

Confidential

THIRD DRAFT SCRIPT
27 AUGUST 2002
AFC SUBMISSION

DYSMEMBER

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DURATION 6 MIN

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FADE UP THE WORDS "**DYS**" AND THEN "**MEMBER**" TO FORM THE TITLE
"DYSMEMBER"

THE SOUND OF A MOVIE PROJECTOR CAN BE HEARD WITH A CLOSE UP
(LINE ANIMATION WHITE ON BLACK) TO THE SIDE OF A FACE, MOSTLY
OUT OF FRAME, BLOWING DUST THROUGH THE SHAFT OF LIGHT FROM
THE PROJECTOR LENS.

AS THE TITLE FADES THE FOLLOWING LINES OF TYPED TEXT FADE UP
AND DOWN ONE AFTER THE OTHER BELOW THE ANIMATED IMAGE:

"I dredge this
from the everyday"

V/O NARRATOR (Simultaneously)

To help you
through
The night

CUT TO THREE PUPPETHEADS OF HANSEL GRETEL AND THE WITCH
BEING PLACED ON A BLACK BACKGROUND. THE FOLLOWING
HANDWRITTEN TEXT, WHITE ON BLACK, FADES UP AND DOWN:

*From Uncle Arie, Circa 1958 for an eight year old boy before
the family came to Australia*

THE FOLLOWING TYPED TEXT, WHITE ON BLACK, FADES UP AND DOWN:

"Memory is a funny thing"

WHILE THE NARRATOR SPEAKS:

V/O NARRATOR

you forget
.....remember

THE FOLLOWING TYPED TEXT, WHITE ON BLACK, FADES UP AND DOWN:

"Like movie looping in your head"

WHILE THE NARRATOR SPEAKS:

V/O NARRATOR

over and over
changing
evolving

CUT TO ANIMATED LINE IMAGES, WHITE ON BLACK, PROJECTED ON A
WALL THROUGH A SHAFT OF LIGHT: CLOSE UPS OF HANDS PLACING
MOMENTOES ON A SHELF, INCLUDING PHOTOS AND A STONE AFRICAN
SCULPTURE. SHORT SHOTS OF MOVING HANDS ON THEIR OWN AND
BREAKING BREAD. FLASHES OF FACES. BODIES. ONCE THE PROJECTOR

FADES THIS MOVEMENT IS PUNCTUATED BY THE SOUND OF FOOD PREPARATION IN A KITCHEN

THE FOLLOWING TYPED TEXT, WHITE ON BLACK, FADES UP AND DOWN:

“Precarious”

WHILE THE NARRATOR SPEAKS:

V/O NARRATOR

Like those crumbs that Hansel and Gretel try
to follow
home

CUT TO CLOSE-UPS (ANIMATED WHITE ON BLACK) OF HANDS PREPARING A MEAL CUTTING UP VEGETABLES, CHICKEN PIECES, THE STIRRING OF A FRYPAN. IT ALL SEEMS SLIGHTLY CHAOTIC. DISCONTINUOUS. SOMETIMES THE IMAGE HAS A SLIGHT FLICKER TO IT.

OUT OF THIS MOVEMENT WE SEE A FIGURE WEARING A HAT AT SOME DISTANCE STANDING AT A WHITE FENCE AND GATE. WE THINK IT IS A MALE BUT WE ARE NOT SURE. THE IMAGE IS VERY GRAINY. LIKE THE DANCING SNOW OF A TV SCREEN, OR DANCING CRUMBS, SEEDS. IT IS A DISTORTED COPY OF A COPY. THE CAMERA IS MOVING SLOWLY AWAY FROM THE MAN WHO APPEARS TO HAVE HIS GAZE FIXED ON US. THE IMAGE HAS A PARCHED YELLOWED LOOK TO IT.

THE FOLLOWING TYPED TEXT, WHITE ON BLACK, FADES UP AND DOWN:

“A memory”

WHILE THE NARRATOR SPEAKS:

V/O NARRATOR

There was a flash
Uncle Koos saying goodbye at the gate
For the last time
Aunt Dit sobbing inside the house

CUT TO A SLOW TRACKING SHOT, CAMERA POINTED TO THE GROUND, CLOSE-UP OF A HAND SLOWLY RELEASING STONES ONTO THE PATH AS WE MOVE AWAY.

CUT TO A MEDIUM SHOT OF A BOY FACING AWAY FROM THE CAMERA THROWING BREADCRUMBS TO BIRDS AND INTO THE WAKE OF A LARGE MOVING OCEAN LINER. WE SEE THE HORIZON LINE. THERE IS NO LAND IN SIGHT.

FADE TO A WIDE ANGLE SHOT TO THE RELENTLESS UNDULATING WAVES OF THE OCEAN. CHAOTIC. IMPRESSIONISTIC. THIS VISTA IS

SOMETIMES BROKEN BY A FLICKERING IMAGE OF A SPINNING BOY AND OTHER ABSTRACTIONS. A PRESENCE THAT IS HARD TO CATCH.

CUT TO THE CLOSE UP OF THE BOYS HAND, IN A SCOOPING CONFIGURATION, PALMS UPWARD, OFFERING THE CRUMBS TO THE WIND

CUT TO A SHORT REPLAY WITH SLIGHTLY LESS GRAIN OF THE UNCLE AT THE FENCE, STILL SLOWLY TRACKING OUT BUT STARTING FROM SLIGHTLY CLOSER IN. FADE TO BLACK.

HANDS ON THE STEERING WHEEL OF A CAR AND AND THROUGH THE WINDSCREEN THE OUTLINE OF A ROAD. IN THE REAR VISION MIRROR WE SEE SMALL SPARROW LIKE BIRDS GATHERING OBJECTS FROM THE ROAD. WE DO HEAR THE HUM OF THE CAR BUT IT OFTEN PERMEATED BY THE KITCHEN SOUNDS OF CUTTING, SLICING, STIRRING.

WITHIN THE REAR VISION MIRROR THIS SCENE IS WIPED BY A MAN'S BODY AT MIDRIFF QUICKLY OBSCURING THE ROAD

V/O NARRATOR

An image
containing
displacement

CUT TO THE WORDS

"Mourning"

"Loss"

SLOWLY TYPED IN WHITE AND THEN FADING OFF THE BLACK SCREEN AS IF COMPLETING THE NARRATOR'S SENTENCE.

V/O NARRATOR (in a questioning voice)
nostalgia? (long pause)

A QUESTION MARK (?) IS HANDWRITTEN ONTO THE BLACK SCREEN AND FADES JUST AFTER THE NARRATOR'S QUESTION TAPERS OFF AND A FINCH LIKE BIRD HAS PECKED AWAY THE BOTTOM DOT OF THE QUESTION MARK.

FADE TO AN OPEN UPTURNED HAND INTERMITTENTLY DROPPING PIECES OF FOOD INTO A FRYING PAN.

V/O NARRATOR

Mum and Dad said
They came here for their son
A new start

To wipe the past.

But
something remained

CUT TO THE WORDS

"gesture"

"trace"

SLOWLY TYPED IN WHITE AND THEN FADING OFF THE BLACK SCREEN AS IF COMPLETING THE NARRATOR'S SENTENCE.

ALSO FADE IN THE SOUNDS OF WATER RUNNING, WASHING HANDS, THE CUTTING OF FOOD, SIZZLING ETC

CUT TO A SEQUENCE OF THE THREE PUPPETHEADS BEING CLOTHED AND GAINING BODIES.

CUT TO SHOT OF STARLING LIKE BIRDS EATING BREADCRUMBS ALONG A PATH. THE BREADCRUMBS SEEM TO BE MADE UP OF PIECES OF IMAGES OF HANSEL AND GRETEL.

CUT TO CLOSE UP OF HANDS PULLING WEEDS OUT OF A BACKYARD GARDEN AND PLANTING SEEDS, TOSSING THEM ACROSS THE SOIL. THIS PROCESS IS CUT BY INTRUSIVE FLICKERING IMAGES OF A BOY'S BODY SPINNING. THESE INTRUSIONS ARE OFTEN MARKED BY FOOD PREPARATION SOUNDS.

CUT TO THE HANSEL AND GRETEL PUPPETS. C-U OF THEIR HANDS DROPPING CRUMBS AS THEY MOVE PAST.

V/O NARRATOR

This.....

THE FOLLOWING TYPED TEXT, WHITE ON BLACK, FADES UP AND DOWN:

“Silence”

WHILE THE NARRATOR SPEAKS:

V/O NARRATOR

.....far away
from another world
another home
another door

THE TRACKING SHOT OF THE UNCLE AT THE GATE IS REVISITED STARTING THE TRACK FROM CLOSER IN AGAIN, WITH AGAIN SLIGHTLY MORE DETAIL AND ONLY VISIBLE AS THE WORDS ARE SPOKEN, OTHERWISE BLACK.

JUST BEFORE THE NARRATOR'S VOICE TRAILS OFF THE WORDS

a door without a key

ARE HANDWRITTEN ACROSS THE SCREEN. THE SOUND OF FOOD COOKING RETURNS.

V/O NARRATOR

That
is
a migrant's lot

FADE TO HANDS ON THE STEERING WHEEL OF A CAR AND BLURRED IMAGES OF A LANDSCAPE BEING MOVED THROUGH. FADE TO BLACK

CUT TO A MEDIUM SHOT OF THE BACK OF THE HEAD OF A MAN SITTING MOTIONLESS, QUIETLY ON A CHAIR LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW. WE NEVER SEE HIS FACE

THERE IS A CLOSE SHOT OF AN ADULT HAND PALM OPEN TOWARDS THE SKY SLOWLY DROPPING BREADCRUMBS AND THEN THE SHOT FROM PREVIOUSLY OF BIRDS EATING THEM. THIS TIME THE BIRDS ARE MORE LIKE SMALL MAGPIES.

CUT TO A SCENE WITH THE PUPPET WITCH OFFERING HANSEL AND GRETEL COLOURFULL LOLLIES AND THEY HESITATING, UNSURE.

V/O NARRATOR

There was a moment
after 20 year marriage a
break down
completely.....

FADE THE HANDWRITTEN WORD

"lost"

UNDERNEATH THE PUPPETS AS THE NARRATOR FINISHES SAYING

"completely"

AS THIS WORD FADES DOWN:

V/O NARRATOR

.....alone

THE WORDS

"grappling with the unspoken"

ARE TYPED AS SUBTITLES UNDER THE ANIMATED PUPPETS AS THE NARRATOR FINISHES.

V/O NARRATOR

amongst this debris
something else

grabbed hold
frozen arms, legs

V/O NARRATOR- WHISPERED

(* SIMULTANEOUS WITH PREVIOUS NARRATION)

Inside
marks from another
distant breakdown
distant breakdown (repeated broken, disjointed)

THE PUPPETS LEAVE.

CUT TO ANIMATED LINE DRAWINGS OF A BOY'S HANDS AND ARMS GRABBED BY ADULT HANDS AND KEPT IN PLACE. THESE IMAGES ARE BROKEN WITH FLICKERING IMAGES OF A BOY SPINNING, FLASHES OF HANDS, HANDS WIPING ACROSS A FACE, AND A MAN SITTING IN A ROOM ALONE LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW. THE SOUND OF CUTLERY AND TABLE SETTING UNDERLINE THE FLICKERING AND FLASHING IMAGES.

V/O NARRATOR

Koos behind
Dit playing
with.....

THE WORD

"residue "

IS TYPED AS THE NARRATOR CONTINUES

...Appeasing
Placating...

THE WORDS

"becoming physically sick"

ARE TYPED AS THE NARRATOR CONTINUES

....cajoling....

unraveling

THE WORDS

"a secret"

"detective work"

ARE TYPED AS THE NARRATOR CONTINUES:

The numbed body was a clue.

want body back (this loop of 3 words is repeated 4 times each time in more disjointed fashion)

What was
What was behind that door
That image
THE WORDS
"remembered"
"to forget"
ARE TYPED

V/O NARRATOR- WHISPERED
(* SIMULTANEOUS WITH PREVIOUS NARRATION)
shards
inside
numb

THE WORDS
"foreign body"
ARE TYPED AS THE WHISPERING CONTINUES

forever
inside
now coming outside (this loop of 3 words is repeated 4 times
each time in more disjointed fashion)

THE WORDS
"out"
"into the every day"
"the mundane"
"more and more"
ARE TYPED

THE IMAGE SEQUENCE IS MORE DISJOINTED. WE SEE THE CLOSE UP
TILING PATTERN OF A BATHROOM FLOOR. HANDS CLOSING DOORS. A
CLOSE UP OF THE UNCLE'S HAND HOLDING ONTO THE FENCE.
EVENTUALLY WE ARE MOVING BACK INTO THE IMAGE OF THE UNCLE
AT THE GATE AGAIN REPEATED CLEARER AND CLOSER THAN
PREVIOUSLY.

THE SOUNDS OF THE SETTING OF A TABLE BECOME EVIDENT. PLATES,
CUTLERY CLINKING.

CUT TO A PHRASE BEING PRINTED IN LARGE LETTERS ACROSS THE
SCREEN

"REMEMBER TO FORGET"

CUT TO A TABLE BEING SET FOR DINNER. THE PLATES AND UTENSILS BEING PLACED. THE HANDS, AGAIN, ARE PROMINENT. WE CAPTURE THE GESTURES OF THE HANDS PLACING THESE OBJECTS. FADE TO BLACK

CUT TO THE WITCH PUPPET SETTING A TABLE. IT IS NOT THE SAME TABLE BUT SIMILAR. IT SEEMS THAT THE GESTURES ARE ALMOST REPEATED FROM THE LINE ANIMATION.

V/O NARRATOR

Koos at the gate
Guarding
from afar
Dit sobs inside

V/O NARRATOR- WHISPERED

(* SIMULTANEOUS WITH PREVIOUS NARRATION)
the threat

THEY would find
locate

WE ARE BACK IN THE CAR, THE HANDS ON THE WHEEL. THERE IS AN OUTLINE OF A ROAD AHEAD. IN THE REAR VISION MIRROR WE SEE A MAN'S BODY MOVE OUT OF VIEW REVEALING THE OCEAN. THE WAKE FROM THE OCEAN LINER IS RECEDING WHILE THE OUTLINE OF THE ROAD AHEAD IS CONTINUALLY COMING CLOSER.

V/O NARRATOR

the boat
the middle of a boundless sea

THE WORDS

"indian ocean"

ARE TYPED AS THE NARRATOR CONTINUES

Is Australia far enough ?
to forget
ignore
pretend

THE WORDS

" it never happened"

ARE TYPED AS THE NARRATOR CONTINUES

Try... try... try...
To erase
The past

CUT TO WIDE SHOT OF UNDULATING WAVES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE ARE BACK AT THE OCEAN WITH THE SEAGULLS. BUT THEY ARE NOT ONLY SEAGULLS. THERE ARE CROWS AMONGST THEM.

CUT TO CLOSE UP OF BOYS HAND OFFERING THE BREAD TO THE WIND. THE SWELL AT THE BACK OF THE BOAT. ON THE WATER WE SEE SOME FLYING FISH SKIMMING BETWEEN THE WAVES. SOMETIMES THE FISH LOOK LIKE THEY HAVE BEEN DRAWN BY A CHILD. AT OTHER TIMES THEY SEEM MORE LIKE TRACES OF AN ACTUAL FORM.

V/O NARRATOR

It came back
Koos at the gate
This little boy told the father

who became angry
did not believe

THE WORDS

"anger"

"madness"

ARE TYPED AS THE NARRATOR CONTINUES

A frightening anger
Fear pushes it
deep
inside

CUT TO CLOSE UP OF UNCLE'S HAND ON THE GATE, VISIBLE TENSE, HOLDING IT SHUT.

CUT TO CLEAREST VERSION OF UNCLE AT THE GATE SEQUENCE. THE FACE IS VISIBLE NOW AS WE MOVE SLOWLY AWAY. THERE IS A HAND GESTICULATING REPETITIVELY TO THE SIDE, NEXT TO THE CAMERA AS IF TRYING TO WIPE THE IMAGE AWAY, MADLY. IS IT THE FATHER'S HAND OR THE SON'S

V/O NARRATOR

On one sleepless night
It finally came
It was his threat
Standing at the gate
To make sure
To say that he would find
Locate
anywhere
everywhere

if the secret was told

THE WORDS

"my body told me"

ARE TYPED

THE TRACKING SHOT REVERSES BACK TOWARDS THE UNCLE RATHER THAN AWAY MOVING INTO TO A FIXED STARING FACE.

V/O NARRATOR

My body told me

slowly
the sensation
penetrating
and
ejaculating

CUT TO A MIDDRIFF SHOT OF A MAN'S CLOTHED BODY, HIS HANDS ARE HOLDING A STONE SCULPTURE. THERE IS A SUGGESTION THAT HIS PANTS ARE UNDONE, DISHEVILLED. IT IS A SIMILAR SHOT TO THE ONE SEEN IN THE REAR VISION MIRROR BUT WITH MORE DETAIL.

CUT TO A WOMAN'S UPTURNED HAND MOVING SLOWLY ACROSS SCREEN. WE NOTICE THERE IS A SUGGESTION OF A PENIS SLIGHTLY VISIBLE TO THE SIDE OF THE FRAME FROM WHERE THE HAND HAS MOVED, A HAND THAT CONTAINS SOME LIQUID UPON IT.

V/O NARRATOR

The confusion of pleasure
and revulsion
in that little boy
whose soul was taken
and locked away

vomit
a burst of fear
locked away
when faced with

CUT TO HANSEL AND GRETEL PUSHING THE WITCH THROUGH A HOLE, PROBABLY AN OVEN. INTERSPERSED WITH THIS ACTION ARE FLASHES OF HANDS, THE ABUSE SCENE, THE SPINNING BODY OF THE BOY, A DOOR OPENING. THE WITCH DISSAPEARS. FADE TO BLACK.

AS THE NARRATOR FINISHES THE PHRASE "WHEN FACED WITH..." THE FOLLOWING HANDWRITTEN WORD APPEARS ON A BLACK BACKGROUND, APPARENTLY WRITTEN BY AN ANIMATED HAND:

"the unspeakable"

FADE TO BLACK

V/O NARRATOR- (an angry mind shaking shivering)
Ah mmm mmm mm

AS THE UNCOMFORTABLE SOUND FADES:
CUT TO HANSEL AND GRETEL IN A POWER DANCE MOVING AND
EXPRESSING THEIR NEW AUTONOMY WITH THEIR HANDS. THE HANDS
EXPRESSIVENESS ARE ALSO SEEN IN CLOSEUP BUT IN THE FORM OF
WHITE LINES ON A BLACK BACKGROUND. THIS DANCE CONTINUES
OVER THE END TITLES.

FADE UP TITLE:

"THE END"

FADE UP TO THE HANDWRITTEN

*“To that which has been locked away i have now
given voice”*

FADE TO BLACK