

2020 MASTER OF ARTS SCREEN: CINEMATOGRAPHY APPLICATION TASK



Australian Government

Australian Film Television and Radio School

Short Film Script *Tears*.

You may only use the *Tears* script, for the AFTRS' 2020 Master of Arts Screen:
Cinematography application task

1. EXT ISOLATED ROAD - LATE AFTERNOON

It is an hour before sun down. The land is flat, clear and hot. Cotton from passing trucks aligns the sides of the road.

A girl in her mid teens walks along the road. She carries a bag in each hand. A boy in his late teens, hobbles along behind her on crutches. He is struggling to keep up.

VAUGHN

Lena.

Lena doesn't hear and keeps walking.

Vaughn stops.

VAUGHN

Lena!

Lena stops and turns to Vaughn.

LENA

What's wrong

VAUGHN

I need to stop.

LENA

But we just did.

VAUGHN

But it hurts.

Lena looks up the road into the distance, and back to Vaughn. She drops the bags onto the road.

Vaughn smiles.

LENA

It'll be your fault if we get there late.

VAUGHN

Don't worry, there's plenty of time.

Vaughn turns his head looking at the distance they have walked. He turns back to Lena.

VAUGHN

Yar sure it's right on the beach.

LENA

Yeah...how many times do I have to tell you.

VAUGHN

Well I won't miss this dry shit.

Vaughn wipes his forehead with his hand, and wildly swipes at some flies.

VAUGHN

And these bloody flies.

Lena breaks her gaze from the road ahead and turns smiling at Vaughn.

VAUGHN

What are you smiling at.

LENA

Nothing.

Lena stands and continues to walk. Vaughn hobbles behind her.

VAUGHN

What'll you miss the most?

LENA

What?

VAUGHN

From the mission?

Lena thinks for a moment.

LENA

Nothing really.

Lena and Vaughn move to the side of the road as they continue to walk. A car goes past them and they move back onto the road.

VAUGHN

What about mum?

LENA

What about her?

VAUGHN

Won't yar even miss her?

LENA

She doesn't care about me...or
you.

Vaughn pauses for a moment, looking down the road.

VAUGHN

What about my mates.

LENA

What about them?... Why do you
think you're on those stupid
crutches...

Vaughn frowns at Lena, and continues to walk.

2. EXT FURTHER ALONG THE ROAD - LATER IN THE AFTERNOON

Lena and Vaughan walk along the road. Lena is a few
metres ahead of Vaughn.

VAUGHN

I'm starvin,
What about a packet of chips.

LENA

We said we wouldn't eat them
until we got there.

Vaughn shakes his head.

An old Holden station wagon pulls up next to them from
the opposite direction.

Vaughn stops first, then Lena, dropping the bags onto the
dirt..

Vaughn leans into the passenger front window.

VAUGHN

Where youse off to.

DRIVER

Back home...

Vaughn nods.

DRIVER
Hey Cuz, you look
funny walkin with them
crutches.

Vaughn looks for Lena from the corner of his eye.

VAUGHN
Don't talk about it.

Vaughn pushes the driver jokingly.

DRIVER
The cops have been looking for
you.

VAUGHN
Lettem look, I haven't done
anything... You're the one
they should be after.

As Vaughn jokes with the driver, Lena looks in the back window of the car. A young girl sits breast feeding a baby. She looks up at Lena and smiles. Lena's face appears in deep thought... She suddenly snaps out of it and smiles back at the girl

DRIVER
Where you off to?

Vaughn pauses, sensing Lena's eyes.

Lena glares at Vaughn.

Vaughn smiles at the driver.

The driver senses Lena's annoyance.

DRIVER
Yeah well, better get goin
then. See yar's later.

Vaughn shakes hands with the driver.

The car drives off into the distance.

Lena starts walking again.

LENA
We have to keep moving.

Vaughn looks down to the ground and up to Lena.

VAUGHN
Why do you want to go?

LENA
We've been through this
before.

VAUGHN
What am I gonna do when I get
there?

LENA
You'll be all right when you
settle in.

VAUGHN
Your father won't want me
there.

Lena stops walking and faces Vaughn.

LENA
He's your father too.

VAUGHN
You know he's not my father.

LENA
He'll be more of a father to
you than anyone out here.

LENA
If you don't leave now, you'll
never get out of this shit
hole...Besides I need you with
me.

VAUGHN
What?

VAUGHN
Nothing?

Lena turns and continues to walk.

3. EXT FURTHER ALONG THE ROAD - LATE AFTERNOON.

Vaughn and Lena walk in silence.

A Police car appears in front of them and begins to slow
down.

Lena and Vaughn stop walking. They both glare at the Police car. The car slowly passes them and increases it's speed.

VAUGHN
Arseholes.

Vaughn turns back to face Lena's frowning face.

VAUGHN
What ?

Lena shakes her head, picks up the bags and begins walking again.

VAUGHN
What!

4. EXT FURTHER ALONG THE ROAD - LATE AFTERNOON.

A few moments later.

Lena walks just in front of Vaughn. She holds her hand over her nose as they walk towards a dead kangaroo.

VAUGHN
They don't stink that bad when
you drive past.

Vaughn stops for a rest and looks over at the kangaroo.

A car goes past at a high speed.

VAUGHN
If that was a person lying
there, people wouldn't drive
past like that, hey Lena.

LENA
Come on Vaughn, it's making me
sick.

Vaughn moves to catch up to Lena, and looks back at the kangaroo. He turns his attention to Lena.

VAUGHN
What about those chips?

5. EXT ROAD - LATER IN THE AFTERNOON

Lena and Vaughn sit on the side of the road. The sun has become low. Vaughn eats a packet of potato chips.

Lena sits putting a fresh bandage on Vaughn's leg.

VAUGHN

Ouch!

LENA

Sorry...

Lena looks at Vaughn with his mouth full of chips.

LENA

You going to save some for me.

VAUGHN

Yeah!

Vaughn answers with his mouth full.

Vaughn looks down at the empty packet and back up to Lena.

LENA

Don't worry I wasn't that hungry.

Vaughn drops the empty packet onto the ground. He begins to suck his fingers.

Lena suddenly becomes aware of how quiet it is. She looks around the flat landscape.

LENA

It can be so nice here sometimes.

Vaughn freezes... his finger is still stuck in his mouth as he looks up at the sky...

A noisy car suddenly speeds past destroying the silence.

LENA

It's getting late.

Lena finishes the bandage and clips a safety pin onto it.

She stands and picks up the bags.

Vaughn looks down at the empty packet on the ground. He then turns to look up and down the road. Vaughn reaches

over and picks up the packet. He stuffs it into his pocket.

6. EXT ROAD HOUSE - MAGIC HOUR

Vaughn and Lena arrive at an isolated Road House. The sun has just dropped below the flat horizon. An old neon petrol sign flickers to life. Dust is thick in the air from the trucks.

7. EXT ROAD HOUSE, BUS STOP - MAGIC HOUR

Lena stands alone by the edge of the road. She leans on a dusty bus stop sign.

Vaughn approaches from behind.

Lena looks down and sees a wet patch on Vaughn's pants. Vaughn sees Lena smiling at him.

VAUGHN

Yeah well you try havin a piss
on these stupid things.

Lena half smiles, anxiously tapping her leg.

She looks down at her watch.

LENA

Don't go walking off. It won't
be long now.

Vaughn nods half smiling back to her.

The old Holden station wagon suddenly pulls in at the petrol bowser.

The driver gets out and begins to fuel the car. He looks up and sees Vaughn. Vaughn sees the driver and smiles. They salute each other with a wave.

Lena looks over at the driver and then to Vaughn.

Lena glances down at her watch.

She suddenly hears what sounds like a bus and quickly looks up. She sees it is only another truck. She looks to Vaughn who is turned looking towards his friend.

A horn is sounded and Lena looks up.

LENA

Here it comes.

Lena hurriedly picks up their bags.

An old bus pulls in and the door opens in a cloud of dust.

LENA

Come on, Vaughn.

Lena moves to step onto the bus and turns to see Vaughn still looking at his friend.

LENA

Vaughn...Vaughn!

Vaughn snaps out of his stare and turns towards Lena.

LENA

It's about to go.

Vaughn looks from Lena across to his friend, who is still pumping petrol. He looks back to face Lena.

Lena's lips begin to quiver.

They both look at each other.

Vaughn looks down at the ground and back up to Lena.

They share tears within their eyes.

Lena drops Vaughn's bag onto the dirt.

Vaughn leans over and kisses Lena on the cheek.

Vaughn picks up his bag. Lena watches Vaughn hobble over to the station wagon.

Vaughn murmurs a few words to the driver and turns to look at Lena. The driver gets into the car and starts it up. Vaughn sits into the car and watches Lena from the window.

They stare at each other.

The bus driver beeps the horn.

Lena takes a step towards Vaughn. She looks towards the bus and back to Vaughn.

Lena turns and steps onto the bus and the door suddenly slams closed.

The End