

tunno

Writer: Esmerelda Bamblett

©2010

Submitted for PhD. August 2010.

INT THE KITCHEN OF RUBY'S HOUSE- DAY

The Koorie rapper, Alteregoz, music is playing loud in the house and JASON is tapping to the music as he irons a pair of jeans, and gets ready to go out. RUBY, his mother is sitting at the kitchen table having a cup of tea.

RUBY

Turn that bloody music
off.

JASON ignores her

JASON

Seen my AlterEgoz T
shirt?

RUBY ignores him and yells at him

RUBY

I can't hear you over
that music?

JASON yells

JASON

Seen my green T shirt?

RUBY

Where'd ya think you're
goin'?

JASON

Meeting Greg and Steven.

RUBY

You can't. It's pension
day. I'm going shopping
and you gotta look after
the girls.

JASON

Can't. Get Uncle Tim.

RUBY

You never do anything
for me.

JASON

Cos you're a bloody nag.
No wonder dad left.

RUBY screams at him

RUBY

I had nothing to do with
him leaving. Anyway, I
don't want you to go
today I've got a 'bad'
feeling.

JASON

You always have bad
feelings.

JASON puts his hands up in a scary fashion

You just want a
babysitter. Nothing
ever happens when you
have 'bad' feelings.

RUBY

I had a bad feeling the
day your father
disappeared. I knew
something was gonna
happen.

RUBY changes her tone and pleads with him

Please help me son, I
got no-one else. I
won't be long.

JASON swears quietly and then yells at her.

JASON

Dad left 'coz you nagged
him to death. Nothing
to do with bad feelings.
I aint doing it.

RUBY

You'll do what you're
told or else!

RUBY Gets angry with Jason and screams back at him. JASON hits the wall and puts a hole in it and puts his fist up threateningly to her face.

JASON

Or else what! I'm not a kid anymore and I can do what I want.

RUBY cries, scared and at the same time threatening him.

RUBY

What's wrong with you?
I'm getting Tim to see to you.

JASON

I didn't ask you to have kids and I aint watching them.

JASON grabs a shirt out of a clothes basket sitting in the kitchen and puts it on without ironing it. RUBY screams at him.

RUBY

If you don't watch the kids, you can move out. I'm sick of you, never doing what you're told to do. Always talking back.

JASON

Tell someone who cares, 'cause I don't.

JASON walks out the door, rebelliously and slams it. RUBY walks over to the phone and dials a number, pausing as if listening.

RUBY

Tim, can you come over and watch the girls for me.

(pauses)

No, he wouldn't. He just walked out and left. He's getting worse. I don't know

what to do about him.
He's been drinking,
smoking yarndy and Lord
knows what else. He
just smashed another
hole in the wall. I'm
at my wits end. Can you
talk to him? He'll
listen to you 'cos
you're David's brother.

(pauses)

I know I've tried
everything. I wish
David was here to
straighten him out.

(pauses)

Yeh, I know. Anyway,
I've gotta do the
shopping today. There's
nothing in the cupboards
to feed the girls.

(listens)

Alright, see ya then.

INT GREG'S BEDROOM- EVENING

JASON and GREG are sitting in Greg's room
smoking yarndy and drinking. STEVEN, a non-
Aboriginal friend walks in.

STEVEN

What's happening?

JASON

Had a fight with the old
woman.

JASON puffs on a bong

GREG

Why?

JASON

Usual shit.

GREG

Aunt Rube's okay man.

JASON

Easy for you to say,
she's not your mother.

GREG
She's like my mum.

Two young Koorie girls, KATIE and SOPHIE, aged 16 and 17 walk to the door. JASON beckons them in and they come in.

KATIE
What's up?

JASON
Want a puff?

KATIE
Nah.

JASON
Suit yourself.

KATIE
Impressed and kissing him.
What ya doing tonight?
Comin' over.

JASON
Is your mum home?

KATIE
Yeh but she ain't gonna
bother you.

JASON
Don't feel like talking
to anyone tonight.

SOPHIE turns to Greg

SOPHIE
Wanna do something?

GREG makes a suggestive gesture to her.

SOPHIE
Can't. Saturday night?

Insinuatively. SOPHIE turns to STEVEN.

SOPHIE
Stevo, my friend wants
to meet you.

STEVEN
What's she like?

KATIE
She likes you.

KATIE kisses JASON and looks at him suggestively.

KATIE
See you Saturday then.

The two girls walk out.

JASON reaches for the bong. They sit in silence for a while smoking until they are stoned and they start laughing about nothing.

They share the bong and continue smoking until there is nothing left. Then JASON feels around in his pocket.

JASON
Youse got enough for a drink?

GREG hands him some loose change

GREG
Chump.

STEVEN
Mum gave me ten dollars for dinner. Here.

STEVEN hands him the money.

STEVEN
I gotta go. Coming?

GREG
I am.

JASON counts out the money.

JASON
Nah, I'm off to the bottlo.

JASON walks off in one direction while STEVEN and GREG go in the opposite direction.

INT LIQUOR SHOP- NIGHT

The sound of police sirens. A number of non-Aboriginal people are in a liquor shop standing around looking at Jason who has a defiant look on his face, while a shop attendant holds his arm to stop him from running. The Manager is looking out the door. HE talks to someone out the door.

MANAGER

In here sir.

POLICE OFFICER 1 walks in the door and looks at Jason.

POLICE OFFICER 1

What'd he do?

MANAGER

He tried to steal this bottle of Jim Beam. When my attendant approached him, he tried to run off but these good people stopped him.

MANAGER points to the crowd watching, holding up a bottle of Jim Beam.

MANAGER

We searched him and found the Jim Beam in his jacket.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Well, Mr. Allen, looks like you've done it this time. Knew you'd slip up sooner or later.

POLICE OFFICER 1 looks at Jason with disdain.

JASON

You know everything.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Bit smart aren't we?

JASON brushes the attendants arm off and tries to rush past the police officer. The first police officer signals to the other one.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Stop him Constable.

The second Constable grabs Jason's arm roughly to stop him walking out the door. JASON swears at him.

JASON

Let me go. I'll have you up for police brutality.

POLICE OFFICER 2

You're not going anywhere Mr. Allen.

JASON

I know my rights.

POLICE OFFICER 2

Well do you know you can't steal other people's property?

JASON

I aint saying nothing.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Mr. Allen, we would like you to accompany us to the police station where you will be interviewed and charged with the theft of a bottle of Jim Beam, resisting arrest and abusive language.

JASON

I wanna call the Legal Service.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Constable, take him to make his call.

POLICE OFFICER 2 takes Jason goes over to a phone. JASON pulls a Victorian Aboriginal Legal

Service card out of his pocket and proceeds to dial the number written on the card.

JASON

Hello, this is Jason Allen. I've been arrested. They're taking me to the police station to interview me.

JASON listens

JASON

No I haven't said anything. Alright.

JASON hangs up the phone.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Let's get going then. You've been responsible for a few of these thefts haven't you Mr. Allen?

JASON is silent and sullen.

POLICE OFFICER 1

We've had our eye on you for a while, and that cousin of yours. By the way where is he tonight?

JASON continues to ignore him.

POLICE OFFICER 2

Don't be smart Allen, you're in enough trouble. Answer the Constable.

JASON continues to ignore him.

POLICE OFFICER 1

You'll soon talk.

He pushes Jason out the door.

INT KOORIE COURT- DAY

The Koorie court is held inside the local court house. A number of people sit at an oval table. On the one side of the table in the middle sits a non-Aboriginal magistrate. On each side of him sit a Koorie Elder, male on one side and female on the other. On the other side of the table in the middle sits the solicitor. The defendant, Jason, sits on the left of the solicitor, with Ruby sitting by his side. On his right sits the Prosecutor. At the end of the table near the Prosecutor, sits the Community Corrections Officer and at the other end of the table, near the defendant sits the Koorie Court Liaison Officer. On the wall behind the magistrate are two flags, the Aboriginal Flag and Torres Strait Island Flag, situated on each side of a Koorie painting.

MAGISTRATE

You know that you're here because you have pleaded guilty to stealing, don't you, Mr. Allen? You have the privilege of sitting before your Elders. On my right side today we have Aunty Rhoda and on my left side, Uncle Sid, from the local Aboriginal Nation. Behind me you can see the Aboriginal flag and the Torres Strait Island flag on each side of this beautiful painting that has been done by a local Koorie artist.

To the prosecutor

MAGISTRATE

Read the charges.

PROSECUTOR outlining the offence

PROSECUTOR

Your honour on the 2nd April 2009, at 8.00p.M.

Jason Allen was arrested by the local police at the James Street liquor store. He is charged with theft of a bottle of Jim Beam bourbon, resisting arrest and abusive language. He was seen by the shop attendant putting the bottle of Jim Beam in his jacket. He attempted to leave the store but was detained by customers in the store, while the Manager called the police. On arrival your honour, when police officers approached the defendant, he attempted to leave the store. He swore at the police officers when they grabbed him to prevent him from leaving. He was then detained and taken to the police station where he was interviewed. Upon being interviewed, he admitted the charge of attempting to steal a bottle of bourbon, resisting arrest and abusive language.

MAGISTRATE turns to the Solicitor

MAGISTRATE

Do you accept the charges as presented?

SOLICITOR

Charges accepted your honor.

MAGISTRATE

Do you have anything to report on behalf of your client?

SOLICITOR

My client is an 17 year old Bangerang man your honour who has lived in this area all his life. He has two brothers and two sisters, all younger than him. His father disappeared when he was seven years old and has not been seen since. He has found it very difficult to deal with this circumstance. His mother is a single parent and he is her main support.

JASON is slouching in the seat with a disrespectful look on his face.

MAGISTRATE

I'll stop you there.

MAGISTRATE addresses Jason.

MAGISTRATE

Your solicitor is attempting to provide you with support and give you a good character reference, but your body language shows a complete lack of respect for this court and your Elders. Sit up and listen respectfully, or you will find yourself out of this court.

JASON sits up straight. MAGISTRATE looks at Solicitor.

MAGISTRATE CONT..

Continue

SOLICITOR

Your honor, there is a history of alcoholism in the family. The strain

of losing his father has also led my client down that same path. On the day in question, your honour, my client was depressed because it was the anniversary of his father's disappearance. He did attempt to purchase a cheaper brand of bourbon, but it was unavailable, He did not have the money to pay for the more expensive brand, so he attempted to steal it.

MAGISTRATE looks at JASON.

MAGISTRATE

You shouldn't be drinking. You're underage.

He looks at the paper in front of him and then back at Jason.

MAGISTRATE CONT

You have pleaded guilty to the charges. We've heard your solicitor speak on your behalf. Have you got anything to say for yourself?

JASON

I'm sorry for what I done.

MAGISTRATE addresses the Elders

MAGISTRATE

Is there anything you would like to say to this young man?

UNCLE SID

Your great grandfather was an honest man who never stole from anyone.

JASON

How'd you know him?

JASON is really embarrassed and it shows on his face

UNCLE SID

He was a close friend of dad. They used to shear together on the mission. He'd be very disappointed in you. You've gotta change your ways, don't you?

JASON looks ashamed.

AUNTY RHODA

We understand what's happened to you and we know your family but lots of people are worse off than you. You're gonna have to start thinking about where you are going and what you are going to do with your life. You don't wantta end up in the Justice system because if you do, you'll find it hard to get out. Alcohol is not the answer. You've been foolish. You're a handsome young man.

JASON looks down at the ground.

AUNTY RHODA CONT

Your mother's a good woman. She's tried her hardest since your father disappeared. With five children to look after it's been hard on her. As the oldest you should be helping her by setting a good example for your brothers and sisters?

JASON keeps looking down. He doesn't speak.

MAGISTRATE addressing JASON

MAGISTRATE

This court finds the charges proven and there will be consequences for your behaviour. As this is your first offence and I've heard glowing reports about you, including the fact that you have the ability to be one of the leaders in the Koorie community, the court has decided to be lenient with you this time. There are people who are willing to go to bat for you, but, your attitude needs to change. You need to have more respect for your Elders and your community. They believe in you and are willing to speak up on your behalf. Because this is your first offence you will be given a 12 month good behaviour bond with no conviction. You've sat here today and heard the Elders speak to you. The court is significant and your part in this court is developing a community code of conduct. The court will be very disappointed to see you back here. And I warn you it will not be lenient on you next time. The sentence will be much harder. You're free to go.

JASON and RUBY leave the courthouse.

JASON

Load of crap!

RUBY

You're lucky you were
even allowed to go
before the Koorie court.
The Elders tried their
best to make the
magistrate go easy on
you because they didn't
wantta see you go to
jail.

JASON

Whatever! I'm off out,
don't wait up for me.

RUBY

Pleading with him Don't
go out tonight Jace.
You heard what the Judge
said.

JASON, emphatically, irritated with her.

JASON

I'm not gonna get into
any trouble. Get off my
back.

He goes off in the opposite direction to RUBY.
She stands staring after him with a stressed
look on her face and throws her hands up in the
air.

INT GREG'S ROOM

Graphic of the three boys sitting in the room
smoking yarndy and laughing.

EXT WALKING IN THE STREET- SATURDAY MIDNIGHT

JASON, GREG and STEVEN walk down the street sharing a cask of Moselle. They have been drinking for a while and are moderately intoxicated. GREG has on a football jumper and kicks a football as he walks.

JASON is laughing as he takes a drink out of the cask.

JASON

Good game of footy.
Only lost by a point.

GREG

That big ruckman got it
out of the centre every
time. We couldn't stop
him.

JASON laughing

JASON

You nearly saved the
game with that last
kick. Should've seen
the way you kicked that
ball. You missed it
completely and landed
square on your moom.

Demonstrates GREG missing the ball by doing it himself and then falling down landing on his backside. He gets up and rubs his backside, laughing at GREG. GREG is annoyed at being the brunt of the joke

GREG

Shut up. Youse couldn't
do any better if you
tried. Anyway, at least
I play footy. Not like
you losers.

GREG makes the shape of a L (for loser) on his forehead.

JASON

How quick did he get up
hey Stevo?

STEVEN
Faster than a speeding
bullet.

JASON
Super Koorie! That's
your new nickname.

Both JASON and STEVEN laugh. Then JASON, sick
of the joke changes the subject

JASON
Anyhow, what youse doing
later? Comin' home?

GREG
Not tonight man, Aunty
Rube'll be mad 'coz
we've been drinking.

JASON
Who cares about her.

At that moment the boys pass a property. It has
'no trespassing' signs up everywhere. JASON
stops and looks thoughtfully at it. He throws
the empty cask onto the footpath and goes to the
fence.

JASON CONT...
I'm goin' in. Old
Martin's loaded.

GREG
We're not allowed. It's
sacred.

JASON
You don't believe those
old Dreamtime stories,
do you?

STEVEN
Let's go and have a
look. It'll be fun.

GREG
Can't. Pop's strict
about that.

JASON

Me and Stevo'll go then.

GREG goes to walk off, but changes his mind and goes back to where the other two are standing. He is reluctant.

GREG

Alright I'll come.

The three boys go onto the property. It's dark and GREG is obviously scared, but won't back out because he doesn't want the other two to laugh at him. They look around the property but only see junk. They stop at an old burnt out tree trunk and sit on it. JASON is mucking around with the tree stump, pushing a stick under it, when he finds that he can lift up. They all stand up. JASON pulls at the tree trunk and they see that underneath it there is an old mineshaft.

JASON

It's a mine. I'm off down.

GREG

Ain't that against the law?

JASON is exasperated

JASON

Fair dinkum, since you learnt that Legal shit you ain't shut up.

GREG is indignant

GREG

Well, it's good to know your rights.

JASON

Yeh, well s'pose it did come in handy for me. But, I'm still going in.

He fumbles into his backpack and gets a torch and then goes into the mineshaft. STEVEN beckons to GREG and they follow JASON.

INT IN THE MINE- NIGHT

In a mineshaft there's a lot of rubbish, and in some places mounds of dirt. The beams overhead are covered with spider webs and look like they may fall in at any time. The boys walk around poking here and there looking for anything valuable. They are there for a few minutes when JASON spots a huge mound of dirt in one corner.

JASON

Can you see that?

He points the torch at the mound. The other boys look, but see nothing. JASON goes over to the mound and digs at the dirt. As he does, a number of bones are revealed. They hear the sound of a didjeridoo and all jump. They look at each other terrified.

STEVEN

What was that noise and
what are they?

STEVEN points to the bones. He looks over his shoulder. GREG is concentrating on the sound of the didjeridoo, not looking at the mound. He is looking around the mine for places the sound could have come from.

GREG

Sounded like a didj but
it couldn't be. They
reckon old mines make
that sound sometimes.
Probably just that.

STEVEN

Reckon they're human?
There's a lot there?

At this time, GREG realizes what the other two are looking at.

JASON

Dunno, but there's more
in that dirt.

STEVEN

Let's go. This place is
giving me the creeps.

GREG
We've gotta report this
to the gungis.

JASON
No. It's not our
property. We're
trespassing.

He is just about to walk away when he spots
something else.

JASON
Look.

He is standing near the mound pointing at a
feather lying next to the bones of what appears
to be a hand holding a piece of a paper that
looks like it has been ripped out of a book.
Greg and Steven go over to Jason.

STEVEN
What's that?

GREG
When HE sees the feather.

GREG
You know what that is?
We've gotta go. That
feather's been left
there on purpose. Pop
told me about it.

At that moment there is a loud bang and the boys
jump with fear. Jason grabs the feather and a
piece of paper and shoves it in his jacket.

GREG CONT..
Don't touch it.

JASON
Why, scared?

They run to the entrance of the tunnel and climb
outside. They hurriedly put the tree trunk back
over the entrance and hide in the bushes nearby.
Two young non-Aboriginal brothers, 17 year old
ALBERT and 18 year old LES Martin come running
to the tree trunk.

ALBERT

Someone's been here.
The trunk's been moved.
Dad's gonna have a fit.
He said no one's allowed
here. Look around.

LES

Maybe it was just the
wind Al.

ALBERT

No, someone's done it.

LES acts brave.

LES

Well, whoever it is
better not still be here
or they'll get what
they're asking for.

He looks menacingly around the bushes and then moves in the direction the boys are hiding. Suddenly he spots JASON and shouts to his brother for help. As he does, JASON, GREG and STEVEN start to run and although the brothers chase them they are outrun and lose them as the three boys dash behind a big rock.

JASON

Quick, here.

They lie down flat behind the rock, their hearts pounding, fear obvious as they breathe loudly from the effort. The two young men run past them in the other direction and when they do, the boys jump up and run to the fence and leave the property.

STEVEN

We shouldn't have gone
on there.

GREG

Big shots. I told you
not to.

JASON

I didn't know anyone'd
be there.

STEVEN

What are we gonna do?
They know who we are and
they'll come after us.

JASON

They wouldn't be game.
Just don't tell nobody.

STEVEN

Shouldn't we tell
someone.

JASON

No.

They walk off quickly, their faces full of fear.

EXT IN THE PARK- DAY

Jason and Greg sit on the park bench discussing the events of the night before, obviously freaked out about what has taken place.

JASON

Oh man, mum had to wake me up this morning. I had a nightmare man. Mum said I was screaming and yelling in my sleep. Dreamt about this eagle. It was flying overhead when I heard a shotgun and it dropped on the ground right next to me.

GREG

I couldn't sleep either, I was too scared.

JASON ignoring him.

JASON

I thought the eagle was dead and went to have a look. Blood was everywhere. Then, it stared at me and flew away.

GREG

What's scary about that?

JASON

When the eagle flew away, this old blackfella came running screaming, Tunno! Tunno! Pointing at the feather and looking at me.

He takes the feather out of his pocket and with it the piece of paper he found. What was it doing there? And what's this? There's something on it.

HE reads

JASON

"..someone will find it one day and know the truth". That's it. The paper's too old and the rest is wiped off. It looks like water's leaked on it. I've got a strange feeling about that place. It was like someone I knew was there. Sent cold shivers down my spine.

GREG

I told you not to take it?

JASON

What?

GREG

That feather. It's tunno.

JASON

Tunno?

GREG

It's about revenge. The old people knew about it.

JASON

When I was young Nan bored me with stories about the old people. I wish I listened now. I'm gonna ask mum if she knows what it is.

GREG

Could try pop. He knows about culture. And maybe Uncle Terry. He must know all about culture.

JASON

Okay, after we finish
TAFE. But, don't tell
noone what we found.

GREG

We'll have to tell
someone though?

JASON

Wait 'til we see what
happens. We don't want
the Elders to find out
what we did.

GREG

If they find out we're
dead.

JASON

You think too much
Grego. Anyway, what
proof 'ave we got that
we saw those bones? All
we have is this old
feather and piece of
paper. Come on we'd
better get to TAFE,
we're late.

GREG

We're not late, Uncle
Terry understands BFT,
Black Fellow Time.

They laugh and walk off in the same direction.

INT JASON'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

Jason sits on his bed, and fumbles under it to get a box out. He opens the box and takes out the feather that he has hidden inside. He holds the feather up in the air and talks to it.

JASON

I wish you could tell me
who's in that mine.

He looks intently at the feather. He begins to write furiously in the air with the feather, jumping up and down as he does so. He then turns the feather on himself, making big splashing marks on his chest as if he is initiating himself into manhood. He slowly turns the feather over and lays the soft side against the back of his hand feeling its smooth texture. He then places the feather back in the box, puts it under the bed and lies down on the bed, exhausted by his efforts. He goes to sleep and dreams. In the dream Jason is with his father DAVID.

DAVID calling out to Jason

DAVID

Jason.

JASON

Dad?

DAVID

It's me!

JASON

I thought you were dead.

DAVID

I came to warn you.

JASON

What about?

DAVID

You have been chosen to
find out the truth.

JASON

Chosen?

DAVID
Follow the tunno.

JASON
Tunno?

DAVID
Yes.

The image of his father fades away as Jason wakes up shouting

JASON
Dad, don't go. Tell me
what to do?

JASON is visibly disturbed about the dream and sits up.

EXT PARK- DAY- CONTINUOUS

Jason has a flashback to the last time he saw his father when he was seven. He sees himself sitting on his father's shoulders. His father is with an unkempt man with evil eyes.

DRUG DEALER
Who's the kid?

Warily

DAVID
My son.

DRUG DEALER talking to Jason

DRUG DEALER
Now be a good boy and go
over to the slide.

He touches Jason and Jason gets scared of him and pulls in closer to his father. DAVID puts Jason down and pushes him towards the slide.

DAVID
Go'ne son.

Jason goes over to the slide but is able to hear the conversation which he now recalls.

DRUG DEALER

I want my money.

DAVID

You'll get it.

DRUG DEALER

Yeh at three o'clock.

Looking at his watch.

DAVID

I need more time.

DRUG DEALER

No. The boys will here
at 3.00. You know
what'll happen if you
don't have it.

He walks off making his hand into a gun at his head. DAVID wringing his hands and burying his face in his lap.

DAVID

What am I gonna do.
He'll kill me.

JASON comes over to DAVID and places his little hand on his father's head to comfort him. This is the last memory JASON has of his father. He never saw him again. At this flashback, JASON sits up and rubs his eyes. Tears are streaming down his face.

JASON

That's why he left. Mum
never said nothing. I
thought it was her
fault.

INT RUBY'S HOUSE - DAY

JASON and RUBY sit at the kitchen table.
Jason's two young siblings watch as the other
two fight over a game.

RUBY
Put that game up if
youse are gonna fight
over it.

JASON
Why did dad go?

RUBY shrugs her shoulders.

JASON CONT
You never talk about
him.

RUBY
Pissed off. What else
is there to say?

JASON
Why?

RUBY
If you ever find out
tell me. One day I come
home and he was gone.
Just left a note.

JASON
What did it say?

RUBY
Nothing.

JASON
Can I read it?

RUBY
If I can find it.

RUBY goes out of the room and returns in a few
minutes with the note.

JASON
I owe some money. I
gambled it. Sorry.

RUBY

He was a bad gambler.

JASON continues reading the note.

JASON

I couldn't put youse in
danger. I'll come back.

RUBY

Never did though.

JASON

Did you ever hear
anything about him?

RUBY

Nothing.

JASON

Reckon he's still alive?

RUBY shrugs her shoulders.

RUBY

Probly shacked up with
someone.

JASON

Was he good to you?

RUBY

Good father. Took youse
to the park. But he had
lots of issues.

JASON

I remember the last time
I saw him. He took me
to the park and some
fella threatened him.

RUBY is surprised

RUBY

You never told me that.

JASON

I forgot. That fella
told dad to get his
money or else.

RUBY

I thought he was lying.

JASON

I thought you told him
to go.

RUBY

I loved him.

JASON

I'm sorry mum.

RUBY

Me too.

EXT IN THE STREET- MID AFTERNOON

As Jason, Steven and Greg walk down the street,
they discuss the events that have happened so
far.

JASON

I had a bad dream about
dad. First mum and her
bad feelings and then
dreaming about dad after
all this time.
Something's wrong. The
Elders were right.
We're involved in things
we know nothing about.

GREG

I said that from the
start, didn't I?

STEVEN

We can stop now and find
the boys. Have a laugh.

JASON

No, I can't. Dad said I
was chosen and I have to
do it.

GREG

What's got into you,
Jace, it was only a

dream. You didn't
really see your father.

They continue walking, and as they do, they run into Les and Albert. When they see them they attempt to cross the road and avoid them, but it's too late because Albert and Les who have seen them first approach menacingly.

ALBERT
I know it was youse at
our place the other
night.

JASON
What you talking about?

ALBERT
If we catch you there
again, you'll pay.

ALBERT puts his fist up threateningly as he looks at Jason

ALBERT
Heard you went to court
the other day. Can't
afford muck up again can
you? You're gonna end
up in jail, just like
your old man.

He pushes Jason over. Greg runs over to help Jason up. He looks at him.

GREG
Leave him. He didn't do
nothing to you.

ALBERT
You want some too, hero?

He grabs Greg by the neck and slings him to the ground. With that Steven races in and helps Greg. Les runs to stop him but Jason (who has gotten up by this time) kicks him in the leg and runs to help Greg too. The three of them jump on Albert who turns around and starts punching them. Les rushes in and the three boys run away. Les and Albert pursue them but lose them around the corner.

ALBERT yells out in the direction the boys have gone

ALBERT

Run you black cowards,
but if you come back to
our property, you'll
wish you were never
born.

LES

Let's set up a trap for
them Al, in case they
come back.

ALBERT

You know what the old
man's gonna do to us
don't you. He told us
not to let anyone come
on our property.

LES

Yeh, he broke my nose
last time it happened.
I'm not staying around
to let it happen again.

ALBERT

I'll look after you.
Don't worry, he's
getting old and we can
gang up on him now.
Come on, let's go, we've
got some stuff to do.

They walk off down the road.

EXT THE STREET- CONTINUOUS

Jason, Steven and Greg come back to where Albert and Les have just been talking. They are puffing and red in the face from running.

JASON

Rotten mongrels. Just like their father. They can't stop us anyway.

STEVEN

I don't know Jace, they could probably stop me.

GREG

Me too.

JASON

Listen, youse are either in, or out. I'm going back tonight. This time I'll get some of those bones. If you're in, meet me tonight at 8.00. If not, I'll go on my own.

The other two boys make no comment and they all walk off together.

INT LOUNGE OF JASON'S HOUSE- AFTERNOON

Six people are in the lounge of Jason's house, including Jason, Greg and Steven, Ruby (Jason's mother), Leo (Greg's grandfather) and Terry (Greg's uncle)

GREG

Pop, remember you once told me about tunno?

LEO

Why?

GREG

What if you found one?

LEO

Something bad must've happened.

JASON

Have any people disappeared around here lately?

RUBY

Nah, no one except David.

LEO

What about the ones that disappeared from mum's mob.

JASON

When?

LEO

Over a hundred years ago. No one ever found them. The mob believed the Larry Martin, Dick Martin's grandfather had something to do with it, but no bodies were ever found and nothing could be proven. Anyway, we weren't allowed to talk about it. Why you asking anyway?

GREG

Assignment.

RUBY

Leo's talking about one of my grandmother's fathers.

JASON

What ya mean?

RUBY

With the mob back then, if my father had brothers, they were my father too and if my

mother had sisters, they were my mother too. Same thing with grandmother's and grandfather's. It was my grandmother's father's brother, so it was her father.

JASON

How did you know who was who?

RUBY

You just did. They were camping one night near the Billabong for a week, performing ceremony. One of the old fellas with them came back to the main camp one night telling everyone that Uncle Jack had a fight with Larry Martin. Larry Martin used to go on 'gin hunts', looking for black women. Some people reckon he had his eye on Uncle Jack's wife, but was too scared of Uncle Jack to take her. Don't know the full story.

JASON

You mean he could just take Uncle Jack's wife?

RUBY

Yeh, they used to force the women to go with them, but this night, Uncle Jack put up a fight and gave him a pretty bad flogging. He took off threatening to come back and get Uncle Jack. For some reason that old fella got windy and left the camp

because he saw something. That was the last time anyone saw that mob. Fifteen of them disappeared, men, women and children. Some of our people blamed them mob from another tribe, but some of them reckon Larry Martin got them. Couldn't prove it and even if they could no one would listen to them.

TERRY

Pop told me that story. Larry Martin hated our people because they camped right next to the property he took off them and used to go there to perform their ceremonies because it was sacred. He kept hunting them off, but they kept going back.

The phone rings and Ruby goes to answer it. She calls to TERRY and LEO.

RUBY

Terry and Leo it's Aunty Rhoda. She wants to talk to youse.

They go out of the room.

JASON

Well that didn't help much. We didn't find out anything about Tunno.

GREG whispers to him as he hands him a piece of paper.

GREG

I found this today on the net.

JASON

What is it?

GREG

Read it.

He hands the paper to Jason who reads it quietly.

JASON

On the 5th November, 2004, a member of the public found the bones from the hand of an unidentified person in the Queens Gardens and handed it into the police who conducted a search of the area, but could not find any more body parts. The human remains have been taken to forensic scientists for examination. Police are asking for any member of the public to come forward if they have any information to help in their enquiries.

He looks at the other two boys

STEVEN

Hey, that property's not far from there.

GREG

We've gotta tell someone. Those fellas meant business the other night.

JASON

Not till we find out some more evidence. If we go to the gungis they'll deny everything. They won't hand those bones over and the gungis won't do anything to make them. They

probably already covered
it up anyway.

GREG
How we gonna find out
more?

JASON
Go back.

GREG
No, I can't.

STEVE
I can't either.

JASON
I'll go on my own.

EXT NIGHT AT THE PROPERTY

JASON arrives at the property and checks the equipment in his backpack, a torch and rope. He is just about to go into the mine when STEVEN and GREG turn up. They walk onto the property and look around, but can't find the mineshaft no matter how hard they look. GREG sees a log and goes over toward it, pointing at it.

GREG
Don't remember seeing
this.

JASON
Where's the stump.

He looks around until he finds the stump

JASON
Here. Grab the torch

JASON points to his backpack

JASON
And shine it there.

GREG grabs the torch and shines it on the ground. JASON tries to move the stump.

JASON CONT...

Help me.

Greg and Steven grab hold of the stump and try to move it but it won't budge. They try everything to move the stump but can't move it no matter how hard they try.

JASON

Must've put something else over the mine.

STEVEN

I thought it was closer to the fence but we were drunk last time.

JASON

There was a log here.

He looks around, spots something and points to it.

JASON CONT..

There.

He goes over to a shiny round object, bends down and tries to move it. It won't budge and he beckons for the other two to help hi. They come over and the three of them try to move a steel cover. They are unable to move it and after a few minutes, sit on the ground, puffing from the effort. Jason grabs a log. Steven helps him. They take the log over to the cover and put it under it. After a bit of a struggle it comes up and just as they thought, conceals the entrance to the mine. They go back down and once again hear the sound of the didjeridoo, eerie and spooky. Greg is spooked and grabs Jason's arm. They go slowly into the room. When they get in there, Jason uses the torch to look around. He spots a candle and goes over to light it. This time they see a heap of boxes. They open one of the boxes, dusty and with cobwebs on it. Nothing is in the box.

JASON

Nothing here.

GREG looks in another corner. He yells out.

GREG
There's something here.
Looks like a rusty old
water tank. Upside
down. There's a hole in
it.

Suddenly there is a loud bang and the boys stop
what they are doing.

JASON
SHHH!

Steven goes to the entrance of the mine. He
comes back in a few seconds.

STEVEN
Must've been a truck on
the road.

Greg is still trying to poke his finger in the
hole. Finally he makes it big enough so he can
see inside it. He looks in the hole.

GREG
It's full of dirt.
Can't see anything else.

Jason looks in the small crack.

JASON
Old clothes. Give me
that stick.

He pokes the stick into the drum and finally
manages to pull out a piece of old shirt.

JASON CONT..
Old shirt, falling to
bits.

JASON chucks it on the ground. Puts the stick
back into the tank and feels around some more.
Pulls out another piece of the shirt.

JASON CONT..
Oh, shit.

Throws it on the ground.

JASON CONT..

It's wrapped around some
more bone. I need to
get something in to get
it out.

JASON pushes a stick in the tiny hole, but can't
get the bone.

JASON CONT..

You try.

STEVEN pushes the stick back in and moves it
around, trying to wiggle the bone out.

STEVEN

Nearly got it. Get me
something to climb up
on.

JASON brings him over a log. He climbs on it.

STEVEN CONT..

Got it!

STEVEN jumps off the log and hands the bone to
Jason.

GREG

What is it?

JASON

Looks like a arm bone.
Wrap it in that old
shirt. Don't touch it
anymore. We need to get
someone to look at it.
Let's get outta here
now.

STEVE

Okay.

Steve hands him the piece of shirt and Jason
wraps the bone in it. They go up the mineshaft,
looking nervously around to make sure no-one is
there. At the top of the mine they put the
cover back on to make it look like no one has
been there and then exit the property. They
quietly walk off the property but as they are

walking, Steven bends down and picks something up.

STEVEN

What's this Jace? Looks like an eye or something from a old doll.

He goes to throw it on the ground. JASON reaches for the doll's face.

JASON

No, don't. Give it here, prob'ly belonged to one of the family.

GREG

Couldn't be theirs. - They aint got any girls in their family. Only Les, Albert and Dick. Even their mother left.

STEVEN

Used to belt her up. Mum said she tried to take the boys, but he threatened to kill her.

JASON

Wouldn't put it past him.

STEVEN points to the piece of porcelain.

STEVEN

Anyway, this could belong to anyone. Maybe visitors? Who knows? Chuck it back. No good to us.

JASON

Keep it with the feather and the paper. It might be a clue.

They go up the tunnel, looking nervously around to make sure no-one is there. At the top of the mine they put the cover back to make it look like no one has been there. They then exit.

EXT DOWN THE STREET- DAY

The next day and Jason, Greg and Steven are walking in the street near an Secondhand dealer's shop, which they have been in before to sell goods to get money for alcohol.

JASON

I've been thinking.
I've got the doll's face
in my backpack. We
should take it somewhere
and see how old it is.
It might give us some
clues.

GREG

That's a good idea. But
where?

STEVEN

Drake's. He buys dolls
and sells them. I've
seen some like that in
there.

JASON

What you doing looking
at dolls?

STEVEN

When we brought those
old bike parts in last
week, I was looking in
the corner and saw old
dolls there.

JASON

Sure, I believe you!

GREG

It's worth a try Jace.

JASON

Alright.

They walk into the nearby shop.

INT DRAKE'S SHOP-CONTINUOUS

JASON CONT

Hey Mister Drake, how's
it goin'?

MR. DRAKE

Good Jason. Got
something else to sell?

JASON

Not this time. We were
kinda wondering if you
could help us though.
We want to know what
sort of doll this is
from?

He shows him the piece of doll's face.

MR. DRAKE

Well, what have you got
here? It's a piece a
porcelain.

He takes an eye glass off a shelf and looks at
the piece of porcelain through it.

MR. DRAKE

This could be valuable.
It has a tiny date
marked on it. Mmmm.....
can't read it. There
are tiny letters written
on the back. It's
"Jumeau Medaille...Hey
this is a piece of a
Jumeau doll. Where did
you get it?

JASON

The park.

MR. DRAKE

There's a red mark on
the back of it.

JASON

Didn't see that.

MR. DRAKE

Probably from lying in the park. Look, if you can find the rest of it, I'll buy it off you. It looks like expensive porcelain...could be from a French Jumeau Bebe doll. If it is, it could be worth a lot of money. Leave it with me and I'll check it out for you. In the meantime, see if you can find the rest of it.

JASON

Great, if we can find the rest of it, we'll bring it in. How much do you reckon it's worth?

MR. DRAKE

I can't say for sure until I get it checked out. I should know by the time you come back.

JASON

Okay, see you then Mr. Drake.

The three boys walk out of the shop.

EXT IN THE STREET- CONTINUOUS

GREG

Hear that Jace, that doll could be worth a bit of money. When we go back to the property, let's see if we can find the rest of it. We could make some money from it.

STEVEN

Yeh, but we gotta make sure no one finds out.

JASON

Okay we'll play it by ear. Meet there at eight tonight.

They walk off in different directions.

EX PLAYING BASKETBALL- DAY

The three boys are taking in turns playing one on one outside Jason's house. While they are playing, they discuss the events of the previous evening.

JASON

Dribbling the ball while he talks to the other two.

JASON

Let's look at what happened. We found a old mine on Dick Martin's property. In the mine we saw a pile of bones. In the pile of bones we found a feather and a old piece of paper. We found a piece of a doll's face outside the tunnel on

the property. I had bad dreams about the whole thing. We went back and found a bone and this piece off an old shirt. What do we do now?

GREG

But the bones are gone. We can't prove nothing.

JASON passes the ball to GREG to go one on one to the basket. STEVEN stands watching them and talking to them.

JASON

We gotta get this bone to someone to find out if it's human.

He stops playing one on one.

GREG

But who? We don't know anyone who can tell us that.

JASON

Let's look skeleton up on the internet and see if this bone matches anything.

STEVEN

We've got TAFE tomorrow. We could do it then.

JASON

It's worth a try.

GREG

What about Uncle Terry?

JASON

You distract him while me and Steven look it up.

GREG
Hey, what if it's
someone's arm. What'll
we do?

JASON
Don't know.

STEVEN
We'll have to tell
someone then.

JASON
Wait till we find out
first. Meantime, keep
it to ourselves.

GREG
I haven't told no-one.

STEVEN
Me either.

JASON
Good. We'll go back to
Drake's after TAFE to
see what he found out
about the doll.

GREG
Pity we didn't find more
pieces of that doll.

JASON
Yeh, the money would've
come in handy? Never
mind, we still might
find it.

INT TAFE COLLEGE-DAY

The three boys are in a computer lab at TAFE
together.

JASON
Come on look on the net.

The two boys sit at a computer and type in 'Human Skeleton' while Greg goes over to the teacher to talk about the assignment they have. A picture of the skeleton appears. They type in arm and a diagram of a arm appears. They look intently at the diagram and then at the bone they have.

STEVEN points to the screen

STEVEN
That looks like it, the
radius.

JASON
Look up a kangaroo
skeleton just to make
sure it's not that.

They type in 'kangaroo skeleton'. The skeleton of a kangaroo come up on the screen. They examine it closely.

JASON
It looks the same.
Print them out and we'll
have a closer look
later.

They walk over to the printer and get a copy of the two skeletons and examine the two skeletons.

Greg walks over to Jason and Steven.

GREG
Hang on, type in 'Tunno'

Jason types it in.

JASON
Nothing.

GREG
Try 'feather'.

JASON

Once again Jason types it.

JASON

Only a lot of stuff
about birds feathers.

GREG

Let's go and see pop.
He must know more than
he's letting on.

JASON

Not yet. We'll grab a
book from the Ab.
Studies class. Might be
something in it. And,
Uncle Terry might know
something. Let's ask
him.

Terry walks in the door.

JASON

Hey Uncle Terr, we're
trying to find out about
Tunno? What can you
tell us?

TERRY

Only know bits and
pieces, why?

GREG

Tell us what you know?

TERRY

I don't know much.

GREG

What do you know?

TERRY

Tunno was left at the
scene of a murder to let
the tribe know that
someone's death was not
right. It was only in
extreme cases. If it
was left you knew
something bad happened.
It usually involved
everyone in the tribe.

JASON

I think we found one

TERRY

Couldn't be. No one's
found one of those for
over a hundred years?

GREG

We found one at Dick
Martins place

Jason glares at him for telling Terry.

TERRY

How do you know it's a
Tunno? And what were
you doing there?

GREG

You can't tell anyone.

TERRY

If you promise me you
won't go there again I
won't say anything.
But, not all eagles
feathers are Tunno.

JASON

What's the difference?

TERRY

Tunno is always found
near a murderer.

JASON

Okay. Thanks.

The three boys walk out of the room.

JASON

Looking at Greg

JASON

Stupid thing, telling
him where we found it.
If he tells mum or the
Elders, we're in big
trouble.

GREG
He said he wouldn't.

STEVEN
Yeh, Jace.

Trying to console him

JASON
Well he better not!

GREG
Anyway, you don't even
know if it is a Tunno.

EXT SECONDHAND ANTIQUE DEALERS- AFTERNOON

JASON
Hey, Mr. Drake. Did you
find out anything else
about the doll?

MR. DRAKE
Yes, it was made
somewhere after the late
1870's by Jumeau, a
French doll maker. He
specialized in bebe
dolls with bisque heads,
paperweight glass eyes
and exaggerated
eyebrows.

JASON is impressed

JASON
You could tell all that
from one piece of doll's
face?

MR. DRAKE
Yes because they were
the first doll company
to make the dolls that
look like babies, not
adults like earlier doll
makers. This doll had a
baby's face.

Pointing at the piece of doll

MR. DRAKE

You have to know what you are looking for and then it's easy. The company I buy my dolls from are experts. From the initials on the doll, they could tell when it was made.

JASON

When was it made?

MR. DRAKE

After 1875 when the company started to make porcelain dolls. They think it was made around about 1900. Whoever bought it had to have a lot of money to buy it because this would've been a very expensive doll. Today it would be worth thousands of dollars.

JASON

If it was a French doll how did it get here?

MR. DRAKE

Someone had it made and sent here. Oh, and another thing that red mark is blood. I've got a mate who does a bit of scientific investigations and he checked it out for me.

JASON

Blood?

MR. DRAKE

Yeh, don't know what from, but it's definitely blood. Did you manage to find

anymore pieces of the
doll?

JASON

Nah. But, do you think
your mate could check
something else? We
found this old piece of
bone in the park too.
We want to know if it's
a kangaroo paw.

MR. DRAKE

I'll get him to check.
Why do you want to know
if it's a kangaroo paw?

GREG

Just curious.

MR. DRAKE

Come back at the end of
the week then. I'll see
what I can do to help
you then. I can't do
anything before then
because I have a
business to run.

JASON

Thanks Mr. Drake. See
ya.

The boys walk out of the shop

STEVEN

Hear that. That doll
had blood on it. That's
freaky.

JASON

Shh!

STEVEN

I'm starting to freak.

JASON

If that bone is human,
we've stumbled onto
something bad. But,
we'll have to wait until

Drake's mate gets back
to him.

GREG

No wonder the Martins
tried to stop us getting
onto the property. They
went to a lot of trouble
to hide that mine. What
else are they hiding?

JASON

I don't know but we've
gotta figure out what to
do next. Maybe we
should tell someone else
now but it's gotta be
someone we can trust?

STEVE

What about Uncle Terry?

JASON

Maybe. Wait until we
see Drake again. Don't
say nothing to no one.
C'mon, the mob's coming
over tonight.

They race each other to the end of the street.

INT JASON'S HOUSE-DAY

The house is full of Jason's relatives who are
visiting. There are 17 people, 5 children, 5
young people and 7 adults sitting wherever they
can, some on the floor, some on the lounge
chairs and some on the arms of the lounge
chairs. Ruby's sister Jean is sitting at the
kitchen table while Ruby is cooking curry and
damper. Jason walks into the kitchen looking
for food.

JASON

Mum, when will tea be
ready? I'm starved.

RUBY

Waiting for the damper.
Meanwhile empty the
rubbish for me.

JASON

Sweet.

Picks up two garbage bags and goes out the back.

RUBY

Sis, grab the knives and
forks out and put them
on the table.

Jean gets up and goes to the drawer to get the
cutlery. She goes back on puts them in one pile
on the table. She goes back and gets a pile of
plates and puts them on the table beside the
cutlery.

JEAN

Hear what happened at
old Martins?

Jason walks back in the door just as Jean is
saying this and he listens intently.

RUBY

What?

JEAN

Someone got on their
property and stole their
stuff. Dick went to the
police. Put the word
out that if anyone goes
back there, he'll shoot
first and ask questions
later.

RUBY

He'd do it! Just like
his father. The sons
are no better!

JASON

Yeh, they are mongrels.

RUBY

Anyway, it wouldn't be our mob. They know they're not allowed to go on that property because it's sacred. The Traditional Owner Group's been trying to get it back for years. Maybe the Mabo decision will help.

She calls out to the mob sitting all around the lounge.

RUBY

Tea's out.

They all file into the kitchen, grab their dinner and go back into the lounge, sit down and eat. Ruby and Jean sit at the kitchen table and eat their dinner with Jason who sits with them, intrigued by the conversation.

JEAN

You know, he's got nothing valuable on that property. Why's he so worried about it?

RUBY

Yeh, it's a pretty scabby property. He's got it a bit of a eyesore, with all that rubbish on it. Maybe he's scared someone will clean it up for him.

Both women laugh at their little joke

JEAN

Yeh, that'd be a new thing for him, hey? But seriously, he's hiding something. He's always been shifty. I don't trust him. Remember what mum said about them?

RUBY

Can't remember. You used to listen to mum's stories. I was always busy.

JEAN

More like not interested. Anyway, I do remember something. Mum said Larry Martin had a really pretty young wife. He was jealous and watched her all the time. They had a couple of kids, a daughter (I think) and a son. He was always fighting with men at the pub over her. Didn't treat her right. Mean to her and cruel to the mob too.

RUBY

Didn't the old people have a run in with him over his wife?

JEAN

Don't know but they reckon she went back to England and took the baby because of how he treated her.

RUBY

The old people said served him right.

JEAN

Mum said one day a tunno would show someone what happened.

Jason pricks up his ears.

JASON

What about Tunno aunt?

JEAN

In tribal times there was a lot of payback. If something happened to someone, it meant someone else was to blame and so they had to find out who it was and payback for that person. Their way to find out who to payback was through Tunno, an eagle's feather. It was left at the scene. No one in the tribe would touch it because they were too scared. They wouldn't talk about it either.

JASON

Who left Tunno?

JEAN

No one knew.

JASON

How'd they use it?

JEAN

I think they put it near the guilty person.

RUBY changes the subject

RUBY

Oh well, that was a long time ago.

JASON

Hey aunt, where could I find out more about the tunno?

JEAN

From Leo. He knows a lot more than he lets on. But you do know you're not allowed to go

into that stuff, don't
you?

JASON

Yeh. Just thought I
might learn about our
culture.

RUBY

That'd be a first
wouldn't it.

JEAN

Oh, leave the boy alone
Rube. It's good he
wants to find out more
about our culture. Wish
this mob was more like
that.

JASON

Anyway, I'm off. See
youse.

Jason walks out the door.

EXT IN THE STREET- DAY

Jason walks down the main street when he runs
into Dick Martin who staggers out of a nearby
pub drunk. Dick comes over threateningly to
him.

DICK

Hey you little black
bastard. I know you.

Slurring his speech.

JASON

Don't know you.

DICK

Yeh, you do. You're one
of those blackfellas who
are always trying to get
my property off me.

JASON

Yeh, I'm a Koorie, so
what?

DICK

Well I got a message for
your mob. Tell 'em
they'll never get that
property. It belonged
to my grandfather, who
gave it to my father and
he gave it to me.

JASON

That's funny the Native
Title Group said youse
took it without paying
for it.

DICK

You never owned the
land. You had no fences
when Cook came here.
You didn't even know how
to farm the land.

JASON

We didn't have to. Our
ancestors knew exactly
where their land was,
just like Eddie Mabo.

DICK

You're lucky we came
here. If we hadn't
you'd all be dead.

JASON

Why don't you just give
back our land?

DICK

Why you cheeky little
bastard. I'm gonna rip
your neck off.

JASON

Bit too old, aint you?

Dick grabs Jason before he realizes what has happened. He has him in a tight hold by his neck and is squeezing him. Jason is choking.

DICK

Didn't know I was in the
army, hey boy? I could
snap your neck and
break it right now.

Jason elbows Dick in the stomach and when he doubles over in pain he lets go of Jason's neck. Jason comes back over to kick Dick, but by now he has regained his footing and gives Jason a hard backhand to the face. Jason falls down on the ground. Dick takes advantage and grabs him by the head. He drags Jason along the ground, but Jason manages to get out of his grasp.

JASON breathing heavily from the scuffle

JASON

You have to catch me
first.

Dick goes to chase Jason, but as he does so a police siren sounds and a police car pulls up to the kerb. DICK straightens up quickly when he sees the police car. His speech is better and he pretends he isn't drunk.

DICK

I'm glad you came along
Constable. This young
man attacked me when I
was walking down the
street minding my own
business.

POLICE OFFICER to Jason.

POLICE OFFICER

Why did you attack Mr.
Martin?

JASON

He came at me first. I
had to stick up for
myself.

POLICE OFFICER ignoring Jason and talking to
Dick Martin

POLICE OFFICER

If you want to press
charges Mr. Martin, come
to the station and I'll
file a report.

DICK

I haven't got time.
Can't you just charge
the boy?

POLICE OFFICER

I'm afraid not.

DICK

Well don't worry about
it then.

POLICE OFFICER to Jason

POLICE OFFICER

You better run along
home then boy and count
yourself lucky you
didn't end up in jail.

DICK whispers threateningly to Jason

DICK

Another time hey boy?
We have some unfinished
business.

EXT LEO'S HOUSE- DAY

Jason is walking in the street and stops at
Leo's gate as Steven and Greg are walking out
the gate.

STEVEN

Where you going in such
a hurry Jace? What
happened with Dick?

He sees that Jason has a black eye.

STEVEN

Did he do that?

JASON

Ran into him in the street. Gave him a bit of lip and he gave me the black eye, but doesn't matter. It won't stop me though. I've come to see Uncle Leo. Aunty Jean said he knows about Tunno.

GREG

You're obsessed. I've had enough. I'm going to the party tonight. Sophie's friend is gonna be there and she reckons she likes me. But Pop's out there.

GREG points to the verandah

STEVEN

Let's have some fun for a change. Aren't you sick of this. Besides, I don't feel like running into Les and Albert again.

JASON

Listen, it's not only a feather-it's Tunno. Tell you what I'll go to the party if you come back in with me. Okay?

STEVEN

What ya reckon Stevo?

GREG

How long?

JASON

Half hour tops.

GREG

Awright, but you got to
stay at the party all
night.

JASON

C'mon. Let me do the
talking?

They walk into a garden where Leo is sitting on
a stool.

LEO

Thought youse were off.

He looks at Jason

LEO

What you doing here?

JASON

Visiting. Haven't seen
you lately.

GREG

Oh, forgot to tell you
Pop, mum said she'll
bring you some tea
later.

LEO

Gee she's a good
daughter.

To Jason

LEO

Geez what happened to
your eye?

JASON

Ran into a door.

LEO

Sure, I believe you.
Anyhow, I've got
something you boys can
do for me. Go out the
back and clean up that
rubbish for me. The
dogs got into it last

night and pulled it all
out of the bags. Rotten
mongrels. Got a good
mind to have 'em put
down.

GREG

Oh, c'mon pop, you
always got a job for us.
I just cleaned that yard
up last week.

LEO

That's what grandsons
are for, aint they?

LEO winks at the other boys and laughs

LEO

I'm not silly. I know
youse are after
something, so you do
that and I'll see what I
can do for you. Rub my
back, I'll rub yours.
'Kay.

JASON

Fair enough. Come on
Stevo.

They go out the back and you can hear sounds as
they move things around. Leo is still sitting
in the garden, listening to the local Koorie
radio station playing 'Cummeragunga'. He starts
to sing on top note with it.

LEO

*In 1939, a mob of
Koories strong left
Cummeragunga protesting
the wrong. The Cummera
Walkoff, the great
historical feat, the
legacy of a people who
can't be beat. Camped
on the river, settled in
the bush wouldn't go
back, no matter how hard
they pushed. The
Manager so cruel gave*

*all their houses away
but on the Murray river,
our people stayed.
Cummeragunga, the home
of our mob Cummeragunga,
where my family's from!*

JASON, GREG and STEVEN come back to where Leo is. LEO stops singing and turns the radio off.

LEO

Okay, what?

JASON

Aunty Jean was telling us about Tunno. It sounds int'resting. She reckons you can tell us some more stuff about it.

LEO

What you already know?

JASON

Wasn't it used when something happened to someone to find out who did it?

LEO

Yeh!

JASON

How?

LEO

It ended up near the person responsible. Something in tunno would drive them until they found out the truth. Only a leader found it.

He hears the dogs barking and looks at the gate.

LEO

Bloody dogs at it again.

Walks out the back gate to the dogs.

LEO

Stop that barking you mongrels.

JASON yells after him

JASON

Thanks Unc. See ya.

GREG walks with him to the gate and yells.

GREG

See you pop.

He turns to Jason.

GREG

You heard pop. Tunno's trouble. We've gotta get rid of it.

JASON

Weren't you listening? We have to follow it through to the end.

GREG

Why did you take it? We would've been alright. I told you not to take it.

JASON

Shut up, too late now. Anyway, aren't you curious about that bone?

GREG

No! It's just a kangaroo bone.

JASON

Okay, forget it. Let's get ready for the party. I've got Katie lined up for tonight and if I don't go, she'll think I've got another woman.

Not that they're not all
after me.

Greg touches him on the back and pretends to
take something off him.

GREG

You wanna watch out for
those tickets man. A
big wind'll come along
and blow them off.

JASON

You're jealous boy.
Watch tonight and learn
something.

STEVEN

We haven't had a drink
since we found that
stupid mine.

They rush off in different directions.

INT HOUSE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD- NIGHT

A lot of young people aged between 17 and 23 are
listening to Altaegoz rap music. A group of
girls are dancing with each other and a group of
young guys are dancing with each other. Jason,
Greg and Steven walk in all slicked up and
looking good.

JASON

Anyone see Katie?

GREG

I thought you had that
covered, big shot!

JASON

I have, when I find her.

STEVEN

Might be sick of you
giving her the flick.
Might have found another
bloke.

JASON

Not with me around.

JASON looks around the party, spots Katie and points to her.

JASON

And there she is right there.

KATIE spots Jason and walks over to him and puts her arms around him.

KATIE

Hey, Jace, how's it going?

JASON

Want something to drink?
Got a couple of Jimmy's.

He hands her a can of Jim Beam. KATIE refuses the can.

KATIE

Nah, got my cruisers.

She bends down and takes a vodka cruiser out of her bag and takes a sip out of it.

GREG

Me and Stevo are going out here.

GREG waves to Jason and then walks away from him with Steven.

JASON

Alright. See youse

JASON whispers something in her ear. She giggles flirtatiously.

KATIE

What you been doing lately, Jace. You haven't been around home. Who is she?

JASON

You've got it wrong.
Haven't been seeing
anyone else.

KATIE

Why 'aven't you come
round?

JASON, a bit drunk from the cans of Jim Beam
says mysteriously.

JASON

Been busy.

KATIE

Doing what?

JASON

Can't tell you. It'll
get you into trouble.

KATIE

You're full of shit. I
know when you're lying.
You've been with
someone, haven't you?

JASON

I'm not lying. There's
no-one as sweet as you.

KATIE

Don't believe you. You
used to come home every
day.

JASON

Hey, ask the boys,
they'll tell you the
truth.

KATIE

They'd stick up for you.
Is it Lizzy?

JASON

Shit, you never believe
a word I say. Told you
the truth. There is no-
one but you.

KATIE

I want to believe you
Jace, but you've kissed
other girls before. How
do I know you're not
doing it again?

JASON is exasperated

JASON

Come on, but you can't
say nothing to no-one.
It's our secret, okay

They walk out the door.

EXT THE MARTIN'S PROPERTY- NIGHT

They walk to the Martin's property. It is dark
and foreboding and Katie, who is scared, looks
around uneasily.

KATIE

Why we here? There's no
way I'm going in there.

JASON

Quiet. It's alright.
Don't be scared.

KATIE

I'm not.

JASON

Searching for the tunnel. He takes twenty five
steps from the tree and finds the cover

JASON

Help me.

KATIE

What's in there?

JASON

A mine.

They get the cover off and Jason goes in the
mine with Katie close behind him.

INT IN THE MINE- NIGHT

Jason and Katie are now in the mine. They hear the sound of the didjeridoo.

KATIE

What's that?

JASON

The wind.

Jason looks around.

KATIE

Sounds like a didj.
What you looking for?

JASON

This 44 gallon drum's
got something in it. I
just have to get the lid
off.

He pries at the lid, but can't move it. Just then they hear a loud noise and some voices.

JASON

Hide.

KATIE

What?

JASON whispers

JASON

Just hide.

They both hide in the corner behind some old cardboard boxes. The voices come closer and they realize it is Greg and Steven with Sophie and her friend. They come out of their hiding place.

JASON

What youse doing?

GREG

Followed youse.

JASON

I thought we weren't
telling anyone about
this place.

STEVEN

What about you?

KATIE

Well we're here now.
What do you want to show
us?

JASON

There's a lot of bones
down here. We saw them
but someone's hidden
them. We think they're
in that drum but we
can't get the lid off.

KATIE

I want to go. I don't
want to see bones.
You're scaring me.

The girls go to walk out of the mine, but as they do they stumble over a box that has been dragged to the side. As they stumble over it, the contents spill on the floor. It makes a loud noise and the girls scream.

JASON

Shut up and get outta
here.

They all go up the mine and off the property.

JASON

You girls go back to the
party. We'll wait for a
while and then go and
cover the mine. If they
find out we've been
back, they'll come after
us.

The girls walk off.

EXT ON THE PROPERTY- NIGHT

Jason, Greg and Steven go back to the entrance of the mine.

JASON

I'm gonna cover that box up and while I'm there, have another look to see what I can find. Youse keep watch up here while I go back down. If you see or hear anything, give the eagle call.

GREG

Nah, I'm off back to the party. I'm on a promise.

He walks off.

STEVEN

Me too. Bec's hot.

He walks off after Greg.

INT IN THE MINE- NIGHT

Jason is in the mine. He fixes the box, looking into it to see if he can find anything. He feels around in the box but all that is in there is dirt. He then looks around the mine. As he is walking away he sees an old black and white photo lying near the drum, ripped in two. In the photograph there is a picture of a young woman with a baby girl (two years old). He turns the photo over and sees some names written on it. He then puts the photo in his jacket and is about to go when his foot gets caught in something. He bends down and finds some string on his shoe. He pulls the string off his shoe and puts it in his pocket and then climbs out the mine.

EXT ON THE PROPERTY- CONTINUOUS

When Jason gets to the top of the mine, he sees Dick, Albert and Les Martin. Dick has a gun which he points at him. Les and Albert look as scared as he feels.

DICK

Well what have we got here? Having yourself a nice little time on my property hey boy?

LES is scared of what his father will do to Jason.

LES

What are you gonna do to him dad?

DICK

Just have a bit of fun.

ALBERT is also scared of what his father will do.

ALBERT

You're not gonna hurt him dad?

DICK

I told you sissies nobody comes onto my property without getting what they deserve. You know what I did to that wog the last time.

JASON starts to panic because he doesn't know what Dick is going to do. Just then the girls who are with Greg and Steven, and have come back to see what is happening, start to scream, distracting Dick, Les and Albert, giving Jason enough time to spring into action. JASON jumps straight at Dick and surprises him so he drops the gun. LES then jumps on Jason. JASON shouts at the girls.

JASON

Run and get help.

The girls run off the property screaming while Steven and Greg help Jason. There is a scuffle and Albert tries to get the gun. Jason by this time is on his feet and shouts at Greg and Steven to run. As they are running past Les, he knocks Greg to the ground and punches him in the face. Steven stops and runs back to help Greg. He kicks wildly at Les and pushes Les backwards. He helps Greg to his feet and they run towards the fence. Greg is bleeding profusely from his nose which is broken. Dick finally retrieves the gun and fires it wildly. It misses the boys and hits the gum tree. They manage to clamber through the fence and run down the street. The girls are waiting for them at a safe distance with terrified looks on their faces. Jason hears a scuffle behind them while they are running and looks back to see what is happening.

DICK

You morons. Youse let
them go.

He punches Albert in the face and then turns around and backhands Les. JASON puffs with fear and effort from what had just happened.

JASON

Go back to the party.
They won't be game to
follow us now. The
whole neighbourhood
would've heard that gun.
We've gotta get Greg to
the hospital. It looks
like they've broken his
nose.

KATIE screams hysterically.

KATIE

He could've killed one
of us. We've got to
tell someone.

JASON

No. Go back to the party. I'll catch up.

The girls reluctantly run off back towards the party while the boys go in the opposite direction.

JASON

How are we gonna get back into that mine now? They'll be watching it all the time.

STEVEN

It's too dangerous anyway, so forget it. They could've shot us tonight.

GREG

I think my nose is broken. I'm having trouble breathing and there's blood everywhere. I've gotta get to the doctor, now!

JASON looks at him with concern.

JASON

Shit yeh, we'll have to take you straight to the hospital. Say you fell off your bike. We can't tell them the truth.

GREG

Okay, but hurry up. I'm gonna faint.

They hurry off down the road.

INT CLASSROOM AT LOCAL TAFE- AFTERNOON

Terry has been teaching an Aboriginal Studies class to a group of Koorie students. The class is finished and the other students walk out, but

Jason, Steven and Greg stay behind to talk to him.

JASON

Geez that class was good
Unc.

TERRY

Alright what do you
want?

JASON

I've been reading about
our people. You know
that book by Jean
Woolmington that talked
about Edward Curr, a
squatter in the 1840's.
He said one settler told
him that he would shoot
any Aborigine who come
when he was on his own.
And James Dredge wrote
that the number of the
Bangerang people went
from 200 to 80 in ten
years.

TERRY

There were massacres of
our people.

JASON

I've been reading about
Elders and how they were
respected in the clans.
I've never shown them
any respect.

TERRY

What's this sudden
interest in Aboriginal
Studies? I've been
trying to get you
interested in it for a
long time, with no luck.

JASON

I'm sorry but we really
need your help.

TERRY

With?

JASON

You know the other day
when we asked about
Tunno. We found one at
Dick Martin's.

TERRY

You went back there?

GREG

We had to. That's how I
got my nose broken. Les
Martin did it and Dick
Martin shot at us.

TERRY

What?

STEVEN

We went back cause we
found something else we
didn't tell you.

TERRY

What?

STEVEN

Bones.

TERRY

Bones?

JASON

Lots and we think
they're human.

TERRY

Where are they?

JASON

Still there, hidden.
When we went back but we
couldn't find them.

TERRY

How many times have you
been there?

GREG

Only three.

TERRY

Are you sure you're not
pulling my leg?

GREG

No, we saw them alright.

JASON

We got one bone and we
think it's a arm.
Someone's finding out
now.

TERRY

Who?

STEVEN

Mr. Drake's mate.

TERRY

What's Drake got to do
with it?

GREG

We found a piece of a
dolls face. He sells
them, so we took it to
him with the bone. He
said his mate would find
out for us if it was
human.

JASON

Now we really need help.

TERRY

How?

JASON

We think those bones
belong to people who
have been murdered by
the Martin's. We have
to find the rest of
them. They didn't have
time to move them from
the mine. They've got

them hidden somewhere
there.

TERRY

True, without any hard
evidence you can't
involve the gungis. And
if I don't help you I
can see you're not going
to stop.

He thinks hard for a moment

TERRY

Alright I'll help but we
have to have a proper
plan.

JASON

I'll go back to Mr.
Drake's and see what
he's found out.

TERRY

Do that, while I figure
out what to do.

INT ANTIQUE DEALERS- AFTERNOON

Jason and Mr. Drake are alone in the secondhand
dealer's shop.

JASON

What did you find out?

MR. DRAKE

A couple of things. The
doll is nearly a hundred
years old. It was made
in 1917 and is very
rare. This particular
doll belonged to Jane
Martin. Her father had
it sent from France for
his granddaughter, Lily.

JASON

It's that old, hey?

MR. DRAKE

It is an exact replica
of Lily.

JASON

It was made to look like
a real baby?

MR. DRAKE

Yes.

JASON

How?

MR. DRAKE

It was made from a photo
of Lily they sent to the
French doll makers.
Because it is a Jumeau
Bebe doll made
especially for Lily, her
grandfather would've
paid a lot of money for
it.

JASON

How did you find that
out?

MR. DRAKE

The Jumeau Bebe company
kept a catalogue of all
their dolls. The 'Lily'
doll is in it. See.

Opens an old catalogue and shows Jason the photo
of the doll.

JASON

Hey, that's the baby in
the photo. Can I get a
copy?

MR. DRAKE

It'll cost \$2.00.

JASON

Can I pay you later?

MR. DRAKE

Okay.

Drake goes out the back and returns in a minute with a photocopy of the doll.

JASON

What about the bone?
Was it from a kangaroo?

MR. DRAKE

That's not back yet. My mate sent it to Perth. He reckons it'll be another couple of weeks before it comes back. But he's sure it's someone's arm. He wants to know where you got it.

JASON

Queen's Gardens.

MR. DRAKE

He has to report it to the police if it's human.

JASON

We just want to know what it is.

MR. DRAKE

Did you find any more pieces of that doll?

JASON shrugs no.

MR. DRAKE

What do you want me to do with this piece?

JASON

I'll take it.

Mr. Drake hands over the piece of porcelain to Jason. Jason is about to take it and changes his mind. Hands it back to Mr. Drake.

JASON

Nah, keep it yet. I'll see if I can find some more for you.

MR. DRAKE

If you find any more
pieces, bring them in.
I'm still interested in
buying them.

JASON

See ya.

Jason's mobile phone sings a song to let him
know there is a message on it. He looks at the
phone and reads the message out loud.

JASON

Meet me at the Blue
Horizon café at 3.00p.m

JASON

Looks at the time on the phone.

JASON

It's ten to now, I'd
better go.

JASON walks out the door.

INT BLUE HORIZON CAFÉ- AFTERNOON

Terry is sitting at a table with a cappuccino in
front of him when Jason walks into the cafe. A
number of other customers sit in the café.
Terry beckons Jason over.

JASON

Unc?

TERRY

I'll visit Dick Martin
and distract him while
you go into the mine and
have a look.

JASON

Okay.

TERRY

Are you sure you can do
this, though? We could
involve the Elders.

JASON

Nah.

Just then, Steven walks into the café and over
to the table.

JASON CONT

Where's Greg?

STEVEN

I thought he was with
you.

JASON

Maybe he's still crook.
Anyway, Uncle Terry's
gonna distract Dick
Martin while we go into
the mine.

TERRY

Les is in my Trade
course, so I have to
visit Dick about his
assessment. But it has
to be done all together.

STEVEN

When?

TERRY

At 8.00, when it gets
dark. It'll take me
about half an hour.
That's how long you have
to look around the mine.
It'll be too dangerous
to do it any other time.

STEVEN is scared

STEVEN

Can't we leave it till
some other time?

TERRY

Not if what you tell me is true. It could make a lot of difference if we leave it too long to act.

JASON

We'll be outside the property at quarter past. Text us when you're ready to go to the door Unc.

TERRY

Okay and if anything happens I'll text. 30 minutes. In, out, quick as possible.

JASON

Okay.

TERRY

What did you find out from Drake?

JASON

The doll belonged to Dick Martins aunt, Lily. It was identical to her. Didn't find out any more though.

JASON Turns and talks to Steven.

JASON

Right. C'mon let's go. We need two torches and some rope. Find Greg to keep watch at the top of the mine. We have to find those bones tonight. It's our last chance.

TERRY

Good luck.

They exit the café, Terry going in direction,
the boys in another.

EXT ON THE PROPERTY- DARK

Jason, Greg and Steven wait near the fence of
the property when Jason gets the text message.
The boys go straight to the mine.

JASON

He's there. Let's go.
Where's Greg?

STEVEN

Couldn't find him.

JASON

Can't wait for him.
C'mon.

They enter the mine, holding the torches. This
time the didjeridoo noise is deafening. They
both get a fright and Steven goes to run out of
the mine. Jason stops him.

JASON

We have to find those
bones. Split up and see
what we can find.

STEVEN

You're kidding aren't
you? There's no way I'm
leaving you.

Trying then to pretend he's brave

STEVEN

I mean, let's stick
together. What about
that drum Jace? Let's
open it and see what's
in it?

JASON

Good idea.

They go over to the 44 gallon drum. The lid is
completely off it and it is empty.

They are surprised

JASON

Empty. Look around.

Jason goes one way and Steven stays right behind him. They start to pull things out as they look for the bones. They go into a dark corner and lift some boards up. They notice the ground is damp and newly covered under the boards.

STEVEN points to the damp spot.

STEVEN

Look.

JASON

Someone's been digging here.

He digs into the ground with his hands.

JASON

I feel something.

He feels around and pulls something out. It's a skull. He throws it on the ground.

JASON

Help.

STEVEN jumps to his feet, terrified.

STEVEN

No I'm getting outta here.

JASON

I'm gonna see what else is here.

JASON feels around in the dirt.

STEVEN

I'm not touching dead people's bones.

He is standing really close to Jason, scared now to move away from him. Jason has no room to move. He pushes Steven out of the way.

JASON

Get out of the way.

He feels around and pulls another skull out of the ground.

JASON

Another one. There's more than one person buried here.

They hear a noise and LEO appears.

LEO

Looking for Greg. He aint been home.

JASON

We aint seen him since he broke his ribs.

LEO

His mother is worried. What youse doing?

JASON

Looking for something.

LEO

What?

JASON

Bones. We found two skulls there.

LEO

Where'd you find the Tunno?

JASON

Over there.

Points to the corner. LEO goes over to where he has pointed. He reaches down and finds a black and white photo of Larry Martin and his son (who looks about 5 years old).

LEO

If Tunno was here it was Larry Martin.

JASON

Hey, that's the missing
piece of the photo I
found the other day.

Looks at the photo and puts it in his backpack
where he has the skulls. It then dawns on him
what Leo has said.

JASON

How could it be?

LEO shrugs his shoulders. Just then they hear
someone moaning. STEVEN jumps.

STEVEN

What was that?

JASON

It's coming from there.

He goes and looks in the dark corner where he
finds Greg who has been badly beaten and thrown
under some beams. He is unconscious.

JASON

It's Greg. Quick get
him out of here.

LEO runs over and picks Greg up.

LEO

We have to get him help.

JASON

He's been bashed.

Between the three of them they manage to get
Greg to the top of mine. At that moment a text
message is heard on Jason's phone.

JASON CONT

It's Uncle Terry.

They struggle off the property carrying Greg.

INT LEO'S HOUSE- DAY

Leo, Jason, Steven, Greg and Terry are at Leo's house sitting in the lounge room.

TERRY

How's Greg?

LEO

He's in hospital. Got a fractured collar bone and concussion. He's lucky we found him when we did.

TERRY

Who did it?

LEO

Don't know yet.

JASON

Dick?

LEO

Maybe but there's no proof.

TERRY

Now we have to get these skulls to the right authorities to find out who they belong to.

LEO

We'll have to get the Elders together and tell them. The boys'll be in trouble.

JASON

Do we really have to tell them Unc?

LEO

Should have done it before this.

LEO pats Jason on the shoulder to reassure him.

LEO

Anyway, you've done good son.

TERRY

I'll ring.

Goes out to the phone and we can hear him talking on the phone. Terry comes back into the room.

TERRY

They're coming over now.

There is a knock at the door and Ruby opens the door and walks in. She walks over to Leo.

RUBY

What's going on?

TERRY

The boys 'ave got something to tell you.

RUBY turns to Jason accusingly.

RUBY

What you been up to now?

JASON

It was an accident. We found something.

RUBY

What'd you find?

JASON

Bones.

RUBY

Bones?

JASON

At the Martin's.

RUBY

You were the ones going on there. You could've been shot.

JASON

Sorry.

Uncle Sid and Aunty Rhoda enter the room. The boys get up off the lounge and stand up while they sit down.

UNCLE SID

What's going on?

TERRY

The boys here went to Dick Martin's one night and stumbled across a mine. They went in and found some bones. Jason found a tunno near the bones and then they were scared off. When they went back, the bones were gone.

UNCLE SID

Who found Tunno?

He looks surprised.

TERRY

Jason. Then when they went back, they found two skulls. They also saw a lot of other bones. We're taking the skulls to the police to send them to a forensic scientist.

AUNTY JANE

The boys will be punished. They've broken our law.

UNCLE SID

They'll have to face the Elders Council, but we'll wait until we find out what's happening first. When will we find out about the skulls?

TERRY

About three weeks.

Uncle Sid emphatically to the boys.

UNCLE SID

In the meantime, you are
to stay away from that
property.

TERRY

We don't want to alert
the Martins. If they
get wind of what we've
found, they'll move the
rest of the bones and we
won't be able to prove
anything.

JASON

We won't go back there.
But I want to find out
more about our people
Uncle Terry. Have you
got some more books I
can borrow?

TERRY

Yes, come over later.
Also ask your Uncle Tim.

JASON

My uncle Tim?

TERRY

He knows a lot more than
you give him credit for.

JASON

I'll come over later.
See you then.

They walk out.

INT JASON'S HOUSE- DAY

Jason, Steven and Greg, who is bandaged, are at Jason's house when there is a knock at the door. Jason goes to answer it and finds Terry standing there with an envelope in his hand.

TERRY

The results are back.

JASON

What does it say?

TERRY

It's unbelievable.

GREG

What?

STEVEN

Tell us.

TERRY

According to this report, both skulls are human. One is Aboriginal and the other non-Aboriginal.

JASON

How can they tell?

TERRY

According to scientists the skull features of our people are very characteristic because the jaw is squared, the brow pronounced and dental features are unique.

JASON

What about the other skull?

TERRY

It's definitely a white person. Apparently the skull characteristics include an overall

rounded skull, rounded
sloping eye orbits and a
tear-shaped nasal
opening.

JASON

Dick Martin killed them?

TERRY

No, couldn't have.
They're over a hundred
years old.

JASON

I found some string
there too.

He goes out of the room and returns in a minute
with a piece of string in his hand. Hands it to
Terry.

JASON

Here.

TERRY

This isn't string. It's
reeds from a dilly bag.
The women used them to
collect yams, berries
and small rodents for
food.

JASON

I got it caught on my
shoe.

TERRY

It would have been used
a hundred years ago.
Did you find anything
else?

JASON

A old photo. It must be
a photo of Larry Martin
and his family. It was
ripped in half though.
Oh and a piece of paper.

TERRY

Well the gungis can
figure it out.

EXT IN THE MINE- DAY

There are half a dozen police in the mine and Terry, Jason, Steven, Greg and Leo are there with them. Dick, Les and Albert Martin are also there. There is no didjeridoo noise today.

JASON

That's weird?

STEVEN

What?

JASON

No didj.

STEVEN

That is weird.

POLICE OFFICER

Show us where you found those skulls?

JASON

Over in that corner.

Pointing to where they discovered the skulls. The police officer walks to where he is pointing.

STEVEN

Over there a bit more.

DICK

These blacks are lying. They didn't get those skulls from here and if they did, they put them here themselves.

POLICE OFFICER

Sir, just stand back and let us do our job please. If there is nothing here, we will find that out but if you continue to be a nuisance, we will remove you.

Looking at Jason.

POLICE OFFICER

Here?

JASON

There.

Pointing to the corner

JASON

Under the boards.

POLICE OFFICER

Here?

STEVEN points

STEVEN

A bit further.

POLICE OFFICER

Here.

STEVEN

Yes sir.

POLICE OFFICER directing the other police officer.

POLICE OFFICER

Bring the shovels and start digging.

The police officers start to dig. They are not digging for very long when they find some bones.

POLICE OFFICER 2

Bones.

POLICE OFFICER

Stop digging. We don't want to corrupt the crime scene. Ring the forensic investigators.

POLICE OFFICER 2

Yes, sir.

He leaves the tunnel. Jason who is standing near where the 44 gallon drum was looks in the corner and sees an old book stuffed there. He

carefully takes it out and places it in his jacket before the police can see him.

DICK

You are not bringing anyone back here. This is private property and I won't allow it.

POLICE OFFICER

It is now a crime scene and I would advise you not to come anywhere near here until the forensic team has had the opportunity to investigate further.

He begins to seal off the room with crime scene tape.

DICK

I'm going to call my lawyer.

POLICE OFFICER

You go right ahead Mr. Martin. You'll find out very quickly that there is nothing you can do. My advice to you is to go into your house and stay out of the way.

Dick leaves the room in a rage. The second police officer comes back into the room

POLICE OFFICER 2

What's wrong with him?

POLICE OFFICER

That's just him.

POLICE OFFICER 2

I called the forensic team and they said to seal off the area because they will be here within the next hour. Because of the circumstances they said

make sure no one comes
here until they have had
a chance to check it
out.

POLICE OFFICER to Jason, Greg and Steven

POLICE OFFICER
Alright, you'll have to
leave now. Make sure
you don't touch anything
else. We may have to
get your fingerprints
and DNA. If we need
you, we'll be in touch.

JASON
Okay sir.

The three boys exit and the two policemen
continue to seal off the crime scene.

INT THE KITCHEN OF JASON'S HOUSE- DAY

Leo, Terry, Jason, Greg, Ruby and Steven are in
the kitchen. There are a lot of other relatives
in the lounge watching television.

LEO
It turned out to be our
mob?

JASON
Some of them were kids.
How could anyone do that
to kids?

TERRY
They found two other
bodies.

LEO
Who were they?

TERRY
They're still trying to
figure it out. It could
take some time. They're
going to call a meeting

with all of us when they
find out what happened.
At the Coroners Court.

LEO

What happened?

TERRY

Preliminary
investigations look like
they were shot. They
haven't worked out the
whole story though.

RUBY

We probably won't ever
know what happened to
them. It's been a long
time.

LEO

Anyway, we're just glad
to get their bodies back
and at least we know
Larry Martin did it.

RUBY

Yes, now they can be
buried in our cemetery.
They'll be at peace at
last. Even though you
boys did the wrong
thing, it turned out
good for the community.
That has been a mystery
for so long and now it's
solved.

LEO

Larry Martin probably shot
them because they
wouldn't get off the
property.

JASON

But that's not right.
They had to go there for
ceremony.

LEO

How do you know that
son?

JASON

I've been reading about
our people. I know a
lot and I'm proud to be
black.

GREG

Yeh if we had a test in
Aboriginal Studies now
we'd pass it with flying
colours, hey Stevo.

STEVEN

Sure would.

LEO

What's gonna happen to
Dick Martin?

TERRY

Not much. He can only
be charged with
complicity because he
covered up human
remains. He didn't have
anything to do with
killing anyone.

LEO

Oh well maybe he can get
on with his life now.
He's a bitter mongrel.

RUBY

That came from his
father because his
mother left him and went
back to England. Larry
was bitter and passed it
on to his son Richard
who then passed it onto
Dick. Dick's wife also
left him for another
man.

TERRY

I'm just glad it's over.

JASON

Me too Unc.

GREG

Me three.

STEVEN

And me.

JASON

I've been thinking Uncle Terry, I wanna be a forensic scientist. Do you reckon I could do it?

TERRY

I think you've proven that you can do whatever you put your mind to.

JASON

I'll come to the TAFE and enroll in VCE. I found out you gotta go to University to be a forensic scientist.

TERRY

Come tomorrow and we'll fix it up.

JASON

Okay unc see you then.

Jason, Steven and Greg go into his room.

INT READING THE DIARY- DAY

Jason, Steven and Greg are in his room when he remembers the book he found in the mine and put in his jacket. He takes it out and realizes it is a diary and that the piece of paper he has fits perfectly in it.

JASON

Hey, I found this book today in the mine. It's a diary and that piece

of paper fits in
perfectly. Let's see
what it says. The date
on this first page is
the 2nd January, 1918.

He reads it aloud

JASON

Dear Diary, This week
has been terrible. I
think Larry has finally
lost his mind. He's
been walking around the
house for hours ranting
and raving about the
blacks.

As Jason reads, we see a flashback a hundred
years ago to Jane Martin and Larry Martin.

LARRY

You rotten whore. You
slept with that animal,
Black Jack didn't you.

He slaps Jane hard across the face and she falls
on the floor JANE gets up off the floor crying.

JANE

No, Larry I didn't.
That's a disgusting
thing to say.

We hear the baby, a two year old girl crying in
the other room.

JANE

I have to get Lily,
she's crying.

LARRY

She's always crying the
spoilt brat. Let her
cry.

Talking to himself.

LARRY CONT...

Black bastards. They
come onto my property
all the time.

Jane goes past him to get the baby. She brings
her back into the room, trying to soothe her and
stop her crying.

LARRY

I've done everything to
stop them. Even giving
them flour.

JANE

What flour Larry?

LARRY

None of your business.
Nothing matters to them
and Black Jack's the
worst.

JANE tries to calm him.

JANE

They don't do anything
wrong Larry. They come
here to practice their
ceremonies and then they
go.

LARRY

They speak gibberish.
That's not ceremony.
You're always sticking
up for them, you whore.

JANE

They have been good to
me and the kids. Their
kids play with Richard
all the time.

LARRY

Keep my kids away from
them. I don't want them
contaminated.

Lily is still crying and getting on Larry's
nerves.

LARRY

You shut that kid up or
I will.

JANE

She's only a baby Larry
she'll stop in a minute.

LARRY

I don't care if she is a
baby. Give her here.
She has to learn to shut
up.

Jane tries to stop him but he grabs the Lily and
gives her a hard slap. Lily screams louder.

JANE

Don't. You used to love
Lily. What happened to
you?

Screaming at him, she grabs Lily and rushes past
Larry. As she rushes past Larry he hits out at
her with his belt. She keeps moving past him
and he grabs her arm and twists it really hard.
Jane cries out and keeps running with the baby
in her arms.

JASON

Poor thing.

We hear Jane's voice as she continues the story.

JANE

I'm glad I found this
old mine near the house.
When he gets too bad I
bring Lily down here.

Moving her arm and crying.

JANE

I think he broke my arm
because when I move it,
it's agony. I have no
one to turn to because
my family's in England.
The only friend I have
here is the black woman,
Mary. She always smiles

at me. He hates her but
when he sees her, he
always tries to get her
alone.

The scene reverts to the present. RUBY pops her
head in the doorway.

RUBY
Go to the shop and get
me some bread.

JASON
In a minute.

RUBY
Now. I have to get tea
out.

JASON
Alright then.

To Steven and Greg

JASON
Let's go before she
schitz's out. We'll
read the rest later.

They exit the room.

INT JASON'S ROOM- AN HOUR LATER

Jason, Greg and Steven are back in the room
after running the errand for Ruby. Jason picks
the diary up and continues reading.

JASON
This one was written the
next night. 3rd
January, 1918.

We are transported back one hundred years.

We hear Jane's voice.

JANE
I am back here hiding.
He's having a fit. I'm

scared of what he'll do.
Last night he broke the
doll Father sent Lily.
I cut my hand cleaning
up the pieces. He keeps
accusing me of having an
affair with Black Jack,
Mary's husband, because
he stopped Larry hitting
me the last time they
were here. I have never
been unfaithful to him.
I've heard though that
he likes the black
women. He goes off with
the other men. I've
heard from Mary that
they do terrible things
to the women.

Back to the present.

GREG

That's why there was
blood on the back of the
doll. It was her blood.

We see another flashback to Larry and Jane.
They are in the sitting room of their house.
Richard is playing in the corner on the floor
with his baby sister, Lily.

LARRY

I've had it with those
blacks. They were here
again last night and
they wouldn't go. Your
boyfriend Black Jack
acts like a hero. I'll
fix him up.

JANE

What are you going to
do?

LARRY

None of your business
woman.

There is a knock at the door.

LARRY

Go and open the door.
That'll be Bob. Get us
some dinner.

Jane goes and lets Bob in the door.

JANE

Hello Bob. Larry's in
the sitting room.

Bob doesn't even acknowledge Jane as he walks
straight past her into the sitting room. LARRY
yells out to Jane

LARRY

Jane I've got something
for you.

She comes in the room and he hands her a photo
of her and Lily. He has torn a family photo of
the four of them in half and keeps the piece
with him and Richard in it. He points to the
torn photo of Jane and Lily.

LARRY

That's your family.

Points to the piece with him and Richard in it.

LARRY

And this is mine.

JANE

Why did you do that?

LARRY

Me and Richard stick
together, hey Richard?

RICHARD is unaware of the tension in the room,
nods and continues to play.

LARRY

Here Bob.

Hands a bottle of whiskey to Bob who takes a
swig straight from the bottle.

BOB

What's going on? Why'd
you want me to come
over?

LARRY looks at Jane.

LARRY

Go and cook dinner.

Jane walks out the room and Lily starts crying.
Larry walks over to her and picks her up. He
slaps her hard, shakes her and drops her on the
floor. Jane comes running back into the room
and grabs Lily.

JANE

What happened?

LARRY

Nothing.

RICHARD

She fell on the floor
mummy.

JANE

You dropped her, didn't
you? How could you?

LARRY

She's my daughter and
I'll do what I want to
her.

JANE

You leave her alone.

Larry tries to hit Lily again, but Jane grabs
her and runs. LARRY shouts after her.

LARRY

Go, we've got better
things to do than to
mess around with you.

The scene reverts to the present.

STEVEN

That's why the photo was
torn up.

The scene reverts back to the past. We hear
JANE's voice again.

JANE

The blacks are back
again, having their
corroboree. Mary said
they have to because it
is part of their
Dreaming. It is their
law. I tried to tell
her not to come here.
She told me he stole the
property and ran them
off. Every time they've
tried to come back, he
chases them off with his
gun. He believes
they've put a curse on
him because he stole the
property off them. I
can hear him and Bob.
They're shouting at the
blacks. There are
noises up there.
They're going outside.
I'm scared. Oh, no,
that was a gunshot.
What are they doing?

RUBY yells out

RUBY

You boys wanna get home.
It's late and Jason's
gotta go to TAFE
tomorrow.

JASON

I'll read the rest
tomorrow.

STEVEN

Oh man can't we finish
it now?

JASON
You know what she's
like.

STEVEN
Okay, tomorrow.

GREG
Yeh.

INT JASON'S ROOM-6.00AM

A knock on the window of Jason's bedroom wakes him up and goes to the window to see Greg and Steven standing there, wanting to come in.

GREG
We couldn't sleep.
We've gotta find out
what happened.

JASON
What time is it?

STEVEN
6.00.

JASON
Youse kidding?

GREG
Let us in.

JASON
If mum hears youse
there'll be trouble.

He opens the window and lets Greg and Steven in.

GREG
Hurry.

JASON
Hold your horses.

Picks up the diary and continues reading from where he left off.

JANE

I haven't been able to write anything for two hours because my hands are trembling. Lily's cried herself to sleep. He's done something terrible. I heard shots and people screaming. I looked outside and saw bodies of the blacks everywhere. Larry and Bob are in a drunken stupor. I don't know where Richard is. He's only six. Dear Diary, what can I do? He's demented. I don't know him anymore.

GREG

Him and his brother did it. How could they do that and get away with it?

JASON

Shut up.

There is another flashback to Jane and Larry Martin. Jane has Lily in her arms and runs to hide behind some boxes in the room in the tunnel.

JANE

Oh no, he is coming. I have to hide. Quiet Lily, quiet. If he finds us, I don't know what he'll do.

She puts her hand over Lily's mouth, desperation and fear on her face. Lily struggles and then stops crying.

Larry and Bob come in the room carrying the body of an Aboriginal woman. They throw her onto the floor then exit the room. They do this fourteen more times, bringing in the bodies of men, women and children, throwing them in a pile on the floor as if they are garbage.

LARRY
These blacks are heavy
and stinking.

Yelling out to Jane.

LARRY
Jane? Where is that
woman?

We hear Richard crying.

LARRY
We'd better hurry.

BOB
We don't want anyone to
find out what happened.

LARRY
Why, we did everyone a
favour. These blacks
are nothing but pests
and shooting them is no
worse than shooting
rabbits. Bit more fun
though, hey?

It is sunlight by the time they go out of the
room. Jane stays behind the boxes for a while.

JANE
Lily, Lily?

She shakes Lily to wake her up but Lily doesn't
respond.

JANE
She's not breathing.

Screaming in anguish and crying uncontrollably.

JANE
I've killed my baby.
I've got nothing to live
for.

She looks at the bodies lying in the middle of
the room and on the top of the pile she sees
Mary.

JANE

Oh Mary what did he do
to you. I'm sorry Mary.

She hears Larry coming. He's yelling out to
her.

LARRY

Jane, cook us breakfast.

JANE

Oh no, he's coming.
He'll find me and then
what will he do? I'm
writing this diary in
the hope that one day...

The scene fades back to the present.

JASON picks up the piece he has found and puts
it with the diary. It fits perfectly. He reads
it

JASON

..someone will find it
and know the truth.

Jason, Steven and Greg look at each other,
horrified.

JASON

Those other bodies are
Jane and Lily Martin.
She accidentally killed
her baby, poor thing.
He must have found her
and killed her too.

GREG

We have to give this to
the gungis.

JASON

They need to know what
really happened.

STEVEN

What about the Martins.
They thought Jane Martin

left and went back to
England.

JASON

They'll be shocked.

There is a phone call for Jason on his mobile
phone. He answers it.

JASON

Oh, hello Mr. Drake.
What? Your friend got
the results back. Yeh,
I know. I figured it
out. The gungis have
already been involved.
We found some more bones
in that mine. They
belong to our people who
went missing a hundred
years ago. They were
massacred by Larry
Martin and his brother,
Bob. Alright, thanks
anyway for helping us.

Talking to Steven and Greg.

JASON

His mate found out that
bone is a arm bone from
a person, but we've
already figured that
out, haven't we? His
mate had to let the
gungis know. Well,
there is only one more
piece of evidence for
them and the whole
mystery will be solved.
Let's take the diary to
the police station.

INT CORONERS COURT- DAY

The Coroners court is full of people, including
a mob of Aboriginal people and the Martins with
their supporters. The Aboriginal people are
yelling for justice. Dick, Les, Albert and
their supporters are yelling back at them.

CORONER

Sit down and be quiet.
We've convened this meeting at the Court today to let you all know what we have found out in relation to the bodies found on the property at 5 Boulevard Street. As you are all aware, three young men from the Aboriginal community discovered a number of bones hidden on Mr. Dick Martin's property. Forensic scientists have examined the bones and made a number of startling discoveries.

Nods at the forensic scientist

CORONER

Please let the court know what you discovered.

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

We have determined that there were fifteen Aboriginal people buried in the tunnel, five of them were children. We have recovered all their body parts with the exception of one hand. That hand was found some time ago in Queens Gardens. We have not determined how it got there from the property. A Diary written by Jane Martin was found at the scene of the crime and from the entries in the diary, it appears that all victims were shot and killed by Larry and

Bob Martin. They would not have stood a chance against the guns. However, we have also found evidence of arsenic poisoning in the bones of the Aboriginal people. This explains how two men were able to subdue ten adults. The bodies are nearly a hundred years old and because of the diary entries, the year of death has been put at 1918.

The Aboriginal community starts yelling.

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

We want justice! We want justice! Someone has to pay! They stole our land and killed our people.

CORONER

Remain seated and be quiet or you will all be removed.

To the Forensic scientist

CORONER

Continue.

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

We also found the bodies of two Caucasian females at the scene. One of them was estimated to be two years old at the time of death and the other one 27. They are the bodies of Jane and Lily Martin.

DICK

No, they couldn't be. My grandmother took Aunt

Lily back to England
with her.

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

I am afraid it is sir.

CORONER

The tests are conclusive
and the diary found at
the scene of the crime
puts it behind a shadow
of doubt that the two
bodies are those of Jane
and Lily Martin.

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

We have performed tests
on the bodies and
forensic evidence shows
that Lily Martin died of
internal bleeding and
that her mother, Jane
Martin died of a single
shotgun wound to the
head. From the accounts
written in the diary
Jane Martin thought she
was responsible for the
death of her daughter
Lily, but in fact she
was not. Lily Martin
did not die of
asphyxiation as Jane
obviously thought. From
the evidence, it appears
that the fall Lily
suffered on the night
prior to her death at
the hands of her father,
Larry Martin, caused her
death.

DICK

I was told to conceal
the bodies of the
blacks. I didn't know I
was concealing the
bodies of my grandmother
and aunt.

MAGISTRATE

The bodies of the
Aboriginal people will
be returned to their
community for
repatriation. The
bodies of Jane and Lily
Martin will be returned
to Mr. Dick Martin to
bury them appropriately.
Could two Elders please
sign the appropriate
forms for the return of
the bodies and Mr.
Martin, could you sign
the form for the return
of your grandmother and
aunt's bodies? This
court is dismissed.

INT LEO'S HOUSE- DAY

The Koorie Elders are sitting at the table.
Terry is there with Jason, Greg and Steven.

UNCLE SID

We have discussed the
situation about you boys
and have decided that
you will need to do
volunteer work at the
Aboriginal Health
organization for the
next twelve months
because of what you did.

JASON

No worries Uncle Sid.

GREG

Yeh we want to.

AUNTY RHODA

You don't think we are
being too hard on you
then?

JASON

No way Aunt. We deserve more than that for being rebellious, disrespecting our culture and our Elders. We're sorry for what we done.

UNCLE SID

A repatriation service will be held next week for the bodies of our ancestors. They will be buried in the local cemetery in their own family plots. People will be coming from all over Australia to the service. We have decided to put some of the mob up in the community hall. You boys have volunteered to look after them.

GREG

Yeh, that'd be great.

JASON

We'll do the shake a leg too.

UNCLE SID

You're a changed young man son.

JASON

I've realized a lot of things Uncle Sid. I never knew anything about our people 'til we discovered those bones.

UNCLE SID

In some ways we're responsible for that too.

JASON

I don't know Unc. Us
kids don't wantta
listen.

UNCLE SID
Maybe it's time we sat
down together, like in
the old days.

JASON
That'd be good. What'll
happen to Jane and
Lily's bodies?

TERRY
Dick is burying them in
his family plot.

UNCLE SID
He's always been a hard
man full of hatred for
everyone. This is gonna
make or break him.
He'll either keep that
hatred or realize why
his father was the way
he was with him.

TERRY
It's hard to imagine him
changing.

UNCLE SID
Good thing he's none of
our business hey? Look
we have to send some
representatives to that
funeral tomorrow.

TERRY
What if he kicks us out
of the church.

UNCLE SID
That's up to him but we
have to show our respect
for Jane Martin.

TERRY
I'll go Uncle Sid.

AUNTY RHODA
You can go with Sid and
me and a couple of other
Elders too.

UNCLE SID
See you at the church
then.

They all exit together.

EXT GRAPHIC OF BURIALS - DAY

We see the graphic of Aboriginal dancers preceding the bodies to the burial ground at a mission as they perform a corroboree. A group of Aboriginal people follow the coffin with Jason, Steven and Greg are with them. A didjeridoo is playing at the same time.

At the same time we see a graphic of Dick and his sons following two coffins to a cemetery. We hear the song Amazing Grace.

INT RUBY'S HOUSE- DAY

Ruby is in the kitchen with a well dressed man in a suit sitting at the table. Jason walks in.

JASON
Uncle Sid said you
wanted me mum. What's
up?

RUBY
We have a visitor.

JASON
Who?

DAVID

Hi son.

JASON

Dad?

DAVID

Yes son, it's me.

Jason rushes over to his father and puts his arms around him. He is crying and so is his father.

JASON

Dad, I thought you were dead.

DAVID

Nah son, they couldn't kill me.

JASON

Why didn't you come back?

DAVID

I wasn't worth much to you the way I was. I had to prove myself. Gambling, drugs, involved with the wrong people. Didn't do the right thing by you kids or your mother.

RUBY

Me and your father's been talking and if it's alright with you he's coming home.

DAVID

I know I did the wrong thing, but I've changed. I went to TAFE and got my Diploma in Youth Work. I've been working with young Koories for three years now. I had to change my life before I came back.

JASON

Dad, I always wanted you
to be here. I've missed
you.

DAVID

I know and I promise
I'll never leave again.

JASON

I had a dream about you
dad. You warned me.

DAVID

Your mother told me what
you did. I'm proud of
you.

JASON

It wasn't only me. It
was Greg and Uncle Terry
and my white mate
Steven.

DAVID

You know son, I had a
feeling that it was time
I came home. Now I know
why. What do you say we
go to the park?

JASON

Yeh.

DAVID

C'mon on Rube, get the
kids and let's go.

The other kids come in and they all go off
together, David with his arm around Jason on one
side and Ruby on the other.

THE END

