

FADE IN:

TITLE CARD: OCTOBER 16TH 1974.

EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR, OUTSIDE MILSON ISLAND PRISON - DAY

A PRISON GUARD stands inside the high iron gates. Slowly the gates start to open and MARTY, man in mid twenties dressed in jeans and t-shirt with tatoos down both arms walks through the gates carrying a small bag. He has a pleased look on his scarred face.

Marty ignores the Guard and walks over to a small boat that is tied up to a wharf.

A DECKHAND unties the ropes as Marty steps aboard.

SFX: Engine starting.

OPENING CREDITS START:

Marty sits in a seat and clutches his bag as the boat takes off. Marty looks back, the wind is blowing through his hair.

Milson Island fades into the background. The spray of the boat in the foreground.

The boat stops at a Ferry Terminal.

Marty inhales a deep breath and lets it out slowly. He gives the deckhand a lopsided grin as he jumps from the boat.

DECKHAND

See Ya!

MARTY

Nope, You'll never see me again.

Marty throws his bag over his shoulder and runs down the terminal.

EXT. A TRAIN PLATFORM - DAY

CROWDS of people are getting on the train. Marty pushes past them running to catch the train.

Just as the train starts to move he jumps on.

INT. INSIDE THE TRAIN - CONTINUATION

All the seats are taken PEOPLE on either side sit cramped in their seats some have SMALL CHILDREN on their laps.

Marty catches his breath and makes his way through the cabin. His eyes are darting from side to side looking for a spare seat.

Marty walks through another cabin that is packed.

At the end of the third cabin he sees two spare seats. He throws his bag down and sits in the window seat and heaves a deep sigh and grins to himself.

A MAN sits beside Marty, they look at each other.

MAN

G'day.

MARTY

Yeah, g'day.

MAN

Where ya headin'?

Marty doesn't answer, he is looking out the window.

MAN (CONT'D)

So mate, where ya been?

Marty looks at the man. A serious look creeps across his face.

MARTY

Ta hell.

(beat)

Been ta hell and back.

The man gives Marty a concerned look.

MARTY (CONT'D)
Goin' home ta get married.

Marty turns his head and looks out the window. From his eyes through the window bushland is seen passing by.

OPENING CREDITS FINISH:

The bush land through the window fades into long grass. There is an old house in the distance.

EXT. OLD HOUSE, BACK YARD - DAY

The house is in the back ground and made of fibro and timber, in need of a paint. All around the house the grass is a meter high except for a pathway to a clothesline.

Through the long grass the back of MARTY boy seven years wearing old tattered clothes is riding a rusty three wheeler bike.

Marty gets to the back of the house and stops the bike and hops off. From the house the sound of shouting is heard.

NORA (O.S.)
I'll keep Jack and Benjamin here
with me. But you! You take your
brat Marty and get the fuckin'
hell out of my life!

BILL (O.S.)
Ya mad woman! Fuckin' mad!

SFX: smashing of bottles and screaming.

Marty runs to the side of the house. His younger brother BENJAMIN is hiding there. Marty crouches down with his hands to his ears and his eyes squinted tight.

MARTY
Shut up! Shut up!

Marty holds his face in his hands and sobs.

EXT. BARBER SHOP, OUTSIDE - DAYBREAK

The shop is surrounded by other shops on a main road. There is a bus stop outside the shop. On the concrete in the doorway Marty now age thirteen is asleep.

The early light of morning is starting to rise. Traffic is flowing along the road.

BILL, Marty's dad late forties tall and slim wearing old clothes walks along the road towards the Barber shop.

Bill stops at the shop and looks down at Marty. He nudges him in the ribs till he wakes up.

BILL

Hey, ya betta get on home.

Marty rubs his eyes and looks at Bill.

Bill turns around as a bus pulls up. He walks over and hops on the bus.

INT. OLD HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Nora is drunk, and looking through cupboards that are empty, she slams the doors shut.

Marty is standing with BENNY younger brother near the door.

MARTY

What's fa dinna?

Nora swings around.

NORA

(SLURRING)

Nothin' bloody nothin'.

Bill walks in the door with two bottles of beer in his hand.

NORA (CONT'D)

That's where all the fuckin' money goes, on his beer.

Bill stands still as Nora walks towards him pointing her finger.

NORA (CONT'D)

You! You ya bastard.. Spendin' everything on the horses and grog!

BILL

(SHOUTING)

You're just a bloody drunk, spend all ya time drinkin' with that bloody Doris down the road!

Marty and Benny run outside.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Marty and Benny sit out near the clothes line, they have their hands over their ears.

SFX: Smashing noises coming from inside the house.

INT. INSIDE HOUSE, BEDROOM - CHRISTMAS MORNING

The walls of the room have paint falling off, it is a mess. Against the wall is a second hand bike.

Marty is in a single bed, he wakes up and looks at the bike. He jumps out of bed and runs over and rubs his hands over it and smiles.

MARTY

Yeah! Yeah!

Marty hops on the bike and starts to ride it around the bedroom.

Nora walks into the bedroom, her hands on her hips.

NORA

Now you got what ya wanted, I reckon ya betta knuckle down and do betta at school.

MARTY

I'll try real hard, I won't keep
failin' mum.

NORA

Teacher reckons ya just a lazy
smart ass clown. See ya change.
(beat)
Merry Christmas.

Nora walks out of the bedroom.

EXT. SUBURB OF FIVE DOCK, SYDNEY - DAY

Marty is riding his bike past houses.

Marty stops, the rear tyre on the bike is flat. He hops
off and looks at the tyre.

MARTY

Shit!

RONNIE thirteen year old boy riding a new Malvern Star
bike stops along side of Marty.

RONNIE

Need some help?

MARTY

I'll have ta get ta the Sports
Store and get this bloody fixed.

RONNIE

I can fix it for ya.

Marty looks surprised.

MARTY

Yeah!

RONNIE

Sure, come up to my place. I'll
do it now.

MARTY

Thanks mate. Hey, I'm Marty Ivory, live at Abbotsford and goin' ta Drummoyne High next year.

RONNIE

Fair-dinkum, so am I. I'm Ronnie Jenkins.

Marty and Ronnie shake hands.

EXT. LARGE FEDERATION STYLE HOUSE - DAY

The house is like a mansion with spacious lawns and garden.

Marty and Ronnie walk in the front gate. Marty's eyes are wide.

MARTY

Shit! Your joint's a mansion.

Marty and Ronnie walk to the garage at the side of the house. Ronnie leans the bike against the garage and goes inside.

Ronnie comes out with a repair kit and spanners. He starts to fix the puncture.

Ronnie looks up at Marty.

RONNIE

Whereabouts in Abbotsford ya live?

MARTY

Ya know that old house on the corner of Bickleigh and Campbell streets?

Ronnie nearly falls backwards.

RONNIE

Whoooh, man! Ya don't live in that old haunted house do ya?

Marty looks angry and bends down to face Ronnie.

MARTY

It's not fuckin' haunted ya prick. I live there so I oughta know, it's just old and run down.

RONNIE

Hey, I'm sorry, I didn't mean it in a bad way. It's just.. Well ya know the joint's got a reputation.

MARTY

Yeah I know, everyone avoids us like the plague.

Ronnie finishes the puncture and stands up. Marty takes hold of his bike.

MARTY

Thanks fa fixin' my tyre mate, see ya.

RONNIE

Hey, it doesn't matter where ya live you're Ok.
(beat)
You want to come fishin' with me one day?

MARTY

Yeah, cool.

EXT. BANKS OF A RIVER, DAY

On top of a large rock that juts out over the river stand Marty and Robbie fishing.

They are pulling in fish. Beside them a bucket holds many fish they have caught.

Marty takes the hook out of a fish and throws it in the bucket.

MARTY

Shit this is great!

RONNIE

Yeah we can make ourselves a few
quid sellin' 'em to the fish
shop.

Ronnie picks up a knife and takes a fish from the bucket.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

We gotta scale and gut them
first.

MARTY

Not me, I hate the slimy
stinkin' things.

Ronnie turns away and guts the fish. He throws the
handful of guts at Marty's face.

Marty is stunned and wipes the mess from his face, and
runs down to the waters edge and washes his face. He
looks up at Ronnie.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Whooooaaahhh! You arse-hole Wha'd
ya do that for?

Ronnie laughs hysterically.

RONNIE

Just wanted to see ya spin
out,that's all!

Marty starts to laugh.

Behind Marty LEON teenage boy rows a canoe into shore. He
gets out and looks at Marty.

LEON

Hey, ya want to take my canoe
for a spin?

MARTY

Yeah man!

Marty jumps into the canoe the oar is on the floor. Leon
pushes him out.

The canoe starts to rock from side to side. Marty tries
to grab the oar but the canoe rocks more. Marty holds his

hands on the side to balance it. He looks frightened as the canoe drifts further out.

Ronnie and Leon are laughing from shore.

Ronnie's expression changes to fear and he yells out.

RONNIE

Shark! Shark! Look out Marty
there's a shark headin' straight
for ya!

LEON

Shark! Behind ya!

Marty doesn't look behind he stands up and goes to pick up the oar. The canoe tips on it's side and Marty falls into the water.

In the water Marty's head goes under and pops up, he is splattering and gulping for air.

RONNIE

Shit! I don't think he can swim.

Marty's arms are flapping in the water like a butterfly stroke, he is struggling, his head keeps going under.

LEON

Come on Marty! Swim, swim!

Marty struggles doing a fast dog paddle.

Ronnie and Leon wade into the water laughing as Marty falls into shore. He looks up at them.

MARTY

Real funny, man. Ya scared the
fuckin' shit outa me!

LEON

What about my canoe? Ya going
back out to get it?

MARTY

Ya gotta be kiddin', there's a
fuckin' shark out there that
wants me for breakfast.

Leon and Ronnie exchange looks.

RONNIE
There's no shark mate.

LEON
We're only pulling your leg.
I'll get the canoe.

Marty Ronnie and Leon start to laugh.

EXT. LARGE FEDERATION STYLE HOUSE - DAY

Outside Ronnie's house Marty and Ronnie stand with their bikes, Marty's bike is faded with paint falling off.

RONNIE
Ya bike needs a good paint, I'll
do it for ya, if you want.

MARTY
Sure, what colour?

RONNIE
What about gold? With some
pinstripes.

Marty looks a bit uncertain.

MARTY
Ahh, OK.

EXT. OUTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Marty is walking with his bike. The bike is painted all gold including the handle bars and wheels, it looks terrible.

TEENAGE BOYS are pointing and laughing as Marty walks past.

INT/EXT. INSIDE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

THREE PREFECTS are following Marty as he walks from his classroom down the hall, towards the outside. SEVERAL BOYS pass Marty and whisper to each other then laugh.