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4th Draft

Hold Me Tight

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1 EXT – MORETON BAY – DAY

1850's - a convict - Alan CAMERON - is being taken to an island in the bay on a row boat. CAMERON is rowing and he is being watched over by an armed soldier - Corporal PORTER

CAMERON looks at the water considering things as he rows - PORTER keeps a steady eye on him.

2 EXT - BAY ISLAND - DAY

The boat arrives near a beach - CAMERON jumps out and wades through the water pulling the boat up aground on the beach – PORTER stays in the boat

PORTER

Just wait here - there'll be a detail here to see us shortly

They keep waiting and after a while PORTER gets anxious

PORTER

They should have been here by now - I'll go and see if they're coming - wait here

He gets up and wanders up the dune to look for them.

We see a close up of PORTER as he scours the land further in front of him looking for the party - he turns around after a while, disappointed, and looks back at the boat - CAMERON is gone.

3 Cut to CAMERON sprinting through the scrub near the edge of the beach - he is running very fast and desperately

4 He rounds a headland and comes to a little bay - he pauses for a moment and then runs out into the water and starts swimming.

5 EXT – MORETON BAY – DAY

He struggles across Moreton Bay - checking the island behind him and the mainland in front of him frequently.

6 EXT – MAINLAND COAST – DAY

He eventually makes it to the mainland and collapses on a muddy beach just near some mangroves. Lying on his back - he breathes in heavily and laughs a bit -

scarcely able to believe that he has made it.

7 After a while he gets up and stumbles forward into the mangroves.

8 The mangroves are quite thick and he fights through them. He is in a weakened and slightly emaciated state and is visibly sick in his face. He stumbles on.

9 He emerges out of the mudflats and into a salt marshland - the vegetation is low and sparse - and he walks forward - it opens into quite a wide space and he walks down the middle of it heading for a forest in the distance. As he walks along the heat of the sun starts to effect him

10 He sits down at the edge of the forest to rest. It's an acacia forest with a light grass cover underneath. He leans up against a tree just resting and then starts wondering what to do next - after a while he is struck by the beauty of where he is and then keeps on going.

11 Cut to CAMERON forcing his way through a melaleuca forest - the grass is waist high and quite heavy going - he stops after a while and looks at his feet which are cut from the long grass - he continues on

12 He eventually comes to the lower edges of a eucalyptus forest.

13 He walks along in the forest and it starts to slope upwards and become a bit rocky - he rounds one rock and almost collides with two aboriginal men, TALAIPI and DALNGANG, in full traditional dress - he stares at them totally shocked and a bit scared, they more relaxed and he runs away - they watch him go, a little bit amused, and comment to each other.

14 He runs hurriedly on - scared - we follow him for a while and eventually we see him disappear into the bush, in a medium wide shot - fade out

15 EXT – BUSH – LATE AFTERNOON/EARLY NIGHT

CAMERON is stumbling along - exhausted - he is looking around - throwing rocks and sticks at any birds or wildlife he can see - in the vain hope he can hit one to eat it.

16 After a while he comes to a grassy spot next to a tree and decides to stop here for the night - he grabs a few leaves and collapses down eating them - he is exhausted and desperate and stares at the leaves intensely trying to find any nutrition in it that he can

17 TALAIPI and DALNGANG are sitting around a camp fire eating - TALAIPI is imitating the look on CAMERON'S face when they ran into each other - they're

is much laughter and talk

- 18 Cut back to CAMERON - he throws the remnants of the leaves away - and sits looking whistfully out - trying to make the most of his situation - he eventually snuggles in against the tree trunk and just stares out - after a while he reminisces about his escape and we see Cpl Porter in the boat from Cameron's POV - cut back to CAMERON smiling.

The night starts to fall and he sits there quietly thinking away

- 19 INT – FARMER'S COTTAGE – ENGLAND

Cut to CAMERON at home back in England - in his one room cottage with his wife ALISON - we see him being dragged away by TWO SOLDIERS

- 20 EXT – BUSH – NIGHT

Cut back to CAMERON - morose. He tries to snuggle in against the tree more and listens out for wildlife and any approaching people

- 21 We see TALAIFI and DALNGANG sleeping besides their slowly dieing fire

- 22 EXT - BUSH - DAWN

CAMERON awakes stiff and sore - and quickly starts moving - he is quite hungry now and starts licking dew off the leaves, and desperately looks around for something to eat.

- 23 We follow him for quite a while as he travels along.

- 24 We see the TALAIFI and DALNGANG where they first ran into CAMERON - they start looking at his tracks and following his path

- 25 We follow CAMERON more - he is desperate to find food, or any sign or thing in the bush that can help him

- 26 TALAIFI and DALNGANG are at the place where CAMERON started throwing rocks at the birds (Scene 15) - they examine his tracks for a bit and then continue on

- 27 We follow CAMERON further he is desperate and continues on

- 28 After a while he notices a clearing up ahead with a bit of movement in it, he walks up stealthily and sees a young lady, ISABEL, enjoying a lunch time picnic - we

see her from his POV through some bush

29/30 We see a close up of her from in the clearing and she turns around quickly as CAMERON comes through the bush - they are locked momentarily staring at each other - each just as shocked as the other with what they are seeing

CAMERON
(Quietly) Please ma'am don't tell

CAMERON looks at her and then the food - she offers him some bread she has in her hand - he takes it - eats some quickly - looks at her and then leaves.

She watches him go and then is rejoined by her lunchtime companion - a priest –
FATHER THOMPSON

FATHER THOMPSON
Good heavens - what was that?

ISABEL
(Half stuttering) Just a kangaroo.....I threw it some bread

31 CAMERON continues running quite fast with the same kind of desperation as when he first escaped - we follow him for a while and he disappears into the bush away from us once more

32 TALAIFI and DALNGANG are now at the spot where CAMERON slept the night before - they discuss it a bit and then continue on

33/34 EXT – MOUNTAIN BUSH - AFTERNOON

CAMERON is walking along calmly - it is obviously a little bit higher now in the mountains and he is walking along observing the trees and the birds - he starts to notice some strange markings on the trees around him - he stops and looks around - he is surrounded - and looks at all the markings - he is in a Bora ring - he is very unsure about what he is seeing and moves on.

35 We follow him for a while more and he is becoming increasingly frustrated as he throws rocks at birds - his reserves are starting to be depleted and is effecting his judgement and ability to move.

36 TALAIFI and DALNGANG are hunting some wallabies - they have come across a small group of them and are stalking one - we see them moving in closer and eventually throwing a spear at it

37 EXT – HIGHER MOUNTAIN BUSH – LATE AFTERNOON

The day light starts to fade out and CAMERON comes to an old burnt log - he collapses down and tries to snuggle with his back in against it, he thinks for a moment and then sits up - he turns the log over hoping to find something under it to eat - a few bugs scurry away and he tries to grab them but is too slow - he rolls the log back and lays back down to rest - he stares out blankly and slightly desperately

38 We see TALAIFI and DALNGANG eating the wallaby by a fire - they are happy and their spirits are high

39 EXT – HIGHER MOUNTAIN BUSH – NIGHT

Deep in the night - the moonlight is bright and CAMERON is asleep - we see ALISON looking at him - she lay down beside him and holds him, fade out

40 EXT - HIGHER MOUNTAIN BUSH - DAWN

Fade back into morning - CAMERON slowly wakes and has trouble getting it all together - he gets up - finds some leaves to lick the dew off and continues on.

41 TALAIFI and DALNGANG are by the remains of their fire - TALAIFI holds up the remaining leg and thigh portion of the wallaby - suggesting they give it to CAMERON - DALNGANG agrees

42 CAMERON walks on - almost in a daze

43 TALAIFI and DALNGANG walk on - happily and energetically

44 CAMERON continues on - desperately looking around him as he does - he comes to a creek bed, but it is dry

45 TALAIFI and DALNGANG are at CAMERON'S camp site from the previous night - they survey it and chat about it and then continue on

46 We follow CAMERON as he continues on - stumbling a little now - he continues for a while and then he hears some fairly loud gun shots - he stumbles down to the ground and listens intently

47 TALAIFI and DALNGANG have come to a large lagoon and are drinking - they also hear the gun shots and freeze, squatting down a little

48 EXT - HIGHER MOUNTAIN BUSH GULLY - MORNING

Cut to a farmer - PATTERSON - and his son JACK - on horseback shooting at birds

PATTERSON

They're gone.....not to worry though -
we'll come back tomorrow and try again

They turn and ride home

49 EXT - HIGHER MOUNTAIN BUSH - MORNING

CAMERON can hear their voices and proceeds cautiously

50 TALAIFI and DALNGANG continue cautiously as well

51 After a while CAMERON can hear the voices again – but quite clearly now - and comes across Patterson's farm house

EXT - PATTERSON'S FARM YARD - MORNING

52/54 JACK has gone inside and PATTERSON is out by his wood heap skinning chickens - CAMERON watches from just on the edge of the bush beyond the clearing.

55/57 TALAIFI and DALNGANG watch CAMERON and the farm from a little further off - they look cautiously for a bit and then TALAIFI decide to go forward to CAMERON with the wallaby leg

58/62 CAMERON is watching PATTERSON'S every move - focussed on the food - PATTERSON goes inside after a short while and CAMERON decides to make a go for it - he runs out to the birds and grabs them - but can't resist and starts eating them there - TALAIFI stops in his tracks and watches

63/65 CAMERON is squatting down tearing into them when PATTERSON approaches from behind - he has a large branch and bashes him over the head - CAMERON rolls to the ground and is struck a few more times. PATTERSON drags him over to a woodpile and leaves him propped up against it - bloodied and barely conscious - TALAIFI and DALNGANG watch on from within the bush

PATTERSON

Jack! Jack! Here now boy *(he throws
the branch down - JACK arrives)* Take

Jess and go down to the garrison and
bring some soldiers back

JACK nods

- 66 JACK quickly leaves on a horse.
- 67 PATTERSON sits down quite smug with himself and bites into an apple, as he watches CAMERON.
- 68 Cut to later on - we see CAMERON, in chains, being loaded onto a dray by a three soldiers - he has regained consciousness and sits up against one of the sides - the dray starts moving and he just stares ahead.
- 69 TALAIFI and DALNGANG watch on - from another, closer, spot in the bush
- 70 As the dray bumps along CAMERON thinks about the things he has seen - and we see quick cuts to the bush, his run in with TALAIFI and DALNGANG, the woman who gave him bread and the Bora ring. Cut back to CAMERON - he sees ALISON sitting opposite him in the wagon and they smile
- 71 The dray continues - fade out
- 72 Quick cut into CAMERON being whipped - he is barely conscious, his head hanging low covered in sweat, his back a bloody mess - the camera slowly moves down his side from his head, past the edge of the damage on his back, and eventually cross fades to the ground by his feet where ants are carrying off bits of flesh
- 73 Cut to TALAIFI and DALNGANG overlooking this from the surrounding bush, with a disturbed look on their face - fade out