

FADE IN:

Title Card: 1961

INT. DEE WHY BEACH/POLICE CAR - LATE AFTERNOON

SFX: The loud wailing of a siren.

Two policemen sit in a speeding car. SERGEANT CAMPBELL, the eldest of the two has a round face and a scruffy moustache. Young CONSTABLE WARRICK a rookie, has a pimply face.

CONSTABLE WARRICK

Do...do..do you think the killer
will still be around the Lagoon,
Sergeant?

Sergeant Campbell looks disdainfully at Warrick.

SERGEANT CAMPBELL

Listen here Constable, you bloody
well get yourself together. I don't
know what's down at that Lagoon. But
whatever it is, we sure as hell will
handle it, you hear!

EXT. DEE WHY BEACH - CONTINUATION

The afternoon sun is fading as the police car approaches the beach. They park the car near the sand hills, and look around the deserted beach.

SERGEANT CAMPBELL

Come on, we have to hurry.

The two policemen run over the sand hills towards the Lagoon. Their guns are drawn and ready. A strong wind has picked up the surf.

All is quiet except the sound of waves crashing. Constable Warrick glances towards the Dee Why point break and blinks his eyes. Between the heavy swells he sees what he believes to be a lone surfer.

SERGEANT CAMPBELL (cont'd)

(With attitude)

We'll split up, you circle to
the right, I'll keep going.

Warrick moves slowly through the long reeds. The water is up past his ankles. He starts to shake.

CONSTABLE WARRICK

(to himself)

I just want to have a piss and
get the hell out of here.

Campbell walks faster than Warrick. His eyes are scanning the dark shadows on the Lagoon. Suddenly he stops in mid stride. His eyes are wide with horror, he nearly falls over a NAKED FEMALE BODY age 13.

SERGEANT CAMPBELL

Oh my God!

A hessian bag covers the head of a naked girl. She is laying face down among the grass reeds. The water surrounding the lower part of her body is red with blood. Deep bruises are on her back.

Campbell sinks to his knees, and checks her pulse.

SERGEANT CAMPBELL(cont'd)

She's alive! Get over here
quickly Warrick, she's alive!

Campbell rips open the bag, he places it under her head, rolls her onto her side and clears her airways, he begins resuscitation.

Warrick runs through the long reeds towards Campbell.

Campbell is looking at the girl, she is covered in bruises and blood. Dark hair hangs matted around her mud-caked face. Blood flows from a deep gash on her forehead and trickles down her neck. Her eyes blink.

Warrick's horrified.

SERGEANT CAMPBELL(cont'd)

Don't just stand there you idiot,
run to the car, get the rug from
the boot and call a bloody ambulance!

Warrick runs away from Campbell.

Warrick helps Campbell wrap a rug tightly around the girl's body. The sound of an ambulance siren is heard. Campbell looks at Warrick.

SERGEANT CAMPBELL(cont'd)

You OK son? I mean, this is
one hell of an introduction
to the police force.

CONSTABLE WARRICK

Yeah.

Two ambulance men lift the girl's body onto a stretcher.

INT. MANLY HOSPITAL - NIGHT

SOFIA short and plump with dark curly hair, runs screaming through the door of Manly hospital. Behind her is her husband DINO, medium build with glasses.

Sofia sees Constable Warrick talking to DR.PASKIN. grey hair and wearing a white coat. She runs to Constable Warrick and throws her arms around him crying hysterically. Sofia then looks at the Dr.Paskin.

DR.PASKIN

Mrs Bentiamo, your daughter will live. She will recover. We are doing everything we can for her. Tomorrow Teresa will be transferred to The Royal North Shore Hospital to undergo some tests.

Sofia lapses into tears again. Dino puts his hand to his mouth, a look of shock on his face.

DR.PASKIN (cont'd)

She had a severe blow to her head. The tests are on the brain and eyesight.

Dr.Paskin takes Sofia's hand, and looks into her eyes.

DR.PASKIN (cont'd)

Please don't worry, I'm sure she will be fine.

SOFIA

Please-a- please-a can we see her?

DR.PASKIN

She's sleeping now, but yes, of course you can see her.

Dr.Paskin takes Sofia and Dino to their daughter's bed. He leaves them alone, then walks towards the Hospital door.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Constable Warrick is talking to Dr.Paskin on the steps.

CONSTABLE WARRICK

Tell me exactly how it is, Doc!

DR.PASKIN

The rape was brutal. She was badly torn, in time it will heal.

Dr.Paskin frowns and hesitates.

DR.PASKIN (cont'd)

There were bruises to her arms and legs. We will be doing more tests. I'll keep you informed on what we find.

Constable Warrick shakes Dr.Paskin's hand.

CONSTABLE WARRICK

We'll find the bastard who did this, he won't get away.

Dr.Paskin looks deep in thought. He keeps eye contact with Constable Warrick.

DR.PASKIN

Constable, I'm afraid Teresa could be blind.

DISSOLVE.

EXT. BUSHLAND - DAY

Title Card: SIX MONTHS EARLIER

Two teenage boys hastily change from their school uniforms into shorts.

GARTH light brown hair and cheeky grin, nudges DICK dark hair and brooding, on the arm.

GARTH

Wagging school is getting' so easy.

DICK

All the good things in life are easy to get.

The boys hide their clothes then head towards the beach. On the way they meet up with WEASEL and FATS two other boys in the Oaks Gang.

EXT. THE BACKYARD OF A BEACH HOUSE - LATER

The four boys hide behind a wooden fence and look into the back yard. On the grass under a peach tree lies a long surfboard. Washing is hanging on a clothesline that spreads all the way from the verandah to the back fence.

GARTH

I wonder how heavy it is, it looks about ten feet long?

DICK

Who cares! I'm gunna jump the fence and take it.

A young girl in a school uniform walks out onto the verandah and picks up a cat.
The boys recognize LAUREN fair hair in plaits.

DICK

That sheila hangs out with big
Wendy and that wog sheila Teresa.

GARTH

I didn't know this was her house,
the board must belong to her brother.

DICK

Not after today it won't.

Lauren walks inside and closes the door.

EXT. THE OCEAN, DEE WHY POINT BREAK - DAY

Smooth waves roll in around the point. Several SWIMMERS
and BOARD RIDERS are in the ocean. Mostly the beach is
deserted.

The boys carry the surfboard into the water.

DICK

I'm goin' first.

Dick pushes the other boys out of the way and paddles
out on the surfboard.

WEASEL

He thinks he's so shit hot!

FATS

I'm gunna laugh when he wipes out.

Garth stands back and watches as his mates try their
hardest to ride the uncontrollable surfboard.

Dick falls off, swims over to the board, grabs it and
starts thumping his fists on it. His face is filled with
rage. He pushes the board towards Garth.

DICK

Here! See what you can do with
the bloody thing!

Garth takes the board and slides onto it and paddles far
out the back. He sits on the board and watches the
waves. There are shouts and waving from the others.

FATS

Get goin' will ya!

DICK

What are ya, a bloody chicken!

Garth takes no notice. He watches the sets come and go.
Then he paddles for a wave.

DICK

Finally I'm gunna laugh when he
wipes out.

Garth slides down the face of the wave, gets to his feet and stands up.

WEASEL

What! The bugger! He's standing up.

FATS

He makes it look so bloody easy.

Dick watches seething with jealousy as Garth rides the wave all the way to shore.

INT. SCHOOL HEADMASTER'S OFFICE - DAY

The HEADMASTER, stern face and dressed in a suit and tie, looks at the four boys in front of him. He taps a cane on an old mahogany desk.

HEADMASTER

I should expel the lot of you this instant.

Garth, Weasel and Fats hang their heads. Dick locks eyes with the Headmaster.

HEADMASTER (cont'd)

So, what do you have to say for yourselves?

GARTH

I apologize, I'm very sorry Sir.

WEASEL and FATS

Sorry, Mr. Jackson Sir.

DICK

I'll never wag school again Sir, you can be sure of that.

HEADMASTER

Oh, I am sure of that Dick. I'm also sure that you won't be enjoying your last year at Narrabeen High.

(Beats of silence)

HEADMASTER (cont'd)

Step forward Garth Wallace. Hand out straight young man.

The Headmaster slams the cane down on Garth's open palm. Garth's face is screwed up and he clenches his teeth.

HEADMASTER (cont'd)

Next!

Weasel steps forward and starts to shake. Behind him Fats has pissed his pants, the liquid flows down his leg and onto the floor.

HEADMASTER (cont'd)
My, what a bunch of cowards you are
when it comes to a little pain.

The Headmaster slams the cane against the back of Fat's wet leg. Fats yells.

HEADMASTER (cont'd)
Now hold your damn hands out!

The Headmaster hits Weasel's hand then Fats' hand.

WEASEL
Ahhh! Ouch!

FATS
Yeooowww!

Dick steps forward with a smirk on his face. He holds his hand out and keeps eye contact with Headmaster.

The cane comes down with more force than before. Dick doesn't flinch. There is no emotion on his face.

HEADMASTER
Get out of here!

EXT. A BUS STOP - AFTERNOON

A double decker bus pulls up. Garth and Dick jump from the bus onto the footpath.

GARTH
Do ya want to hang out at the
Milkbar for a while?

DICK
Not today, Dad always comes home
drunk from the R.S.L. on Friday.
I wanta check Mum's O.K.

GARTH
See ya at the beach tomorrow,
we'll try riding that surfboard
again.

DICK
Yeah!
(beat)
We're gunna have a long talk
tomorrow, just you and me. I've
gotta toughen ya up mate, it's
a rotten world out there.

EXT./INT. DICK'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

Dick walks up the back steps and opens the door.

He hears the wireless and the voice of WARD AUSTIN (VO) on 2UW. He walks into the kitchen, water is dripping from a tap. His mother's apron is lying across a table where a bag of groceries are scattered.

DICK

Mum! I'm home.

There is no answer. Dick walks through the hallway and into the lounge room. Empty beer bottles lay on the floor, the room is a mess.

DICK (cont'd)

Mum! Where are you?

SFX: Long drawn out moan.

Dick cautiously walks towards the bedroom.

SFX: SARAH VAUGHAN singing 'Broken Hearted Melody' on the radio.

The bedroom door is slightly ajar. He hesitates. (O.S.) Muffled cries and moans. He peeps around the door. Beads of perspiration are running down his face. A look of shock covers his face, he turns and walks away.

EXT. A DIRT ROAD - EARLY EVENING

Dick walks along a road kicking stones. He is humming the tune Broken hearted melody.

INT. GARTH'S HOUSE, LOUNGE ROOM - NIGHT

Garth's younger sisters PAM and KAREN and brother DAVID are sitting on the floor watching 'The Mickey Mouse Club' show on television.

Garth's mother JUNE opens a door. She wipes her hands on the apron she is wearing.

JUNE

Tea's ready children! Go and wash your hands.

The children obey and run off to the bathroom.

INT. THE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Garth's father FRED is sitting at the table. Garth walks in, followed by Pam Karen and David. They sit at a table, and June serves the meal.

FRED

How was school today, son?

Garth hesitates and looks at the sausage and gravy on his fork.

GARTH

Good.

FRED

I like to hear that. I want you to go right through to grade twelve. Be a success. Not like your old man who has to dig roads for a living.

JUNE

(to Fred)

Would you like some more mashed Potato, dear?

FRED

Thanks.

GARTH

Mum, how much money do I have in my bank account?

JUNE

I think it's five pounds six shillings.

PAM

You're rich Garth!

KAREN

Will you buy me some lollies?

DAVID

I think he wants to buy a surfboard.

There is an awkward silence as father and son lock eyes. Garth takes his uneaten plate and stands up.

GARTH

That's right Dad, I'm going to buy a surfboard. I don't want to go onto grade twelve. I'm leaving school next year.

JUNE

Oh dear! Oh dear!

FRED

You're making a mistake. You'll amount to nothing without an education!

Garth takes his plate over to the sink. He walks towards the door, then turns to look back at his father.

GARTH

I'm stoked on surfing. It's my life
and I'll do what I want!

Garth walks to his bedroom and shuts the door.

INT. THE KITCHEN OF DICK'S HOME - NIGHT

Betty is at the sink washing dishes. Dick walks in the door and his mother turns around. She has a bruise on her cheek.

BETTY

Well, there you are! I was
starting to worry.

DICK

The gang stayed late at the Milkbar.

Dick kisses his mother on the cheek, and notices another bruise on her neck.

BETTY

Your tea's in the oven. Your
favorite braised steak and onion.

DICK

I'm not hungry, I'll eat later.

Dick walks into the lounge room. The 'Mickey Mouse Club' show is blaring from the black and white television. His father is lying on the lounge snoring. Empty beer bottles and cigarette butts litter the floor.

Dick looks at an old tin trunk in the corner.

DICK (cont'd)

(to himself)

Junk! That's what's in that trunk,
just bloody junk. Like everything
else in this damn house.

Dick walks over to the television and changes the channel. The 'Wyatt Earp' show is on and loud gunshots wake his father.

JOHN

What! What the bloody hell's
going on?

Dick glares at his father with burning hate.

He kicks his way through bottles and rubbish on the floor and goes to his bedroom. He slams the door.