from Scrub Wren - Val, Leanne, Sally and Pat. Alice, Judy and Sandy, the ladies from Magpie, are on another table.

On the other table we can see the ladies from Cockatoo - NOLA, DIANE and CHRIS, all about 30. Nola is an attractive and rather vivacious lady. She is dressed and made up to draw the attention of any hot blooded male.

A LARGE FRIDGE occupies a space in one corner of the courtyard. Dave has the door open and is sorting drinks.

Gary turns and faces his guests. He claps his hands to get their attention.

GARY

Okay ladies!! Dinner is served!!
Tonight we have something for
everyone...

(Looking directly
at Nola)

And, especially for the lovely
Nola, we have hazelnut-cruste
New York steaks.

DIANE

And what did you do to get such
preferential treatment?

NOLA

Wouldn't you like to know!

SALLY

What have you made for dessert,
Gazza?

GARY

Tonight, we have Gateau
Paysanne.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

(Whispering to
Leanne)

I bet he's bought that dessert.
He wouldn't know a real French
dish from an American hamburger.

LEANNE

He would, you know. He makes all
his own desserts.

PENNY

(Calling out to
Gary)

Excuse me! Can you please tell
me what's in the *Gateau
Paysanne*. I spent last winter in
France and, I must say, it's a
dish I've never heard of.

Penny puts on her most affected French accent to
pronounce the dessert.

GARY

Ah, I see we have someone who
pretends to be a connoisseur of
all things French. It does seem,
however, that your travels in
France have been limited to just
the regular tourist spots....
Gateau Paysanne is a traditional
Normandy dish based on dessert
apples. It is a batter pudding,
rather like a *clafoutis*. It's
best enjoyed with freshly
whipped cream..

Gary puts a finger in a bowl of cream and then licks it
seductively.

GARY (CONT'D)

Like a lot of sensual pleasures
the French have given us...

LEANNE

(Whispering to
Penny)

See, I told you he knew his
French stuff..

GARY

I'll be serving dessert in about
half an hour.

Gary looks directly at Penny.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GARY (CONT'D)

The *Gateau Paysanne* for those who know their French cuisine. Vanilla ice cream for the rest. Now, please, help yourselves ladies.

The women start to stand and take their plates to the serving table. Lots of AD LIB COMPLIMENTS from the ladies as they serve themselves.

Penny remains seated, sulking over Gary's comments. Leanne stands and looks down at her.

LEANNE

You coming Penelope?

PENNY

That man is so rude. Of course I know my French cuisine. Just because I haven't heard of some obscure peasant food doesn't give him the right to humiliate me in public like that.

Penny stands and walks with Leanne to the BBQ serving area. Gary is now standing next to the fridge with Dave. Dave hands Gary a beer.

DAVE

Nola's looking hot tonight, little brother.

Dave and Gary look towards Nola as she serves herself dinner.

GARY

She always does mate. Dunno why her old man walked out on her. He must have shit for brains.

Gary and Dave swig their beers. Dave then gestures with his bottle towards Penny.

DAVE

And I see what you meant about her. Right up herself...

GARY

Nobody else would want to be there...

DAVE

Fran told me she's a doctor.

GARY

Should have guessed. Doctor Dip Shit, I reckon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DAVE

She's still cute...

GARY

I reckon the lady doc would charge you just to look at her.. And you wouldn't get a rebate from Medicare either.

DAVE

Never know mate. She might bulk bill.

GARY

Only doctors I know that bulk bill are the ones who don't know your arse from your dick.

Gary casually looks in the direction of Penny.

GARY (CONT'D)

She is cute though... Even when she's pissed off....

Gary looks towards Penny and gives her a big smile. She sees him smiling at her, but quickly looks away.

EXT: THE BBQ AREA. SOME TIME LATER.

People are eating dessert. Gary is sitting at a table holding court with the ladies from Cockatoo: Nola, Diane and Chris.

NOLA

And where are you taking us tomorrow, Gary?

GARY

How about a nicky swim in the dam?

DIANE

I thought we were going bird watching?

GARY

We can still have a nicky swim.

CHRIS

How about we wait 'til summer when the water's warmer..

DIANE

And my diet has started to work.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARY

Yeah, I agree ladies - the effect of cold water on my nether regions ain't a pretty sight anyway...

Nola puts her arm around Gary's shoulder and whispers to him.

NOLA

I reckon your nether regions would make a pretty sight at any temperature.

GARY

Wrong there, Nola. You wouldn't see them. Last time my meat and potatoes were in cold water, they hid up my arse to keep warm.

Nola giggles.

EXT: PENNY'S TABLE. CONTINUOUS.

Penny is looking towards Gary's table. She looks peeved.

PENNY

I wish he didn't have to wear that banal apron.

LEANNE

Who?

PENNY

Him. The boorish cook. Just look at him... He's lapping up all the attention like he's some kind of celebrity.

PAT

Well, I'm jealous! He hasn't been at our table all evening!

PENNY

That's probably why our conversation has been further up the evolutionary ladder than gorilla grunts.

Gary stands and walks towards their table.

SALLY

He's coming over...

Gary arrives at their table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARY

And how are my favourite twats?
All ready for some astronomy
later?

VAL

We can't wait...

Gary sits. Penny stands.

PENNY

Excuse me.

We track Penny as she walks towards the fridge. She opens it and pours herself a glass of wine. Dave comes and stands next to her.

DAVE

So.. What did you think of
Gazza's cooking then?

PENNY

It was OK. For a BBQ.. You're
Fran's husband, aren't you?

Dave offers his hand.

DAVE

Yeah. That's right. Dave Butler.
Davo.

Penny shakes his hand.

PENNY

Penelope.

DAVE

Gaz made a special effort
tonight.. I reckon he was trying
to impress you.

Penny looks at Dave and takes a long sip from her wine before replying.

PENNY

And just why would he want to
impress me?

DAVE

Maybe he just likes lady
doctors.

Penny looks back towards the table where Gary is holding court with the ladies from Scrub Wren.

PENNY

Looks to me like he likes lady
everything.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAVE

He told me he thought you were real cute. He likes ladies with brains.

PENNY

He could do with some...

DAVE

He's actually got two degrees - science and economics...

PENNY

Oh really.... Life is full of surprises...

Short beat as Penny and Dave watch the guests.

PENNY (CONT'D)

How's the farm going at the moment?

DAVE

Not bad. We've had a good season so far.

Penny adopts an air of indifference as she slyly glances towards Gary's table.

PENNY

That's good.

DAVE

Yeah. We've had over 350 mills this year.

Penny continues to make sideways glances towards Gary's table.

PENNY

That's nice.

DAVE

Means we had to spray for wild radish and annual rye grass, though.

Penny remains disinterested in the conversation but continues to glance at Gary's table.

PENNY

Really?

DAVE

Yep. But at least the dams are all full... Do you like yabbies?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Penny looks at Dave momentarily before looking back towards Gary.

PENNY

Yabbies?

DAVE

You know. Gilgies.

PENNY

I have absolutely no idea what you're talking about.

DAVE

Small freshwater crayfish.

PENNY

Really? How fascinating.

DAVE

Yep. We chuck in the odd dead sheep to keep them well fed.

PENNY

You don't say....

Short beat as Penny sips her wine and keeps making sly glances towards Gary's table.

DAVE

Do you want to go with Gaz tomorrow? He shows all the ladies how to do it.

PENNY

Sorry?! What did you say?

DAVE

Do you want Gaz to show you how to catch yabbies tomorrow? He's taking the ladies from Scrub Wren.

PENNY

Oh, I don't think so. Doesn't sound like my cup of tea.

DAVE

Well, if you change your mind just let us know... More wine?

PENNY

Please.

Another short beat as Penny lets Dave top up her wine glass from the bottle in the fridge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DAVE

Anyway, nice talking to you Dr. Ballantyne. I'd better go and mix with the other guests.

Penny continues to sip her wine and make casual glances towards Gary's table.

EXT: A LAWN AREA AT THE BACK OF THE HOMESTEAD. AN HOUR LATER.

There is a TELESCOPE set up on a tripod. Gary is looking through it and is making some adjustments. Standing in a half circle around the telescope and watching Gary are the women from the various bungalows. Gary points to a bright star. The women all look skyward.

GARY

Right. That's Saturn. Who wants to go first?

NOLA

Me please!

GARY

Righto Nola. See if you can see the rings.

Nola leans over the telescope. Gary stands behind her holding her gently around the waist. Penny looks peeved.

PENNY

Can't he keep his hands to himself?

DIANE

Sorry?

PENNY

The cook. Does he *have* to touch *that* woman when he's showing her how to do it?

CHRIS

Nola doesn't mind...

PENNY

Obviously....

VAL

Gary was telling us about black holes last time we had one of these nights.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

Really.

VAL

Yes. Apparently they are so dense a spoonful weighs as much as the entire Earth.

PENNY

I would imagine he would know a lot about dense things.

SALLY

He also told us that if anything falls into a black hole it can never get out again.

PENNY

We should find one for him...

LEANNE

He once showed us a constellation where a black hole is supposed to be.

PENNY

Taurus, I would imagine.

VAL

You know about this astronomical stuff too?

PENNY

I know that Taurus symbolizes a lot of bull.... Look, it's been a long day and I'm tired. I'll see you all tomorrow.

Penny walks away, leaving the women to ogle at the stars - and Gary.

VAL

(Whispering to Pat)

I get the feeling that Penny's jealous of all the attention Gazza's giving Nola..

PAT

So am I....

Gary continues to show Nola how to do it....

INT: THE HOMESTEAD KITCHEN. A FEW HOURS LATER.

Gary and Dave enter the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE

Fancy a scotch before we call it
a night, little brother?

GARY

Yeah, why not.

Dave takes a whisky bottle from a sideboard. He pours
two glasses. He and Gary sit down at the kitchen table.
Dave passes a glass to Gary.

GARY (CONT'D)

Cheers.

The brothers clink their glasses together.

DAVE

Thought you might be bonking
Nola about now. She knock you
back or something?

GARY

Nah mate. I'm saving myself.

DAVE

For the lady doctor I reckon.. I
told her you cooked up the
special feed just to impress
her.

GARY

And just why did you tell her
that?

DAVE

I saw you perving at her... You
know what I reckon?

GARY

What do you reckon?

DAVE

I reckon that even if you did
try to impress her you couldn't.

Gary gulps down a large measure of whiskey before
answering.

GARY

Big brother, I think you're full
of shit.

DAVE

Bet you can't bonk her before
she leaves.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GARY

I told you before. I don't ride
show ponies.

DAVE

That's 'cos this show pony won't
let you saddle her up. Getting
past your prime little
brother... Just like our old
ram.

GARY

How much then?

DAVE

A carton of Cascade. Premium.

GARY

One? Nah mate. Not worth my
trouble.

DAVE

OK. Three cartons then.

Gary contemplates the offer for a moment.

GARY

Three cartons? OK. You're on
mate.

Gary leans across and offers his hand.

DAVE

Bloke's honour. Shake on it.

Dave and Gary shake hands on the bet.

INT: COCKATOO BUNGALOW. LATE EVENING.

Diane, Chris and Nola are playing cards. Nola is
dealing. They are all drinking and a little tipsy.

DIANE

Last hand for me. I'm dog tired.

Nola finishes dealing.

NOLA

That woman in Galah is a cow.

CHRIS

Gazza put her in her place,
though.

DIANE

If he didn't, I would've....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NOLA

Talking of Gazza, I thought he was absolutely delicious tonight.

CHRIS

You talking about him or his cooking!

NOLA

Both....

DIANE

The way he was ogling at you tonight, Nola.... I think you might be on his menu.

Nola giggles.

NOLA

I hope so.... Entree, mains and dessert... I'm not greedy, mind you.

CHRIS

Bet you a bottle of Kaluha you can't get him in the sack.

NOLA

Bet I can....

CHRIS

You're on....

Nola and Chris clink glasses....

INT: THE HOMESTEAD. BREAKFAST. NEXT DAY.

Gary, Fran and Dave are eating breakfast.

FRAN

I wonder what her fella is like?

DAVE

Whose fella?

FRAN

Dr. Ballantyne. She's expecting her boyfriend some time today.

Gary looks at Fran, startled.

GARY

She's got a boyfriend?

FRAN

Apparently. A dentist I heard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Gary glares at Dave.

GARY

You know about this, Davo?

DAVE

Know about what?

GARY

The boyfriend.

DAVE

Nah. Of course not.

GARY

Well, that changes things. The bet's off.

FRAN

What bet?

GARY

Never mind.

DAVE

All right then, since it's gonna be harder for you to saddle her up, I'll up the ante. Six cartons.

FRAN

What have you two been betting on?

DAVE

That Gazza can't make it with the lady doctor before she leaves.

FRAN

I don't believe you two! You still haven't grown up!

DAVE

Well Gaz, you gonna take me up on the new odds?

GARY

With her fancy man staying here? No chance.

DAVE

OK. How about this then. My ticket to the Grand Final and five hundred bucks spending money.

Gary suddenly looks interested.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GARY

Your Grand Final ticket *and* five hundred bucks?

DAVE

That's what I've put on the table. You win, you get the package. You lose and you pay for my grand final trip.

GARY

OK, big brother. You have a bet. Shake on it.

Gary and Dave shake hands.

FRAN

If she ever finds out...

GARY

Fran, this is a family secret. Promise?

Fran stands and starts to gather up the breakfast dishes.

FRAN

I'll see... You both owe me.

EXT: THE VERANDAH OF GALAH. A SHORT TIME LATER.

Val is knocking at the door. The BLOWN OUT TYRE from Penny's car is leaning against the wall near the door. Penny answers.

VAL

Oh good morning...

PENNY

Val... How are you..

VAL

Good. Good. The ladies asked me to see if you're coming yabbing with us.

PENNY

I don't think so...

VAL

You'll enjoy it...It's an awful lot of fun...

PENNY

Thank you, but no. My friend will be arriving today.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VAL

Bring her with you..

PENNY

Oh, it's not a her. It's Nigel.
My boyfriend. He'll be here late
afternoon..

VAL

Well, that won't be a problem.
You'll be back before then...
And you can impress him with a
meal of fresh yabbies..

Penny ponders for a moment.

PENNY

These yabbies... They are like
little crayfish?

VAL

Yes, they are actually.

PENNY

Nigel loves crayfish...

VAL

Well, it's settled then. We'll
see you in an hour.

PENNY

I...

Val turns and jogs off before Penny can answer.

EXT: THE VERANDAH OF GALAH. A SHORT TIME LATER.

Gary is knocking at the door. He is holding a BROWN
PAPER BAG. A wheel from her MG with A NEW TYRE is
leaning against his leg. Penny answers.

PENNY

Oh, it's you.....

GARY

Sorry to intrude, but I've been
to town and got you
something....

Gary pats the tyre.

GARY (CONT'D)

A new tyre. Hope you don't mind.

PENNY

You could have asked first...
How much do I owe you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARY

Nothing. I got it done at bush rates. Wally owed me a favour... Oh, and I got these for you too...

Gary puts his hand into the paper bag he is holding and takes out a large box of chocolates.

GARY (CONT'D)

Chocolates. Hard centres. Lots of nuts.. My way of saying sorry for being so rude when you first got here.

Gary hands Penny the box of chocolates. Gary gives Penny his biggest smile. Penny smiles back, but it is more reserved.

PENNY

Hard centres... My favourites....

GARY

Thought so. You don't seem the soft centre type..

Gary starts to leave, but he then turns and looks back at Penny.

GARY (CONT'D)

Val tells me you're coming yabbing with us.

PENNY

Actually, I'm not sure if I can make it. I don't have any old clothes.

GARY

That figures.... But not to worry. I'll get Fran to run some over. She's got a teenager at boarding school who'll have some old togs that'll fit you just nicely.

PENNY

Oh....

Before Penny can answer, Gary turns and jogs off.

EXT: THE DRIVE WAY OUTSIDE GALAH. A SHORT WHILE LATER.

Gary's Rodeo tray back pulls up out the front. In the back tray we can the ladies from Scrub Wren: Val, Leanne, Pat and Sally. Gary toots the horn. Penny remains inside unseen.

SALLY

I think she's changed her mind...

PAT

I knew she would.

Gary blows the horn again. Still no sign of Penny. Gary climbs out of the cab.

GARY

Hang on ladies. I'll see what the hold up is.

Gary jogs to the front door and bangs loudly.

GARY (CONT'D)

Penny!! You in there?!! We're ready to go!

The door opens ajar and Penny peers out.

PENNY

It's Penelope actually.

GARY

Sorry... Penelope... Are you ready?

The door still remains ajar.

PENNY

You didn't tell me that Fran's teenager was a boy.

GARY

I didn't?

PENNY

No, you didn't. Fran's given me his old football shorts and jumper.

GARY

Let me see...

PENNY

Promise not to laugh...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARY

I promise.

Penny opens the door a little more. We can now see she is dressed in tight white football shorts and a Sydney Swans' football jumper. Gary looks her up and down and smiles.

GARY (CONT'D)

Hoo-wee!! You look great. Really great.

PENNY

So I don't look silly then?

GARY

No. Just plain gorgeous. Come on. Let's get going.

Penny and Gary start to walk back towards the Rodeo. The ladies from Scrub Wren wolf whistle.

PENNY

You sure I look OK?

GARY

They're just jealous they can't wear shorts like you can.

PENNY

If Nigel sees me in these I'd die... Promise we'll be back before mid afternoon?

GARY

I promise.

Gary and Penny reach the rodeo. Penny looks at the ladies in the back wondering whether to climb in with them.

VAL

In the front, lucky lady.

Gary opens the door for her.

GARY

In you get.

PENNY

Thank you.

Penny climbs in and almost sits on an aerosol can of SPIDER KILLER lying on the passenger's seat.

GARY

Oh, you can put that under the seat if you like.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Penny picks up the spray, looks at the label for a moment and then places it under the seat. Gary goes to the other side of the car and gets in the driver's seat.

PENNY

Looks like you have a problem with spiders...

GARY

Yep. Keep that spray handy just in case. I hate the bastards...

PENNY

Oh....

Gary starts the engine and drives off.

GARY

When I was a kid I accidentally locked myself in a shed. It was dark and full of bloody spider's webs... Anyway, in my efforts to get out I got bitten by a fucking redback. Worst pain you can imagine... By the time my dad found me, I was in a coma. Spent nearly a week in hospital after that....

PENNY

That must have been terrible....

GARY

It was.... Anyway, let's have some music. There's some CD's in the glove box. INXS, Paul Kelly, Crowded House, Michael Buble...

PENNY

Michael Buble...

Penny starts to search the glove box. There are loads of CDs. She finds a Michael Buble CD and puts it in the player. It's the *Spiderman Theme*. Penny starts to drum her thighs in time with the music.

GARY

My theme song....

PENNY

Sorry. That was a bit thoughtless of me. I'll change it...

Penny leans forward to change the CD. Gary stops her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GARY

No. No. It's OK. It's spiders
and their webs I hate... Spider
music I can cope with....

Penny smiles and starts to drum her thighs in time with
the music again.

GARY (CONT'D)

So whose this Nigel then?

PENNY

Oh him. He's a dental surgeon.
He's my boyfriend.

GARY

A dentist eh?

PENNY

Yes. We met at an exhibition.

GARY

What, a medical exhibition or
something.

PENNY

No, at my art exhibition. I have
a doctorate in fine arts.

GARY

So you're an academic eh?

PENNY

Reluctantly...

GARY

Don't enjoy it then?

PENNY

Not anymore... Dave told me you
have two degrees.

GARY

You sound surprised. Did you
think farmers were all dumb
bastards or something?

PENNY

No.... No.. Of course not...

Gary looks at Penny and gives her a big smile.

GARY

This Nigel, does he know what a
good catch you are?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

PENNY

Of course he does. He bought me the MG.

GARY

Right. I should've guessed. He's put his trophy in a fancy cabinet.

Penny glares at Gary.

GARY (CONT'D)

Sorry..That was out of order.. Guess I'm just a little jealous of him.. You're quite a stunner...

Gary continues to grin at Penny.

GARY (CONT'D)

What about you trade your MG in for one of these..

Gary taps the steering wheel.

GARY (CONT'D)

Lots of stamina... Plenty of grunt...

Penny smiles back...

PENNY

But I bet it's high maintenance...

GARY

Not if it's treated with love and affection...

EXT: THE VERANDAH OF MAGPIE. LATE MORNING.

Alice, Sandy and Judy are sitting on chairs having some morning tea.

SANDY

Did you see that bitch Nola trying to get her claws into Gazza last night?

JUDY

Appropriate that she's in Cockatoo.

ALICE

Why? What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUDY

Well, you know Nola... She's had
a cock or two...

The ladies giggle.

SANDY

Or three or four... And now
she's after Gazza.

ALICE

Yes, but she's got no chance.
That stuck up woman in Galah has
caught his eye.

SANDY

Are you sure? If I had money on
anyone it would've been Nola...
She's so desperate since Bob
walked out on her.

ALICE

Nope. Sorry. I disagree. I saw
Gazza give the doctor a box of
chocolates this morning.

JUDY

Actually, I think Nola has got
even bigger competition. Guess
who's coming to town tomorrow?

SANDY

Who?

JUDY

Heather. Gazza's old flame.

ALICE

Really!!! Does Gary know?

JUDY

I doubt it.... I'll give her a
call and ask her to come and
stay with us for a while. Should
make life interesting.

SANDY

I've got an idea to make it even
more interesting. How about we
run a book on who Gary ends up
with? Heather, Nola or the
doctor...

Alice and Judy look at each other and then smile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JUDY

Great idea! Ten dollars in and
the winner takes all... I'll get
some paper...

Judy quickly stands and walks inside the bungalow.

ALICE

Whoever gets Heather will
win.... You know how they were
last year...

SANDY

Don't be so sure... Nola is a
real try hard.

Judy emerges from the bungalow with pen and paper. She
sits down.

JUDY

OK. Here goes...

Judy has THREE SHEETS of paper. She writes down the
names - Heather, Nola and Penelope - on the paper and
then screws up each piece into a small ball. She then
puts her hands behind her back before then holding them
out in front of herself. She opens her hands.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Who's first?

SANDY

I will...

Sandy takes a piece of screwed up paper and opens it.

JUDY

Well?

SANDY

Nola....

JUDY

Your turn Alice...

ALICE

Penelope....

JUDY

That means I've got Heather...

Judy smiles triumphantly.

EXT: THE DAM. A SHORT TIME LATER.

We can see Gary and the ladies gathered at the edge of
the water.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As we close in, we can see that Gary is showing Penny how to catch a yabby. He is holding her forearm as she holds onto a PIECE OF STRING that is dangling in the water. Penny is holding a SMALL SCOOP net in her other hand. The other women are crouching and standing behind them watching as Penny slowly reels the string in.

GARY

Careful... Nice and slow...

PENNY

Shh.. I'm concentrating...

GARY

OK. Just reel him in a bit more and you can scoop him out...

Penny slowly pulls the string back a bit more.

GARY (CONT'D)

Right. Scoop him.

Penny brings the scoop net down and catches the yabby. She stands and waves her arms in delight.

PENNY

I've caught one!! Look!

The women from Scrub Wren cheer and clap.

GARY

There! I told you that you could do it.

Penny is beaming as Gary opens the scoop net so everyone can see her catch.

GARY (CONT'D)

He's a beauty.

Gary takes the net and shakes the yabby into a LARGE BUCKET. The bucket is nearly full of yabbies.

GARY (CONT'D)

Right ladies. I think that's enough for today.

PENNY

Let me catch one more... Please!

GARY

I thought you wanted to get back for your dentist's appointment?

PENNY

He's not due till late afternoon. I've got time to catch another one. Please!!!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GARY

OK then. Just one more.

Penny casts her string out into the dam again. Gary again kneels beside her and takes her forearm in his hand. The other ladies start whispering to each other.

PAT

She's the only person I know who would pay a dentist to come to her!

LEANNE

She must be loaded.

SALLY

Maybe the dentist accepts payment in kind...

VAL

Bitch!

PENNY

I can feel one nibbling...

GARY

OK. Remember to take it nice and slow.... Like good foreplay..

Penny smiles and playfully smacks Gary on his arm.

GARY (CONT'D)

Watch the yabby... not me.

Penny continues to reel the string in. When the yabby is close enough she suddenly brings the scoop down and nets it. She again stands excitedly.

PENNY

Another one!!

In her excitement Penny slips on the mud bank of the dam. She falls flat on her backside. The net falls and the yabby looks like it will escape.

GARY

Are you OK?

PENNY

Quick! Get the yabby!! Don't let it escape.

Gary grabs the net before the yabby can escape. Penny tries to scramble to her feet but falls over again. Gary drops the yabby in the bucket and then offers his hand to Penny to help her up. She is covered in mud. Gary laughs at her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GARY

You look like a mud monster!

Penny picks up a handful of mud and throws it at Gary. She misses.

PENNY

Stop making fun of me!

GARY

I'm not. It's just good to see you enjoying yourself.

PENNY

Being covered in mud is not fun!

Penny picks up another handful of mud and throws it at Gary. She again misses. Gary laughs.

GARY

You couldn't hit the side of a shearing shed!

PENNY

Stop laughing at me!

Gary weaves from side to side daring Penny to throw more mud. Penny throws more mud and hits him in the crutch.

PENNY (CONT'D)

See. I am a good shot!...

Gary bends over and feigns pain.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Are you OK?

Gary straightens up and laughs.

PENNY (CONT'D)

You... You, bugger you!

Penny picks up more mud and throws it him. She misses as Gary ducks.

GARY

Missed again!

Sally picks up a piece of mud and also throws it a Gary. Gary bends down and picks up some mud and throws it back at Sally. A full blown MUD FIGHT starts. Penny joins in and soon the whole group is laughing and throwing mud at each other. The mud fight soon changes into a MUD WRESTLE.

Gary falls flat on his back. Penny is pushed over and lands on top of him. Their faces are inches apart.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Their eyes meet and for a moment the frivolity of the mud wrestle is replaced with looks of tenderness as they look at each other. Gary lifts his head to try and kiss Penny, but the spell is broken when a piece of mud drips from the end of Penny's nose and lands in Gary's eye. She giggles with embarrassment and then sits astride him as she watches with amusement as Gary tries to wipe the mud from his eyes.

PENNY

That'll teach you to try and get fresh!

Penny picks up more mud and wipes it on Gary's face.

GARY

I like it when you play dirty!

Penny wipes yet more mud on Gary's face. Gary wrestles Penny off of him and they continue to roll around in the mud with each other and the other ladies...

EXT: A TRACK LEADING BACK TOWARDS THE HOMESTEAD FROM THE DAM. EARLY AFTERNOON.

We can see the rodeo driving back towards the homestead. The ladies from Scrub Wren are in the back, covered in mud, laughing and giggling.

INT: INSIDE GARY'S RODEO. CONTINUOUS.

Gary and Penny are both covered in mud - clothes, face and hair. The CD is playing *Elegantly Wasted* (INXS).

PENNY

I haven't had so much fun in ages...

GARY

And I thought you didn't know how to have fun.

PENNY

Well, you don't know me very well, do you?.... And guess what? I was wrong about you.

GARY

You were? ...

PENNY

Yes. I thought you were a Neanderthal. Not too bright.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARY

Actually, Penny, Neanderthals had larger brain capacities than we do.

PENNY

Big headed you mean.

GARY

Now, now Penny!! That's not very nice.

PENNY

Please don't call me Penny. My name is Penelope.

Short beat as Gary looks at her for a moment.

GARY

OK then. I'll make you a deal.

PENNY

A deal?

GARY

I'll call you Penelope if you call me Garfield.

Penny giggles.

PENNY

Garfield? That's not your name!

GARY

It's what my mum named me.

PENNY

But you don't look like a Garfield....

GARY

And you don't look like a Penelope... Unless you let me call you Penny, you'll have to call me Garfield.

Penny thinks for a moment before answering. She smiles.

PENNY

Alright then. But you can only call me Penny when nobody else is around.

GARY

A deal.

The music continues to play. Penny looks very relaxed and happy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GARY (CONT'D)

What are you doing tonight?

PENNY

Tonight? Why?

GARY

We got a quiz night on. The local school P & C holds it in our function centre every year. Come on my table. We'll make a good team....

PENNY

I'm not sure... Nigel is coming remember. He hates quiz nights.

GARY

Bring him along. The principal's special project this year is to raise money for art equipment at the school..

PENNY

Art equipment?

GARY

That's right... Art equipment...

EXT: THE HOMESTEAD. A SHORT TIME LATER.

The back lawn of the homestead. Gary, Penny and the ladies from Scrub Wren are just starting to clean the yabbies. Everyone is still covered in mud. Gary turns a hose on and hands it to Penny.

GARY

Right ladies! Grab the yabbies and let Penny give them a squirt.

PENNY

Penelope, please, Garfield. We're not alone remember.

VAL

Oooh!! Garfield!! Whatever happened to Gazza?!

GARY

Gazza needs a leak. I'll be back soon.

The women continue to hose down the yabbies and place them in a bucket.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PAT

I think our Gazza likes you..

PENNY

I think he likes women per se.

SALLY

No. Pat's right. He's got the hots for you. I can see it in his eyes...

PENNY

You've got it all wrong ladies. I've already got a boyfriend.

PAT

I bet you can't resist Gazza's charms.

PENNY

I bet I can.

SALLY

How much then?

Penny ponders as the ladies watch her with expectant grins.

VAL

Come on. How much?

PENNY

OK then... How about a bottle of good red?

VAL

A deal!

Val holds out her hand and Penny shakes it.

PENNY

And don't any of you dare tell anyone about this or the bet's off!

EXT: THE FRONT OF THE HOMESTEAD. CONTINUOUS.

A large, new red convertible Mercedes pulls up in front of the homestead. The car is driven by DR. NIGEL WINDSOR. He gets out of the car. Nigel is wearing expensive Italian sunglasses, Gucci shoes, designer slacks and shirt. An immaculate dresser but a real ponce.

We track Nigel as he walks to the front door of the homestead. He knocks and Gary opens the door. Gary is still muddy. Nigel looks him up and down with disdain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARY

Can I help you mate?

NIGEL

Oh. Good afternoon. I'm Dr. Nigel Windsor. I'm looking for Dr. Penelope Ballantyne.

GARY

You her dad or something?

NIGEL

No. Of course not.

GARY

Oh. Yeah. Now I remember. You're the bloke that collects trophies.

NIGEL

Sorry?

GARY

Never mind. She's out the back cleaning yabbies.

NIGEL

Yabbies?

GARY

We feed them dentists to keep them fat and juicy.

NIGEL

I have absolutely no idea what you're talking about.

GARY

You wouldn't. Come on and I'll take you through to Penny.

Nigel follows Gary into the homestead.

NIGEL

Penny? Don't you mean Penelope?

GARY

Nope. Penny to her friends. Penelope to everyone else.

EXT: A LAWN AREA AT THE BACK OF THE HOMESTEAD.
CONTINUOUS.

Penny and the ladies from Scrub Wren are still washing down the muddy yabbies. Penny accidentally sprays Sally with the hose. Sally shrieks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

Oh, I'm so sorry..

SALLY

Do it again! I could do with a hose down. I'm more muddy than the yabbies.

Penny starts to hose the mud from Sally.

LEANNE

Do me too!!

Penny and the ladies are laughing loudly as Penny squirts them. Gary appears with Nigel.

GARY

Sorry to break up the fun ladies!

Penny turns around suddenly and squirts Gary, not realising that Nigel is standing beside him.

PENNY

Garfield! You need a good rinse too....

Penny soaks Nigel. Nigel leaps back and looks stunned.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Oh Nigel!

INT: INSIDE GALAH. AN HOUR LATER.

Nigel is sitting down in a lounge chair reading a magazine and sipping a glass of wine. Penny appears - showered, made up, and dressed again in her classy clothes. Nigel looks up at her from over his magazine.

NIGEL

That's better... Much better.

PENNY

Nothing like a hot shower to make you feel refreshed.

Penny sits in the other lounge chair.

NIGEL

Seems you have settled in very well here.

PENNY

It's a comfortable little bungalow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NIGEL

I meant you've settled in well
with the locals.

PENNY

Oh them. The ladies are from an
amateur astronomical club.
They're sweet..

NIGEL

And the uncouth farmhand?

PENNY

(Innocently)
Which one?

NIGEL

The one named after the cat.
Garfield.

PENNY

Oh him... What about him?

NIGEL

You and him seem very friendly.

PENNY

Oh, he's all right. But he's not
my type.

NIGEL

I should hope not. When I saw
you covered in mud and dressed
like a bloody footballer, I
couldn't believe my eyes. I felt
really embarrassed.

PENNY

It was just a bit of fun...

NIGEL

Anyway, Penelope, let's forget
about it...

Short beat. Nigel resumes reading his magazine. Penny
picks up her own magazine and starts reading.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

You know, before I left home I
did a bit of research about this
area. There are some old gold
mines about two hours east of
here. So I bought a metal
detector and thought we might do
a bit of prospecting tomorrow...

PENNY

That sounds like fun.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NIGEL

Oh, and talking of gold, that reminds me... I've brought you a present.

Nigel stands and goes to a small carry case on the coffee table. He opens it and takes out a small JEWELRY CASE. He then gives it to Penny.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

Open it. I think you'll like it.

Penny opens the box. It contains a a very expensive looking GOLD NECKLACE with a DIAMOND PENDANT.

PENNY

Oh Nigel!! It's beautiful!!

NIGEL

Stand up and I'll put it on for you...

Nigel stands behind Penny and puts the necklace on her. He kisses her on the back of her neck as he does so. Penny then turns around and kisses him full on the lips.

INT: THE FUNCTION CENTRE. AN HOUR OR SO LATER.

The centre is set up for the quiz night. A TABLE AT THE FRONT for the QUIZ MASTER AND MARKERS, a WHITEBOARD for the scorers, a DOZEN NUMBERED TABLES with pens, paper.

The centre is slowly filling up. The ladies from Scrub Wren are already seated at TABLE 7. They have set up with FINGER FOOD, CHIPS, NUTS etc. A CARDBOARD WINE CASK sits at one end of their table.

Penny and Nigel enter. Nigel is carrying THREE BOTTLES of red wine, all with gold medal labels. We see them pause at the entrance to pay an ATTENDANT. After paying we track them as they walk towards table 7.

NIGEL

I wish you hadn't committed us to this. You know how I hate quiz nights.

PENNY

I'm sorry Nigel. I promised the ladies from Scrub Wren we would go on their table. They've been so kind to me since I arrived.

NIGEL

Well, at least I suppose we'll win. What's the main prize?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

Two hundred dollars worth of
meat from the local butchers...

NIGEL

I should have guessed....

PENNY

Come on. I'll introduce you to
the ladies.

Nigel and Penny walk reach the table.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Good evening ladies. Can I
introduce you to Nigel.

VAL

Hi Nige.

Ad lib greetings as Nigel and Penny sit down.

LEANNE

Would you like a glass of wine?

Nigel looks at the wine cask and frowns.

NIGEL

No thank you. We've bought our
own.

SALLY

Help yourselves to food then.
Plenty of polony, cheese and
other pickies..

Nigel looks at the plates and frowns again.

NIGEL

Thank you, but no. We don't eat
processed meat.

Penny gives him a quick glare.

PENNY

Thank you for offering, Sally.

Penny takes a piece of cheese. Nigel starts to uncork
one of the reds.

NIGEL

Are there any wine glasses?

VAL

No. Only these plastic cups.

Val passes two clear plastic cups to Nigel. Nigel looks
disgusted.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NIGEL

Good wine should always be served in glass.

VAL

If you like, I can go ask if they have any wine glasses...

PENNY

No. These will be fine. Would any of you like to try some of Nigel's red?

Nigel glares at Penny.

LEANNE

No thanks. Our cardboard chardonnay is fine...

Gary enters the function centre. He is dressed in NEW JEANS and a CRISP WHITE SHIRT. He has shaved off his three day beard and looks like he has made an effort to impress. He is carrying a small DRINK COOLER BAG. Nola, sitting at a table with Diane and Chris, sees him and calls out.

NOLA

Hi Gaz! Going to join us on our table tonight?

Gary waves back and walks towards their table.

PAT

Looks like that cow Nola has conned Gary into sitting with her lot.

Penny looks towards Gary as he nears Nola's table.

PENNY

Oh.. I thought...

NIGEL

Is that a problem?

PENNY

Sorry?

NIGEL

The farmhand joining that table?

PENNY

No.. No... Of course not.

Gary is leaning over Nola and has his arm around her shoulder. He is whispering something in her ear. Nola starts to giggle. Gary stands upright again and starts to walk towards the ladies from Scrub Wren.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PAT

We're in luck ladies... Looks like we get to win the meat tonight.

Gary sits down, opposite Penny. She nervously sips her wine. Nigel looks annoyed.

GARY

Hi ladies, Penelope.... And I'm sorry...

(Looking at Nigel)

I can't remember your name..

NIGEL

Dr. Nigel Windsor.

GARY

I thought you were just a dentist?

NIGEL

I'm actually a dental surgeon...

GARY

And I'm a farmer with a prize ram. Balls on him like a water melon.

NIGEL

How nice for him.

Gary takes a bottle of Cascade premium from his cooler.

GARY

Like your car Nige. Must have cost a heap.

NIGEL

Nigel. And it did.

GARY

Yep. Soon as I saw it I said to myself '*now there's a BCLD if ever I saw one*'.

PAT

What's that mean?

GARY

Big car, lotsa dough.

PAT

Oh.

Gary then leans across and whispers in Pat's ear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

GARY

Actually it means big car little dick...

Pat giggles. The MC, PETER BUSWELL, blows into the microphone to test it. He is flanked by TWO MARKERS.

PETER

Ladies and Gentlemen. I am Peter Buswell, your MC tonight. Thank you for attending the Timberlup P & C's annual quiz night. We are grateful to the owners of Wombat Lodge Farmstay for allowing us to use this facility again. I'd also like to thank our major sponsor, Nev's Butcher Shop, for their support. Our other sponsors are listed on your programs and I'd like you to show your appreciation.

The audience applauds.

PETER (CONT'D)

First, before we get under way, the house rules. If you challenge an answer it will cost you twenty dollars. If your challenge is upheld you get your money back. If you're wrong, you lose your money.. And your table is penalised five points.... Any questions?

Peter looks around to see if there are any questions.

PETER (CONT'D)

Right. Let's get under way then.... Question one, round one.. What is the name of the compound found in human blood that carries oxygen?

NIGEL

It's haemoglobin.

VAL

How do you spell it?

NIGEL

H A E M O G L O B I N.

Val writes down the answer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

PETER

Question 2. Name the two other countries that joined the Common Market with Britain in 1973.

Nigel takes a large gulp of wine.

NIGEL

How's anybody supposed to know that!! What a stupid question.

GARY

It was Denmark and The Republic of Ireland.

PENNY

Well done Gary!

Gary smiles at Penny. Penny smiles back. Nigel looks peeved.

GARY

Remember, we are in company Penelope. Garfield please... Gary when we're alone...

Nigel looks even more peeved. He takes another large swig of wine.

DISSOLVE
TO:

INT: THE FUNCTION CENTRE. A WHILE LATER.

The quiz night, as can be seen by the scores on the whiteboard, is now half way through - five of ten rounds. The bottles of red that Nigel bought are now finished.

PETER

Well folks, that's the end of round five. Time for a short interval.

NIGEL

(Sounding a little drunk.)

Some of the answers have been a bit questionable.

Nigel goes to pour another glass of wine but the bottle is empty.

GARY

Would you like a beer? It is imported you know...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NIGEL

Imported? From where?

GARY

Tasmania. Cascade Premium. I got it for fixing Penelope's rooted tyre...

NIGEL

For doing what?

GARY

Fixing her tyre. Fran bought them for me.. Would you like one?

NIGEL

If you can spare some.

PENNY

Don't you think you've had enough to drink, Nigel?

NIGEL

Since when have you taken it upon yourself to monitor my alcohol intake?

Penny looks hurt. Gary takes a bottle of beer from his cooler and hands it to Nigel. Penny stands.

PENNY

Excuse me, I need to go to the ladies room.

Penny stands and leaves the table.

SALLY

Well Gaz, do you think we can win?

GARY

I reckon we got a good chance. A real good chance.

(Looking at Nigel)

Even with our handicap.

NIGEL

What handicap?

GARY

I thought you would've noticed..

NIGEL

Noticed what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GARY

Table three. They've got more people on their table than we have...

INT: THE DOOR TO THE LADIES TOILET. CONTINUOUS.

Penny opens the door just as Alice is about to leave. They bump into each other.

PENNY

Oh, I am terribly sorry.

ALICE

That's alright. My fault for not being careful... Aren't you on Gazza's table tonight?

PENNY

Yes. I am in fact..

Alice leans forward and whispers in Penny's ear..

ALICE

I think you might get lucky tonight.. The words out that Gazza fancies you.

PENNY

(Sounding pleased)
Oh really?

ALICE

Everyone has noticed, you know..

PENNY

But I already have a partner. Nigel. He's on our table too.

ALICE

You mean the old guy in the red Merc?

PENNY

Yes...

ALICE

Sorry. I didn't realise he was with you. Him flirting so much with Nola and all...

PENNY

I....

ALICE

Anyway, better get going. Bye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Alice quickly leaves. Penny looks perplexed and ponders the conversation for a moment...

INT. THE FUNCTION CENTRE. GARY'S TABLE.

Gary takes a swig from his bottle of beer.

GARY
Thirsty work these quiz nights.

NIGEL
I hope the questions improve
after the interval.

GARY
I'll drink to that....

He clinks his bottle against Nigel's. He then reaches back down into his cooler and takes out a SILVER HIP FLASK. He raises it in front of Nigel.

GARY (CONT'D)
Like a drop of Chivas, Nigel?

NIGEL
Chivas? You've got better taste
than I thought you would have...

Gary pours a generous serve into a plastic cup and hands it to Nigel.

GARY
Sorry we don't have a proper
whiskey glass mate...

INT: THE DOOR TO THE LADIES TOILET.

Penny opens the door to leave and bumps into Nola.

NOLA
(A bit tipsy)
Be careful love...

PENNY
Love?

NOLA
Oh... It's you... The cow who's
up herself...

PENNY
I beg your pardon!!

NOLA
Listen bitch face...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nola pokes Penny in the chest...

NOLA (CONT'D)

Keep away from Gazza or I'll cut
your tits off....

Penny pokes Nola back....

PENNY

And you listen you my make-up
encrusted excuse for a woman.
Number one, I'm with someone
else. Number two, if I was
interested in Gary, you would
have no chance...

Penny tosses her head back and walks away...

INT: THE FUNCTION CENTRE. THE QUIZ NIGHT. A MOMENT
LATER.

Penny nears the table and whispers in Gary's ear.

PENNY

Seems Nola has a crush on you
Gary....

GARY

You don't say...

PENNY

But I told her that you weren't
interested in becoming a carrier
for an assortment of STD's...

GARY

You got no argument from me on
that...

Penny smiles and sits down next to Nigel.

NIGEL

And *what* was all that about
Penelope?

PENNY

Nothing Nigel... I was just
telling Gary that there's a
leaking tap in the ladies' loo
that needs fixing...

Peter the MC blows into the microphone.

PETER (O.C.)

OK folks. Pencils ready.. Almost
time for round 6....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NIGEL

Seemed like a very friendly request to fix a broken tap....

PENNY

Shhhh. We're about to start again....

PETER

Right. Question 1. Round 6....
In rock music, which heavy metal band hit the top ten with their 'Enter Sandman' single?

Nigel throws his head back in disgust.

NIGEL

This is hopeless! Who would want to know that sort of rubbish!

PENNY

I think it was Metallica....

LEANNE

That's right!! I remember it well!

GARY

Well done girls!!!

Short beat as Nigel drains the whiskey from his plastic cup. Gary tops Nigel up with more whiskey from his hip flask..

PETER

Question 2. In medicine what is Greig's Syndrome?

NIGEL

I learnt that at medical school. It's a type of congenital deafness.

Val starts to write down this as the answer.

GARY

I hate to disagree but I reckon it's a congenital condition where someone has a big space between their eyes and they're usually mentally retarded.

NIGEL

That's ridiculous. I'm right. Put down my answer Val.

Val starts to write. Gary leans forward and looks closely at Nigel's face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NIGEL (CONT'D)

What's your problem?

GARY

Your eyes.. They look widely spaced...

NIGEL

Wise guy...

GARY

Joking aside, I'm right about Greig's Syndrome.

Val stops writing.

VAL

Which answer shall I put then?

NIGEL

Mine. Let's get on with it..

GARY

If we lose by one...

NIGEL

We won't....

DISSOLVE
TO:

INT: THE FUNCTION CENTRE. A WHILE LATER.

The whiteboard now shows the quiz is complete. The scorers are tallying up the results and entering round ten details. At the end of round 9, table 7 is ahead with 78 points, table 3 is second with 77 points and table 1 is third with 70 points.

PETER

Well that's it folks. Soon we'll announce the winners.

Nigel drunkenly stands and waves at the MC.

NIGEL

Hang on a minute! I'd like to challenge the answer to the question about Greig's Syndrome. I'm a dental surgeon and I know the answer - it's congenital deafness...

PETER

Remember, it's twenty dollars to challenge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nigel takes out his wallet and waves a twenty dollar note in the air.

NIGEL

It's on the table.

Gary leans across and whispers to Pat.

GARY

There goes our meat.

Peter picks up a large text book, one of several reference books on the table.

PETER

This is Stedman's Medical Dictionary. One of the most reputable in the world...

NIGEL

I know that... Just get on with it and check the answer.

Peter thumbs through the dictionary.

PETER

Greig's Syndrome: *'Extreme width between the eyes, mental retardation may be associated with this condition.'*

Peter closes the book.

NIGEL

I don't believe you.

PETER

Come and look for yourself then.

Nigel strides drunkenly out towards the MC. Peter opens the book and shows Nigel the entry.

PETER (CONT'D)

Satisfied?... That'll be twenty dollars please...

Nigel doesn't answer. He slaps the twenty dollar note in Peter's hand and then strides back, bumping into another table on the way. He sits down, looking very sheepish.

The scorers have finished putting up the scores. Table seven is ahead with 86 points, table three is second with 85 points and table one third on 76 points.

PETER (CONT'D)

Scorers can you please deduct five points from table seven.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The scorer rubs off the score of 86 points for table seven and replaces it with 81 points.

PETER (CONT'D)

Well, that's a pity for table seven. Their challenge has cost them first place. What bad luck... Table three is therefore tonight's winner.

The audience claps and applauds. Nigel is sitting at the table with his arms folded across his chest. Gary looks at him and grins.

GARY

I said you had a big space between your eyes...

Nigel stands.

NIGEL

Come on Penelope. Let's go.

Nigel storms off. Penny stays at the table. Nigel stops at the door and glares back towards Penny.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

Penelope!! Are you coming?

Penny stands.

PENNY

I'd better go.

Penny walks off.

GARY

(Calling out after Penny)

Sure you don't want a better offer?!

Penny looks back and smiles briefly before following Nigel. Penny and Nigel disappear through the door.

VAL

Remind me never to get my teeth done by Dr. Nigel Windsor.

INT. THE MACHINERY SHED. MID MORNING.

Gary is angrily working on some machinery. Dave enters.

DAVE

Nearly fixed it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARY

Almost.

DAVE

Just had a look in the pool enclosure.

Gary carries on working

GARY

You don't say.

DAVE

Yep. The lady doctor's wearing a real cute bikini.

Gary continues working.

GARY

I know. I saw. So what.

DAVE

The dentist is rubbing oil on her back. Real lovey-dovey stuff.

Gary stops working and eyeballs his brother.

GARY

Look, Davo. I'm busy. Unless you want to help, you can piss off.

DAVE

Just thought I'd let you know what's going on... Seeing you got a grand final stake in all of this...

Dave waits for a response, grinning. Gary doesn't answer, he fumes as he continues to work on the machinery..

DAVE (CONT'D)

The dentist's really enjoying himself you know..

Gary hurls a spanner on the ground.

GARY

Listen mate.. I don't give a shit what that sleaze bag is doing, so you can fuck off!!

DAVE

Oh, now I get it! My little brother has got a big dose of the green-eyed monster!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Dave walks off laughing.

Gary picks up the spanner and resumes working on the machinery. After a few angry turns of the spanner, he again hurls it on the ground. He storms from the shed...

EXT. THE POOL SUNDECK. A SHORT TIME LATER.

Penny is lying on her tummy. Nigel is RUBBING OIL on her back. Gary enters the pool with Nola. Penny looks around. Nola is wearing a skimpy bikini. Gary is dressed in board shorts. They are both carrying beach towels.

GARY

Don't mind us. Thought we'd try
and get a bit of a tan too.

Gary and Nola spread their towels and lie on the sundeck a few metres from Penny and Nigel. Gary starts to rub oil onto Nola's back. Penny takes a quick sideways glance at them again before turning her head away. Nola purrs...

NOLA

Mmm... That feels so nice Gaz.

Nigel looks at Gary and Nola and then wipes more tanning oil onto his hands. He then resumes rubbing the oil into Penny with more vigour.

PENNY

Mmmm... That's wonderful Nigel.

GARY

(To Nigel)
I see you're polishing your
trophy.

Nigel scowls without answering. Gary wipes more oil onto his hands and then starts to rub oil into Nola's thighs. Nola moans. Nigel begins to rub the oil into Penny's thighs. Penny moans. Gary and Nigel keep watching each other and compete to be the most sensuous in applying the oil.

GARY (CONT'D)

(To Nigel)
So... You collected many?

NIGEL

Many what?

GARY

Trophies.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NIGEL

Not as many as you, smart arse.

Gary unfastens the back strap on Nola's bikini top and then starts to rub the oil on again. Nigel looks across and then he starts to undo Penny's back strap. He fumbles with it.

GARY

Want a hand there Nigel?

NIGEL

I can manage.

Nigel continues to fumble. Nola starts to giggle as she watches Nigel fumbling. She turns over on her back, flaunting her breasts just as Penny turns her head towards them. She glares at Nola.

PENNY

That's enough Nigel. I'm going back to the bungalow.

(Looking directly
at Nola)

There is a distinct lack of class here today.

Penny stands and strides off in a huff.

GARY

I did offer to help Nig....

Nigel looks very sheepish, not sure whether to follow Penny or ogle at Nola's breasts.

GARY (CONT'D)

What's up Nige? You look as miserable as a bastard on a fathers' day picnic.

INT. THE MACHINERY SHED. A FEW HOURS LATER.

Gary is working on some machinery. A pair of HANDS cover Gary's eyes.

HEATHER

Guess who!!

Gary pulls the hands from his eyes and turns around to see HEATHER, about 25, gorgeous and wearing a short denim skirt and halter neck top.

GARY

Heather!! What are you doing here??!!

Heather smiles at him very warmly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HEATHER

Just visiting a couple of old friends in town, so I'd thought I'd pop out to see you. Pleased to see me?

GARY

Well.. Yes... Of course... It's been over a year now....

Gary picks up a rag and starts to wipe his hands. Heather continues to smile at him.

HEATHER

Missed me?

GARY

Yeah... I guess so....

HEATHER

I missed you too.

She leans forward and gives him a quick kiss on the cheek.

GARY

How have you been then?

HEATHER

Oh great..

Short beat as they look at each other for a moment and then speak at the same time.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

I was....

GARY

How...

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Sorry, you go first...

GARY

No, no.. It's OK. You go...

HEATHER

Fran still make her lovely home made biscuits?

GARY

You bet...

HEATHER

And Davo. Does he still play spider tricks on you?

GARY

When he can find them... I've killed most of the bastards now. You seen him yet?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HEATHER

No, just Fran.. She asked me to tell you not to forget about the barbie tonight. Would you like some help?

GARY

Yeah.. Why not. Just like old times.

Heather puts her arm around Gary's waist as they leave the shed.

EXT: THE BBQ AREA. EARLY EVENING. SAME DAY.

Heather is standing next to Gary as he cooks the yabbies on the BBQ. Her arm is around his waist. She is still wearing her short denim dress and skimpy halter neck top. Penny and Nigel are at the same table as the ladies from Scrub Wren. Nigel is ogling at Heather. Penny looks very uncomfortable.

PENNY

Do you have to Nigel?!

Nigel looks at Penny and takes a large gulp of wine from his glass before answering.

NIGEL

Have to what?

PENNY

Perve at the bimbo with Gary.

NIGEL

I'm not.....

PENNY

Yes you were. I saw you.

NIGEL

If you must know I was trying to figure out what she sees in the uncouth farm hand.

PENNY

Oh, don't be so pathetic.

Nigel drains his glass and gets up and walks towards the fridge to get another bottle of wine.

VAL

Nigel OK Penelope?

PENNY

Oh, yes. He's OK.... Who's the woman with Gary?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VAL

Oh her. That's Heather. She and Gary had a bit of fling a year ago when she was teaching at the local school. It ended when she got a transfer back to the city.

PENNY

Oh... I see..

Penny gulps down a big mouthful of wine. Penny and the other ladies from Scrub Wren look towards Gary and Heather. Gary has his arm around Heather's waist and she seems to be laughing at a joke he has just told her. Nigel returns with another bottle of wine and sits down. Penny drains her glass.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Can you top me up please Nigel?

Nigel pours the wine into Penny's glass. Gary claps his hands to draw everybody's attention.

GARY

Right everyone! Come and help yourselves. Dinner is served. Garlic buttered yabbies, courtesy of the lovely ladies from Scrub Wren.

Gary then looks directly at Penny.

GARY (CONT'D)

And, of course, the gorgeous Penelope.

Penny avoids Gary's eye contact. People start to stand and walk towards the BBQ serving area. Fran and Dave are standing near the fridge watching the proceedings.

FRAN

Never thought we'd see Heather out here again.

DAVE

Me neither... Reckon she'll make it real hard for Gaz to win the bet now..

Dave looks towards Penny. Penny and Nigel are serving themselves, but not talking to each other. Penny looks towards Gary and sees him laughing with Heather and Nola as he serves some yabbies onto their plates. Heather and Nola both have their arms around Gary's waist.

Penny and Nigel sit back down at the table with their plates filled with yabbies and salad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

They start to eat, again without talking. The ladies from Scrub Wren are all eating and talking merrily. Val turns to Penny.

VAL

(To Penny)

So, what do you think of them?

Val's question catches Penny by surprise.

PENNY

Who? Gary and his little harem?

VAL

No, silly... The yabbies. Do you like them?

PENNY

Oh... Yes...I do... Thank you...

Gary and Heather appear at the table, both carrying plates filled with food.

GARY

Mind if we join you?

PAT

Please do... It's ages since we chatted with Heather.

Ad lib greetings between the ladies from Scrub Wren and Heather. Gary and Heather sit down. Gary sits opposite Penny while Heather sits opposite Nigel. She smiles at him, but his eyes quickly glance towards her legs as she sits down. Heather offers her hand to Nigel. He leans forward and shakes it.

HEATHER

Hi. I'm Heather.

NIGEL

Nigel. Pleased to meet you.

Heather then looks at Penny and gives her a big smile.

HEATHER

And you must be Penelope. Gary has told me so much about you.

Penny quickly glances at Gary before answering.

PENNY

Oh... Nice things I hope....

Gary looks at Penny and smiles at her.

GARY

Of course. I only know nice things about you....

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GARY (CONT'D)

Unless you've been keeping dark secrets from me....

Penny looks at Nigel. Nigel is slyly perverting at Heather.

NIGEL

And what do you do Heather?

HEATHER

School teacher. Year three's. What about you?

Gary doesn't give Nigel time to answer.

GARY

He collects trophies.

HEATHER

Really... What, bowls or golf or something?

NIGEL

I think your boyfriend is being a smart arse... Actually, I am a dental surgeon..

GARY

You should see his car, Heather. Must have cost him at least a hundred mouth jobs.. And he bought Penelope the MG.

HEATHER

That was very generous of you, Nigel...

NIGEL

Penelope is worth it...

GARY

Yeah... Nige is right there. Penny's quite a catch.

Gary looks at Penny and smiles at her. Penny quickly looks down at her plate, avoiding Gary's attempt to make eye contact.

Nigel continues to eat and make sly glances towards Heather. Heather plays up to him by crossing and uncrossing her legs.

HEATHER

(To Nigel)

Nola tells me you took her for a spin in the Merc.

PENNY

Did you now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

NIGEL

She asked me actually....

PENNY

And of course you agreed..

NIGEL

Well, it would've been rude to refuse....

HEATHER

Sorry, I didn't mean to cause a tiff.

DISSOLVE
TO:

EXT: THE BBQ AREA. A WHILE LATER.

People are standing near a large table serving themselves dessert. Heather is standing near the fridge getting a drink. Gary, Nigel and Penny are still at the table. Nigel ogles at Heather for a moment and then stands.

NIGEL

Just getting another wine,
Penelope. I won't be long.

The fridge is behind Penny so she doesn't see Nigel make a beeline for Heather. Penny and Gary are left on the table on their own. Short beat as Penny looks anywhere but at Gary. Gary is trying to make eye contact with her.

GARY

You look good tonight Penny.
Real good.

PENNY

(Indifferently)
Do I?

GARY

Yep...

PENNY

(Blurted out
suddenly, very
catty)
So does your... Your
girlfriend... Or whatever she
is...

GARY

She's not my girlfriend...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

That's not what it looks like to me...

GARY

I'm flattered that you're jealous of her.

PENNY

Jealous!!! Don't kid yourself Gary.... Why would I be jealous of a creature like that?

GARY

Sounds like jealousy to me.

PENNY

Crap. You are so presumptuous!

GARY

Now you're getting angry!

PENNY

I am not angry...

In the background we can see Nigel and Heather exit the BBQ area together. Alice walks towards Gary and Penny. She stops near their table.

ALICE

Hi Gary. Penelope.

PENNY

Oh, hello.

GARY

How's it going Alice.

ALICE

Good. Good... Nice to see Heather again.

GARY

Yeah. I suppose so.

ALICE

(Looking at Penny)
Yes. She's still looking great. Just saw her go outside with... What's his name... You know, the old bloke with the red car....

Penny quickly glances towards the exit area before answering Alice.

PENNY

Nigel...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALICE

Yes, that's him... Anyway, must get some more sweets... See you.

Alice walks off. Penny looks again towards the exit area to see if she can see Nigel and Heather. They are still out of sight. Penny looks very angry as she drains her wine glass. Gary leans across and picks her glass up.

GARY

I'll get you another.

EXT: OUTSIDE THE BBQ AREA. CONTINUOUS.

Heather is leaning against a wall of a building. Nigel is standing close to her, his arm placed over her shoulder as he props himself up against the wall.

NIGEL

So, you and Gary are no longer an item then?

HEATHER

Not anymore. Just good friends now.

NIGEL

Sounds a bit like me and Penelope. Just good friends.

HEATHER

Oh, I thought you two were together?

NIGEL

Not really. Penelope thinks we're an item.

HEATHER

She's a very attractive lady, Nigel.

NIGEL

Yes. I suppose she is.

Nigel leans a little closer towards Heather.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

But not as attractive as you...

EXT: THE BBQ AREA. PENNY AND GARY'S TABLE. CONTINUOUS.

GARY

You know when I was rubbing oil on Nola today?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

I didn't really pay much attention actually. Why?

GARY

I was doing it to make you jealous.

PENNY

Well, I wasn't jealous... So there.

GARY

Well I was jealous. I hated seeing Nigel's slimy paws all over you.

PENNY

Good. I'm glad.

GARY

That means you must have been jealous too.

PENNY

Crap Gary. I'm with Nigel. End of story.

GARY

Geez, Penny! You don't make it easy for me...

PENNY

What do you mean *I* don't make it easy for you?

GARY

You've got to learn to have more self-respect. See, if you had more self-respect you wouldn't have got involved with a wanker like the dentist...

PENNY

I do so have self respect...

GARY

Not deep down... All that pompous bullshit when you first got here...

PENNY

I am not pompous!

GARY

Well, you acted pompous.. Look...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GARY (CONT'D)

What I'm trying to say is that I really like you. Lots in fact..

Gary reaches across and tries to hold Penny's hand. She's pulls hers away.

PENNY

Well, you have a funny way of showing it.

Nigel and Heather re-appear in the BBQ area and we can see them going to the drinks fridge and pouring wine. Gary looks over Penny's shoulder and sees Nigel taking a business card from his wallet and giving it to Heather.

GARY

Nigel always give out his business cards?

PENNY

What are you talking about now?

GARY

He's just given Heather his business card. Last I heard, her teeth were in fine shape.

Penny turns around and sees Heather looking at the business card. Heather is smiling at Nigel. Penny looks back at Gary.

PENNY

It's nothing. He's always touting for new business.

GARY

Is that what you call it.. Blokes like him always manage to latch onto gullible women.

PENNY

So Heather's gullible then is she?

GARY

Nope. I was referring to you actually.

PENNY

I am not gullible!

GARY

Yes you are. That sleaze bag probably has more notches on his belt than Julio Inglasis. Who knows what number notch you are...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PENNY

You can talk. You'd know all about notches on a belt. Nola, Heather and God knows how many other bimbos....

GARY

Only Heather. Nola and I have never been together.

PENNY

I don't believe you..

GARY

Well that's your problem then. And just because you've managed to hitch yourself up with nifty Nigel in return for a red MGB...

PENNY

You bastard! That's tantamount to calling me a prostitute!

Penny stands and runs off crying.

GARY

Penny!!! Come back!

Gary bangs his fist angrily on the table.

GARY (CONT'D)

Shit....

Nigel has his back to Penny and doesn't see her run off. Heather sees Penny leave the area upset.

HEATHER

Looks like something must have upset your girlfriend.

Nigel turns just in time to see Penny leave. He turns back and smiles at Heather.

NIGEL

She's probably just annoyed that I'm chatting with you. Always was the jealous type. She can get very possessive you know.. Anyway, as I was saying....

EXT: THE VERANDAH OF THE HOMESTEAD. AN HOUR OR SO LATER.

Gary is on his own, leaning against a verandah post drinking beer. He is looking towards Galah. The lights in Galah are on and can be seen glowing through the curtains. Heather appears behind him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HEATHER

You OK Gaz?

Gary turns around.

GARY

I think I hurt Penny's feelings.

HEATHER

That's you all over. Tact never
was your strong point.

Gary looks back towards Penny's bungalow and sips his
beer again.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

You really like her a lot, don't
you?

Gary looks at Heather.

GARY

Shows does it?

HEATHER

Yep. Sure does. Has since the
moment I got here.

GARY

Well, I've stuffed things up
well and truly. I'm out here
feeling sorry for myself and
Penny's in there with the
dickhead dentist.

HEATHER

Wouldn't worry too much about
him. He was so drunk when he
finished trying to chat me up he
could barely walk.

GARY

Actually, I did notice you
spending a lot of time with
him... I was beginning to think
you fancied him.

HEATHER

No way Gaz!!! He's gross! I was
actually trying to do you a
favour...

GARY

Me a favour?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HEATHER

Yep. As long as I was talking to him, I thought you could be chatting up Penny.

GARY

Now that's real friendship... Maybe I should be trying to chat you up again... For old times sake...

HEATHER

Don't tempt me Gaz... You know we're much better off as friends...

Heather leans forward and kisses him on the cheek.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

And I'd hate to ruin our friendship....

Gary gives her a hug.

GARY

Me too...

Short beat as they look at each other for a moment.

HEATHER

Anyway, we got to work out a way to get you back in favour with Penny.

GARY

No chance. I reckon she'll be on her way back to the city tomorrow. Last I'll see of her....

HEATHER

Send her a Warnie....

GARY

A what?

HEATHER

You know. A Shane Warne... A text message.

GARY

I wouldn't know what to write. I'd end up making things worse.

HEATHER

Leave it to me... Give me your phone and I'll write it for you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HEATHER (CONT'D)

We don't want you messing it up again with blunt blokey stuff, do we...

GARY

I don't have her number....

HEATHER

You really are slipping, Gaz! Come on, it'll be on Fran's booking sheets with a bit of luck. Let's have a look.

Heather takes him by the hand and leads him towards the house. She stops and mischievously smiles at Gary.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

And for good measure I'll send Nigel a naughty one from my phone...

GARY

Nigel? I don't get it...

HEATHER

If Penny finds it...

Gary smiles.

GARY

Oh right.. The devious mind of a woman....

EXT: THE FRONT OF THE HOMESTEAD. NEXT MORNING.

Nigel pulls up in his car. The car's CD is playing corny disco music from the 70's. Penny gets out and jogs to the front door.

PENNY

Anyone in there!?

Fran comes to the door.

FRAN

Hello Penelope!

PENNY

Just thought I'd let you know that Nigel and I are off prospecting at the old mines for the day. We should be back about four.

FRAN

OK. Have fun. But be careful. They can be very dangerous..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

We will...

Penny looks furtively back towards the car. She then leans forward and whispers to Fran.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Fran... Can you do me a favour please. Tell Gary.....

Penny looks back at the car again before speaking.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Tell Gary I prefer his music to Nigel's.... Oh, and tell him that I loved his text message...

Penny then turns and jogs back to the car. We see the car drive off in a cloud of red dust.

EXT: THE ABANDONED MINING AREA. TWO HOURS LATER.

We see Nigel's car approach the site. A broken gate marks the entrance. It has a tattered sign, full of bullet holes, that reads: DANGER: NUMEROUS MINESHAFTS. DO NOT ENTER. The car pulls up at the entrance.

INT. NIGEL'S CAR. CONTINUOUS.

PENNY

I don't think we should go in. It might be dangerous...

NIGEL

I haven't driven all this way to be put off by an old sign.

EXT: THE ABANDONED MINING AREA. CONTINUOUS.

Nigel gets out of the car and opens the broken gate. He then gets back in and drives into the minesite area.

INT. NIGEL'S CAR. CONTINUOUS.

PENNY

I don't think this is a good idea, Nigel.

NIGEL

Trust me...

Penny continues to look apprehensive. They drive further into the mine area.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lots of small trees and scrubby vegetation. Tracks go off in all directions. Easy country to get lost in.

PENNY

I hope you know where you're going.

NIGEL

Stop worrying....

Nigel takes his mobile phone from his top pocket and taps it.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

My new toy.. Satellite phone and GPS. All in one.

INT: THE HOMESTEAD KITCHEN. MID MORNING.

Fran is making home made biscuits. Gary and Heather enter.

GARY

Any chance of a coffee before Heather leaves?

FRAN

I'll put the kettle on.

Fran puts the kettle on. Gary and Heather sit down at the table.

FRAN (CONT'D)

I'm glad you've come in Gaz. I've got a message for you from Penelope.

GARY

From Penny?

FRAN

Yes. Hope it means something to you... She said to tell you that she prefers your music to Nigel's.. Oh, and she also said she loved your text message.

HEATHER

My message actually...

FRAN

Yours?

HEATHER

Yes. My going away present for Gaz.

EXT: THE ABANDONED MINING AREA. A FEW HOURS LATER.

Nigel's car has stopped. He is walking around with his metal detector. Penny is searching the area looking for relics. She picks up the odd old can, rusty bits of metal. She finds an OLD TARNISHED TEA SPOON. She picks it up and examines it carefully before dropping it back onto the ground.

PENNY

This is fascinating, Nigel. All these old bits of the past. Hard to imagine people living here.

Nigel doesn't hear her as he is wearing the metal detector's headphones and has his back to her. Penny looks at him and realizes he hasn't heard her. She shrugs her shoulders and continues to explore. She stops next to an old shaft and peers down. The shaft is lined with old timber and is covered in lots of SPIDER WEBS. Suddenly, the edge of the shaft gives way and Penny FALLS IN...

Nigel hasn't seen or heard the accident. When he does turn around it takes him a moment to realise that Penny has disappeared. He takes off the headphones and starts to look around.

NIGEL

Penny!!! Where are you?

EXT. INSIDE THE MINESHAFT.

Penny has landed on a SMALL WOODEN LANDING about fifteen metres down. The landing leads off towards a SIDE SHAFT that is partially blocked with OLD SHORING TIMBER. Next to the landing the main shaft continues downwards - an inky blackness that is VERY DEEP.

PENNY

I'm down here Nigel! Help me!

EXT: THE TOP OF THE MINESHAFT. CONTINUOUS.

Nigel runs to the sound of her voice. He kneels and looks down into the shaft.

NIGEL

Are you OK?

PENNY

Yes... Yes. I think so... Just a few grazes...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nigel leans further over to look into the shaft. As he does so his MOBILE PHONE FALLS from his pocket and lands near Penny..

NIGEL

Penelope!! My phone!!

Penny picks the phone up..

PENNY

Forget your damn phone! Just get me out!

NIGEL

I need it so I can call for help.. Throw it up to me!

Penny tries to throw the phone up to Nigel... She doesn't make the distance and it falls back next to her...

NIGEL (CONT'D)

Keep trying...

Penny tries again, but once more doesn't make the distance. This time the phone falls closer to the edge of the main shaft and Penny scrambles to save it. She NEARLY FALLS over the edge.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

Try again....

PENNY

No Nigel... I can't reach you.... I'll call for help...

Penny tries to use the phone but it registers NO SIGNAL.

NIGEL

Well?

PENNY

It's no good. There's no signal down here.... You'll need to drive back to the farm and get help...

NIGEL

Try and throw me the phone again!

PENNY

No Nigel!! It's too dangerous. I nearly fell last time. Just go and get some help. I'll be OK..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NIGEL

I'll get you the torch from the car.... It'll be dark before I can get back...

EXT. NIGEL'S CAR. CONTINUOUS.

Nigel runs to the car. He grabs the torch and runs back to the mineshaft.

EXT: THE TOP OF THE MINESHAFT. CONTINUOUS.

Nigel kneels next to the shaft and shines the torch down towards Penny.

NIGEL

Alright. I've got the torch. I'm dropping it down. Ready?

PENNY

Yes...

Nigel drops the torch down. It's not a good shot and lands very close to the edge of the landing. It teeters on the edge... Penny scrambles to try and get it, the timbers creak and ONE BREAKS, crashing down into the main shaft, taking the torch with it... Penny almost falls too, but manages to keep a tenuous hand hold on the landing. She screams...

NIGEL

Penelope! What's happening! Are you OK!

Penny doesn't answer.. She is using all her strength to pull herself back up to the landing....She crawls away from the edge and seeks refuge in the side tunnel.

Penny pushes a broken beam to one side to make more room. It collapses causing a small cave-in. Dust fills the shaft.... Nigel peers down but can't see anything except the dust.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

Penelope!

PENNY (O.C.)

I'm alright!! Just go and get help!!! Please!!!

NIGEL

OK!! OK! I won't be long!

Nigel runs back towards the car...

EXT. NIGEL'S CAR. CONTINUOUS.

He throws open the car door and frantically starts the engine....

INT: THE HOMESTEAD KITCHEN. A SHORT TIME LATER.

Fran is in the kitchen when the phone rings.

FRAN

Hello. Wombat Lodge Farmstay.

The person calling is Nigel's wife NATASHA.

NATASHA (V.O.)

Oh, I have got the right place then. I'm Dr. Nigel Windsor's wife.

FRAN

Oh... I didn't know he was married....

NATASHA (V.O.)

Not to worry dear. You're not the first to make that mistake.

FRAN

Would you like me to give him a message?

NATASHA (V.O.)

Oh, not to *him* darling. But you can give his new playmate one. I believe her name is Penelope... Do you have a pen and paper?

FRAN

Hang on. I'll get one.

Gary and Dave enter the room. Fran puts the phone down. She puts her finger to her mouth to keep Gary and Dave quiet. She goes up to them and whispers.

FRAN (CONT'D)

It's Nigel's wife. She's asked me to take a message.

GARY

He's married! The sleazy bastard!!

FRAN

Shhhh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Fran grabs a pen and piece of paper. She picks up the phone again.

FRAN (CONT'D)

I'm back. What's the message?

NATASHA (V.O.)

Tell his piece of fluff that she's number.. Oh, it's hard to keep up with all Nigel's floozies... Probably number four this year. Nine or ten all up. You got all that so far?

FRAN

I think so.

NATASHA (V.O.)

You're doing very well, darling. Oh, and there's just one more thing. Tell Penelope that I sympathize with her. Nigel is so useless when it comes to pleasuring a woman. Always pissed and can never get it up.

Fran looks embarrassed. Short beat as Fran writes..

NATASHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Are you still there?

FRAN

Yes.. Yes. I've just been writing..

NATASHA (V.O.)

Wonderful. Please make sure she gets the message. Bye.

FRAN

Bye...

EXT: THE ABANDONED MINING AREA. A SHORT WHILE LATER.

It is now starting to get dark. We track Nigel's car as he drives erratically along the dirt tracks. He seems lost. He stops, examines a map and looks around, trying to get his bearings.

EXT: THE MINESHAFT. NIGHT.

The torch is shining at the bottom of the shaft. A dim light.. Penny is sitting in the side tunnel. She is trying to get the phone to work. Still no signal. She then opens the messages. She scrolls down and opens one. It reads: HI NIGEL.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR DINNER DATE. STILL WANT ME TO DRESS UP IN A NURSES OUTFIT? XXXXX HEATHER. Penny angrily throws the mobile down into the shaft....

INT: THE HOMESTEAD. SUNSET.

Fran goes to the front door and looks towards Galah. She then re-enters the homestead. Gary and Dave are sitting at the table and have just opened a beer.

FRAN

I'm starting to get worried boys. Penny and Nigel were due back at four. You know how dangerous those old mines are.

Gary stands and looks at his watch.

GARY

At four! Jesus, it's quarter to seven now! Come on Dave, we'd better go and look for them!

Dave stands.

DAVE

I'll get some gear together.

GARY

Don't forget the sat phone.. I'll fuel up the Land Cruiser...

The two brothers dash from the kitchen.

EXT: THE ABANDONED MINING AREA. NIGHT.

Nigel's car is BOGGED. The more he tries to drive it out the more bogged it becomes. He gets out and then angrily kicks the side of the car.

EXT: THE MINESHAFT. AFTER DARK.

The torch has gone out. The shaft is now totally pitch black. The moon has just started to rise, casting eerie shadows in the bush.

INT: INSIDE THE LAND CRUISER. A SHORT TIME LATER

The vehicle has stopped in front of the gate at the entrance to the minesite. The headlights illuminate the warning sign.

Gary and Dave get out of the vehicle and examine the track in front of the gate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARY

I think we're in luck. These tyre marks are fresh.

DAVE

Yeah, but they only go in mate. Not out. Let's get moving. You want me to call the cops?

GARY

Might be an idea...

Dave starts to dial the sat phone...

EXT: THE ABANDONED MINING AREA. A TRACK.

We can see Nigel stumbling in the dim moonlight along the track. He looks dishevelled and disoriented.

INT: INSIDE THE LAND CRUISER. A WHILE LATER.

The vehicle is slowly driving along a track. Gary is driving with his head leaning out of the window. Dave points to a clearing ahead of them.

DAVE

Stop at that clearing ahead, mate.

Gary stops the car at the clearing. Dave gets out and examines the ground in the clearing. He runs back to the vehicle and climbs back in.

GARY

Well?

DAVE

I reckon they stopped here for a while. Lots of footprints. They then drove off down that way.

Dave points to another track that runs off the clearing.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Get going.

Gary starts to drive off, but then has second thoughts. He stops the car again.

GARY

I'm going to have a look around.

DAVE

They're not here mate. They drove off... That way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dave again points down the track.

GARY

I want to have a look around here first.

Gary grabs a torch and dashes from the car.

DAVE

It's wasting time, I tell you.

Dave grabs another torch and follows Gary from the car.

EXT: THE CLEARING. CONTINUOUS

Gary shines his torch into the surrounding bush and then starts to walk into the bush next to the clearing.

DAVE

Now where you going?

Dave jogs to catch up with Gary.

GARY

I just have a hunch....

DAVE

I reckon we're wasting time...

GARY

Penny!!! Can you hear me!!!

DAVE

She's not here mate! They'll be with their car somewhere.

GARY

Shhhh Davo..... Penny!!! Are you out there!! It's Gary!!!

Gary stops and listens. He then walks a few more paces. In his torch light he can see the old metal relics that Penny had picked up earlier in the day. He bends down and picks up the SPOON. He looks at it for a moment and then puts it in his pocket.

DAVE

Come on Gaz!! This is bullshit... We won't find anything here...

GARY

She's nearby Davo. I can sense it.

DAVE

Fuck mate! Get real!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARY

Penny!!! It's me!! Gary!!! Can you hear me!

DAVE

I'll see you back at the Cruiser. Don't be long...

Dave turns and starts to walk back towards the car again. Gary walks a bit further into the bush. He stops again and calls out.

GARY

Penny!!!! It's me!! Gary!!!

Suddenly he hears a faint voice.

PENNY (O.C.)

Gary!!

Gary runs towards the sound of her voice.

GARY

Penny!! I can hear you! Where are you!!!

PENNY (O.C.)

I fell down a shaft!! Be careful!! You must be close!

EXT: THE ABANDONED MINESHAFT. CONTINUOUS.

In Gary's torchlight we now see the top of the shaft. He kneels down and shines his torch down. SPIDERS' WEBS glisten in the torch beam...

GARY

Jesus Penny!!! Are you hurt?!!

Penny looks up at him.

PENNY

Just a sore ankle and a few grazes.. Nothing too serious... Can you get me out?

GARY

Yeah! No worries. We'll have you out of there in no time...

Dave arrives at the shaft. He is carrying the abseiling gear.

GARY (CONT'D)

She's down here Davo! Grab the gear from the cruiser.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dave hands him the gear.

DAVE
I'm one step ahead of you little
brother.

Gary smiles.

GARY
You always were big brother..
(Calling out down
the shaft)
We won't be long, Penny. We've
got some abseiling gear.

Gary starts to tie one end of the rope around his waist while Dave ties the other end around a nearby tree trunk. Gary looks down the shaft. His torch again illuminates the spiders' webs.. Gary pauses and whispers to Dave.

GARY (CONT'D)
Lots of fucking spiders' webs
down there mate...

PENNY (O.C.)
Is everything all right up
there?

GARY
Yeah.. Yeah....

DAVE
Want me to go down little
brother?

Gary resumes tying the rope around his waist.

GARY
Nope. Fuck the spiders. This is
my job.

Gary lowers himself down the shaft. Dave shines his torch down the shaft. Gary reaches the landing and hugs Penny.

PENNY
Oh Gary!! Thank God! I thought I
was going to die down here!!

GARY
You're safe now. We'll have you
out of here real soon.

Gary shines his torch around the shaft. The timbers on the landing start to creak.... The spiders' webs sparkle in Gary's torchlight...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GARY (CONT'D)

Right, let's get out of here before the creepy bastards start crawling on me.. Now, I'm going to tie this around your waist. You done this before?

PENNY

No...

GARY

Well, you're going to learn now.

Gary ties the rope to Penny. He puts her hands on the rope and shows her how to pull herself up.

GARY (CONT'D)

Use this hand to pull yourself up... and this one to guide. You won't fall. It's impossible with this gear.. You ready?

PENNY

I think so.

GARY

Right Davo. Penny's ready to come up!

DAVE (O.C.)

OK. Here goes.

Dave helps pull Penny up by the rope. Soon she is out of the shaft and hugging Dave.

GARY

You got her?

DAVE

She's OK!! I got her!

GARY

Good! Now you can get me out!

Dave unties the rope from Penny. He then grins mischievously at her before calling out down into the shaft.

DAVE

Might leave you down there with the spiders little brother!

GARY

Stop fucking about Davo!!

Penny looks alarmed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DAVE

Only kidding. Kid brother
pranks. Just my way of relieving
the tension.

Dave throws the rope down. As Gary starts to tie the rope around his waist, the landing timbers creak... Then with a SUDDEN CRACK THEY GIVE WAY... Gary FALLS into the shaft... Penny screams... Dave is holding onto the rope...

DAVE (CONT'D)

Gaz!! You OK!

Gary is DANGLING in mid air...

GARY

Yeah. I'm just hanging around
for the fucking fun of it! Pull
me up big brother. I'm covered
in fucking webs...

Dave starts to pull Gary up and he soon reaches the surface. Penny rushes to him and gives him a hug. They stagger back towards the shaft.

GARY (CONT'D)

Hey careful!!! We're still near
the edge of the big fucking
spider hole!

Penny is now sobbing. Gary gives her a big hug and a cuddle.

GARY (CONT'D)

Come on. Let's get you back to
the Cruiser.

They start to walk back towards the vehicle. Gary has his arm around Penny.

DAVE

Sorry to ask a difficult
question folks. But where's the
dentist?

Gary, Penny and Dave stop for a moment.

PENNY

Didn't he get you to come and
help me?

DAVE

Nope. We haven't seen the bugger
since you left this morning...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

PENNY

So how did you know where to find me?

GARY

We followed your tyre tracks and footprints... And I found this nearby.

Gary takes out the spoon from his pocket.

GARY (CONT'D)

Soon as I picked it up, it seemed to speak to me.. Weird feeling. As I held it, I had this sense you were nearby...

PENNY

I was holding that spoon earlier today...

GARY

Here, you can have it back. It's your lucky charm.

PENNY

Thank you...

Penny looks at the relic and smiles. They start walking back towards the vehicle.

DAVE

I hate to mention it again, but we still got the problem of the missing dentist.

PENNY

(Spat with venom)

To be honest I don't care if we leave him here to rot..

GARY

Phew!! What's he done to raise your heckles?

PENNY

I read a text message on his phone from your ex-girlfriend.

GARY

Incriminating was it?

PENNY

Very. Let's get going...

They reach the Land Cruiser.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

DAVE

You two get in the back. I'll drive.

INT: INSIDE THE LAND CRUISER. CONTINUOUS.

Gary and Penny climb into the back seat. Dave gets in the driver's seat.

GARY

You sure you don't want us to look for Nigel?

PENNY

No... I just want to get away from this place.

GARY

OK. We'll leave him to the coppers..

Dave starts the vehicle.

DAVE

Well, I don't think Nigel's wife will be missing him too much either.

PENNY

His wife? He hasn't got a wife!!

DAVE

He has too. She rang and left a message today.

PENNY

He never told me he was married!!

GARY

They never do.

DAVE

Mrs. Windsor told Fran you were number four this year.

GARY

Ninth or tenth all up.

PENNY

Ninth or tenth what?

DAVE

Floozies his wife called them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

Oh, I feel so stupid! I really
had no idea.. The bastard...

Gary hugs Penny closer to him. Penny pulls away from
him and smiles.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Your text message was beautiful
Gary... Thank you for caring
about me so much...

Gary smiles back. He then kisses her on the forehead.

GARY

We'll call old Doc Withers in a
sec so he can meet us when we
get back...

PENNY

I'm fine.. Really...

GARY

Not you I'm worried about. I
just want to make sure I haven't
been bitten by a bloody
spider....

Penny looks at him, trying to work out whether he's
serious. Gary smiles.

GARY (CONT'D)

Just kidding Penny. Just
kidding... Davo... We need some
music on.

Dave takes out a CD and puts it on. It is Michael
Buble's - *Put Your Head on my Shoulder*. Penny smiles
and then rests her head on Gary's shoulder.

EXT: A TRACK IN THE ABANDONED MINING AREA. A SHORT
WHILE LATER.

We can see a police four wheel drive vehicle slowly
driving along the track. Two POLICE OFFICERS are in the
vehicle. In the headlights we eventually see the very
forlorn figure of Nigel appear. He is waving madly.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Looks like we found him.

The police vehicle stops and the police officers get
out and walk towards Nigel. Nigel looks very
dishevelled, dirty, clothes torn. He staggers towards
the police officers, blubbering incoherently.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

POLICE OFFICER 2

Dr. Windsor I presume....

EXT: THE VERANDAH OF GALAH. NEXT DAY. NIGHT.

A FULL MOON. We pull back from the moon to the verandah of Galah. Penny and Gary are dancing, cheek to cheek, to the music of Michael Buble's *Moondance*. Very romantic. They start to kiss... Very passionately...

EXT: THE VERANDAH OF SCRUB WREN. CONTINUOUS.

The ladies from Scrub Wren are sitting on the verandah drinking wine. They are watching Gary and Penny dancing.

PAT

How romantic....

SALLY

Looks like you're going to win that bottle of red, Val...

EXT: THE VERANDAH OF THE HOMESTEAD. CONTINUOUS.

Fran and Dave are standing together, with their arms around each others shoulders. They are looking towards Galah and also watching Penny and Gary dancing.

FRAN

Well, it looks like Penny is enjoying one of Gazza's special recipes....

DAVE

Yeah... And it looks like I won't be going to the grand final either.

INT: THE HOMESTEAD. THE KITCHEN. NEXT MORNING.

Gary is drinking coffee at the table. Dave enters carrying an envelope. He throws the envelope on the table in front of Gary.

GARY

What's this?

DAVE

Your tickets. To the Grand Final.

Gary picks up the envelope and hands it back to Dave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARY

No mate. You keep them. You've won the bet.

DAVE

Oh... I'm so sorry little brother.... I thought you and the lady doctor were getting on just fine.. I didn't know....

Gary suddenly grins.

GARY

Just kidding Davo. We're getting along fine. Very fine in fact. But you still won your bet.

DAVE

I don't understand....

GARY

Listen mate. I love my big brother and I know how much you wanted to go to the final.

DAVE

Yeah, but when a bloke makes a bet he's honour bound...

GARY

I didn't bonk her so you won the bet. You see, last night I started to feel guilty...

DAVE

Guilty!?

GARY

Let me finish. I was feeling guilty as I didn't want to bonk her for the sake of a bet. So, I told her, not tonight, Penny. I told her about the bet and I was waiting for the slap across the face. Instead she just started to giggle.

DAVE

I don't blame her..

GARY

No, you don't get it. She also had this bet with Val about bonking *me* before she left.

DAVE

What?! That she would bonk you??

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GARY

No... Actually, the other way round. She'd win her bet if she *didn't* bonk me...

DAVE

I think you must have used whacky bacca in your cooking last night.

GARY

Anyway, the upshot of it all is that I lost my bet.. and Penny, - 'cos we didn't do anything - ended up winning hers.

DAVE

This is confusing.... So the ladies owe Penny then?

GARY

No. Penny gave them a bottle of red this morning. We pretended she'd lost that one..

Dave scratches his head, still a little confused.

DAVE

I think I get it.... You sure you don't want these tickets? You really did win in a way.

GARY

Nope. Penny and I are coming with you. She's going to sell the MG and a necklace the dentist gave her and we're going to get our own tickets. And we'll shout Fran as well.

Penny enters the kitchen. She is beaming.

PENNY

You two going to offer me a coffee?

GARY

I'll get it.

Gary stands and starts to make Penny the coffee. Penny sits down at the table and smiles at Dave.

PENNY

Gaz tell you about the grand final yet?

Davo smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DAVE

Yeah. He did. Seems like the dentist was good for something after all.

PENNY

He owed me.

DAVE

Fran and I appreciate it. Thanks.

PENNY

Our pleasure.

Gary places a cup of coffee in front of Penny. He sits down.

DAVE

So what did Gaz cook you last night?

PENNY

Chocolate & Mango Crème Brulée. Delicious. I showed Gary a new sensual French way to eat it. Much more interesting than using a plate....

Penny looks at Gary and winks.

PENNY (CONT'D)

You see, I really do know my French stuff, don't I Gary!

GARY

No argument from me on that one anymore...

DAVE

You two sure I won that bet?

GARY

Blokes' honour big brother. Blokes' honour.

EXT: THE MCG GRAND FINAL. SEPTEMBER.

We close in on Gary, Penny, Dave and Fran. Dave and Fran stand.

DAVE

We won't be long. Just going to grab a burger.

Dave and Fran move away. Gary puts his arm around Penny's shoulders.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARY

If you ever tell Dave I really
did win that bet.....

Gary leans across and kisses her on the cheek.

GARY (CONT'D)

....I'll take you to a dentist.

PENNY

Do that and I'll put spiders in
your lunch box!

GARY

You wouldn't dare!

Penny leans across and kisses Gary on the cheek.

PENNY

I have a feeling we're going to
win today.

Penny puts her hand into her coat pocket and takes out
the old spoon she found at the minesite.

PENNY (CONT'D)

I have my lucky charm with me..

INT. THE MACHINERY SHED. DAY

Gary is lying across some straw bales. Naked in a pose,
smiling. Penny is painting him.

GARY

Hope this won't take too long.
The straw is giving me an itchy
arse....

DISSOLVE
TO:

INT. PRINDIVILLE'S ART GALLERY. CITY. EVENING.

A MAN'S TESTICLES in a painting. As we pull back we can
see it is a large nude with Gary reclining on the hay
bales. LOTS OF PEOPLE sipping wine and eating finger
food. We close in on Penny and Gary who are standing
near the painting of Gary. Penny draws Gary's attention
to a woman, SONJA, about thirty, who is approaching
them.

PENNY

(Whispering)

Here comes that bitch Sonja
Michelson. She's the art critic
I told you about.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY (CONT'D)

Last time she covered one of my exhibitions she wrote that my work lacked visual metaphors and social comment.

Sonja arrives and kisses Penny on the cheek.

SONJA

Penelope darling. So many red dots! This is such a stunning success.

PENNY

Thank you...

Sonja eyes Gary up and down appreciatively.

SONJA

And this must be your latest trophy...

PENNY

Gary this is Sonja Michelson...

Gary interrupts....

GARY

Sonja Michelson! Not *the* Sonja Michelson?

Sonja looks pleased that Gary has recognised her...

SONJA

The one and only..

Gary peers at her a bit more closely.

GARY

Well I'll be buggered. Never thought I'd see the barmaid from the Railway Hotel here. You still serving topless on Friday arvo's?

SONJA

I haven't a clue what you're talking about....

Gary peers at Sonja again....

GARY

Sorry. Mistaken identity... You're much better looking than Sonja the barmaid. And nicer tits...

Sonja doesn't know whether to feel offended or flattered... She is non-plussed for a moment... She finally turns to Penny...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SONJA

Anyway darling. I love your exhibition. It's so refreshing to see you've finally taken *my* advice..

Sonja smiles at Gary before looking back at Penny.

SONJA (CONT'D)

I think your subject material now glows with a certain passionate inspiration..

Sonja moves her hand across the painting, hovering over the genital region...

SONJA (CONT'D)

The brush work has a very firm and hard-edged aspect to it..

Sonja turns and looks at Penny.

SONJA (CONT'D)

But these....

Sonja points to the testicles...

SONJA (CONT'D)

The testicles. Anatomically, they are too large.. Drawn from life or artistic licence?

PENNY

Deliberate darling.. You see I wanted this to be a visual metaphor about the castration of men in the post feminist age..

SONJA

If this is castration Penelope...

Penny becomes very passionate....

PENNY

Let me be blunt about my metaphor, Sonja. I like men to have balls. Big balls. As a woman I'm sick of all those poncy sleaze bags who wear perfume, have coiffured hair and go to bed covered in wrinkle cream....

Sonja takes out her note pad and pen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SONJA

Keep talking darling. This is going to make great copy....

PENNY

... Men have been captured - like we have - by the cosmetic companies and fashion houses.... Castrated by commercial exploitation and feminist expectation. They've lost their gender identity and become confused metrosexuals...

At that moment a poncy man, PHILLIPE, sidles up next to Sonja. He has coiffured hair and is wearing effeminate clothing. Penny stops talking and eyes him suspiciously... He looks the ultimate metrosexual...

SONJA

Oh, don't mind my husband Penelope... Please continue...

We close back in on the testicles in the painting...

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. A STOCKYARD. SOME TIME LATER.

THE TESTICLES of a ram. Slowly, we pull back and see the whole ram. As we pull back further we can see that the ram is standing alone in the corner of a stockyard. As we pull back even further, we can see that there are fifteen or so LAMBS at the other end of the stockyard.

Gary and Penny are leaning against the fence of the stockyard. Gary has his arms around her shoulders. They are both wearing T-shirts with a Football Club logo bearing the words *Premiers 2007*...

PENNY

They're so cute.

GARY

Yep.. No doubt about it. The old bastard's really enjoying his work again.

We close in on the ram's face. He appears to wink at the camera....

FADE TO
BLACK.