tunno

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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.
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 varndy 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
probly 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 him. 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.

Thows 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 sing 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 café. 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 is 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.
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 probly 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 probly 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