

LAND O MUSE
EPISODE 5: THE CUSTOMS OF AUSTRALIA

SMALL ROOM

An unhappy BUBU BEAR sits in front of wall size map of Australia.

BUBU BEAR
If I ever see that clown again
I'll...

A door opens, two SHADOWY MEN enter.

SHADOWY MAN
Come with us.

Bubu Bear follows the men.

BUBU BEAR
Where are we going? Why am I here?
What did I do?

They exit the door.

LARGE ROOM

The two Shadowy Men and Bubu Bear enter. This room has numerous long queues of people.

SHADOWY MAN
We have been informed that you are
in possession of an undeclared and
unexamined piece of Rosewood.

BUBU BEAR
But...But...

They stop at one of the queues.

SUPER: The digital time appears.

SHADOWY MAN
Wait in this queue. And don't try
anything funny because we'll be
watching.

BUBU BEAR
Ok.

The Shadowy Men exit.

SUPER: The digital time elapses quickly. Three hours pass. The digital time returns to normal.

The person in front of Bubu Bear moves. Bubu Bear takes a step forward.

BUBU BEAR
At least the line is moving.

SUPER: The digital time elapses quickly. Three more hours pass.

Sped up, the line moves quickly this time.

SUPER: The digital time returns to normal.

Bubu Bear is next in line for the booth labeled "ITEMS TO DECLARE". There is a Shadowy Man in the booth. There is a MAN AT THE BOOTH.

BUBU BEAR
I'm next, finally.

MAN AT THE BOOTH
That was prescribed by my doctor.

SHADOWY MAN
Alright, you can go. Welcome to Australia. Next.

Bubu Bear walks up to the booth.

BUBU BEAR
Hello, my name is Bubu Bear.

SHADOWY MAN
Oh, you're the person who is trying to smuggle and undeclared and unexamined piece of Rosewood into our fragile environment.

BUBU BEAR
This is all a misunderstanding. I HAD a piece of Rosewood. A Rosewood sculpture.

Heavenly music plays, they all look skyward.

BUBU BEAR
But I lost it. I don't have it anymore.

SHADOWY MAN
Right. That's what they all say. We should quarantine the lot of you.

The Shadowy Man hands Bubu Bear a piece of paper. The paper has the number 99 printed on it.

SHADOWY MAN
Proceed to the first door on your left please.

BUBU BEAR

Why? What are you going to do?

SHADOWY MAN

Not nearly enough. Move on please.
Next.

Bubu Bear is a perplexed but he moves on.

Bubu Bear arrives at a generic-looking door.

BUBU BEAR

This must be the door.

Bubu Bear opens and enters the door.

MEDIUM ROOM

Bubu Bear enters. There is a sign on the wall that states "NOW SERVING 2". Bubu Bear looks at the piece of paper in his hand, 99.

BUBU BEAR

Oh, great. More waiting.

There are numerous seats in the room. Bubu Bear sits in one of these seats.

The sign states "NOW SERVING 3".

The numbers move quickly.

The sign states "NOW SERVING 25".

Bubu Bear sits, zoned out.

The numbers move quickly.

The sign states "NOW SERVING 50".

Bubu Bear sits, zoned out. A YOUNG CHILD tugs his ear. Bubu Bear growls at the child. The young child runs away.

YOUNG CHILD

Mommy, Mommy.

The numbers move quickly.

The sign states "NOW SERVING 75".

Bubu Bear sits, zoned out. A knitting GRANDMOTHER TYPE sits next to him.

GRANDMOTHER TYPE

And my Charlie, he's dead you
know, he always said to me.

(MORE)

GRANDMOTHER TYPE (cont'd)
 'You bet your booties'. But I
 didn't have any booties. So I
 said to myself, 'I can knit'.
 'Hell, I can knit myself a pair
 of booties!' And after that I was
 hooked. One pair of booties a
 day, 365 booties a year. And
 it's taking it's toll on me too.
 The other day I went to the
 Doctor and I said 'Doctor, I
 can't stop knitting booties' and
 you know what he said to me. He
 said...

The numbers move quickly.

The sign states "NOW SERVING 98".

Bubu Bear perks up.

BUBU BEAR
 I'm next. Oh Hooray! I'm next.

The sign states "NOW SERVING 99".

Bubu Bear runs to a desk that has a SHADOWY MAN sitting
 behind it.

BUBU BEAR
 Hello, my number is 99.

SHADOWY MAN
 And your name.

BUBU BEAR
 Bubu Bear.

SHADOWY MAN
 Ah yes! The wood smuggler. Please
 proceed to the first door on your
 left.

BUBU BEAR
 (to himself)
 I'm beginning to hate these
 bureaucrats.

Bubu Bear crosses to the generic-looking door.

BUBU BEAR
 This must be the door.

Bubu Bear opens and enters the door.

EXAMINING ROOM

An examining table is the centrepiece of the room. A SHADOWY MAN stands in the corner of the room. Bubu Bear enters.

BUBU BEAR

(angry)

I know! I know! Please proceed to the first door on my left. Right?

SHADOWY MAN

Hunh! Uh, no. Just bend over this table.

BUBU BEAR

Pardon me!

SHADOWY MAN

Just bend over the table. The doctor will be with you in a moment.

BUBU BEAR

(nervous)

Doctor. But why? I'm not sick, am I?

SHADOWY MAN

I am not authorised to answer that question.

BUBU BEAR

You're not authorised! You're not authorised!

SHADOWY MAN

That is correct.

BUBU BEAR

That's it! I've had it! This whole experience is making me feel insecure, and I DON'T like feeling insecure. I'm not going to take it anymore. I want some answers and I want them now. And you are going to answer my questions whether you are authorised to or not. Got it? You can start by telling me how to get home. I'm sure you can answer that question. How do I get home? Hunh?

SHADOWY MAN

I'm sorry, but I am not authorized to answer those questions. And as a known wood smuggler you aren't in a position to demand answers.

(MORE)

SHADOWY MAN (cont'd)
 All I know is that I have been
 instructed to get you bent over
 this table...
 (threatening)
 ...using ANY means necessary.

BUBU BEAR
 Well, uh, since you put it that
 way.
 (bends over the table)
 But I feel really silly doing it.

SHADOWY MAN
 Well, I'm sorry you feel that way.
 Just stay in that position. The
 doctor will be here shortly.
 (beat)
 And don't try anything funny
 because I'll be watching.

The Shadowy Man leaves the room. Bubu Bear nervously
 remains bent over the table.

The door opens and DR SHEPHERD (the mad
 scientist/sheepherder) enters. Soft baas emanate from his
 person.

BUBU BEAR
 Who's there?

DR SHEPHERD
 Dr. Shepherd, at your service.

Dr Shepherd stands behind Bubu Bear. He examines a
 clipboard.

DR SHEPHERD
 Let's see what we have here. Ah
 yes! The wood smuggler. Now don't
 worry Bubu Bear this won't hurt
 one bit.

BUBU BEAR
 Thank you for the reassurance
 Doc.

Dr Shepherd puts on rubber gloves.

BUBU BEAR
 Everyone has been so mean and
 uncaring to me today.

Dr Shepherd maneuvers his hands behind Bubu Bear.

BUBU BEAR
 It's refreshing when...Hey, what
 are you doing? Hey, stop that! I
 hardly know...

Bubu Bear's eyes widen in surprise.

BUBU BEAR
Oooooo, Ooooooo.

DR SHEPHERD
One more minute, I almost have it.
Hang in there.

BUBU BEAR
Oooooo.

DR SHEPHERD
Ah. There it is.

A POP then Dr Shepherd pulls the Rosewood sculpture from behind the bear.

DR SHEPHERD
One unexamined rosewood sculpture.

Heavenly music plays, they all look skyward.

BUBU BEAR
I wondered where that went.

DR SHEPHERD
And upon examination of this
sculpture, I find that there are no
wormholes. You can now enter this
country. Welcome to Australia.
Please enjoy your stay.

Dr Shepherd hands the sculpture to Bubu Bear.

BUBU BEAR
(angry)
No Wormholes.
(very angry)
NO WORMHOLES! I can't believe that
you put me through this ordeal just
to look at a piece of wood.

DR SHEPHERD
Sorry, but it is regulations. We
must protect our environment.

BUBU BEAR
I can understand that but what
about tourism. Isn't that important
too. What a way to welcome your
guests. All I want to do now is
leave.
(he looks for a door)
How do I get out of here?

DR SHEPHERD
First door on your left.

BUBU BEAR
I might have guessed!

Bubu Bear arrives at a generic-looking door.

BUBU BEAR
This must be the door.

FADE OUT