

Down Under

EXT. KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

SUPER: 2005

SHEILA, 35, attends to JOHN QUINONES, 52. She brushes his face with make up and adjusts his hair. JACK and MIKE, both 30, look on. Mike picks up his heavy camera, gets ready to film.

JOHN
OK, we ready here?

Sheila finishes her work.

SHEILA
Looking good, John.

JACK
OK, John, let's do it. Just slowly walk forward so we can keep those cliffs in the background. Lighting's perfect. Ready when you are. Mike, start filming.

Sheila steps away, out of the shot. Jack guides Mike along backward, John follows.

JOHN
This is John Quinones, and you're watching ABC's Primetime. We've been invited to join actress Nicole Kidman and her family and friends in a picnic, here in beautiful Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park, some twenty five kilometers from the glitz of fabulous Sydney, on Australia's southwest coast.

They stop walking.

JACK
OK, great, John. We'll get some scenery shots and fill 'em in over the rest of the intro. Everyone should be arriving shortly, so you're free to wander for a bit.

Jack and Mike walk away.

SHEILA
John, you want anything from the truck?

He puts his arm around her, and they head towards a big TV rig.

JOHN
Water...water, Gunga Din. Damn,
it's hot.

EXT. KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK - LATER

Several trucks and SUV's are parked next to the big TV truck. Several PEOPLE set up tables and chairs. A massive BBQ grill sits in the middle of the area.

A group of twenty or so relax under a large tented structure, talking and laughing, drinks in hand.

Sheila applies more make up to John's face.

NICOLE KIDMAN, 37, sits in a chair, smiling. Another chair is next to her. Lights and backdrops behind her.

JOHN
We ready?

JACK
Good to go, let's do it. Nicole?

Nicole gazes off toward the setup behind her.

JACK (CONT'D)
Nicole? Are you ready?

She tunes in, smiles.

NICOLE
Sorry. I'm ready.

John sits down. Mike starts filming.

JACK
OK, you're on.

JOHN
I'm here with award winning actress,
Nicole Kidman. Thanks for having
us, Nicole.

She stares out beyond the camera. Blinks twice, rubs her nose.

John smiles, tries again.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Nicole, who do we have here with you today?

NICOLE

Today? Today, I wish I was flying...or I mean sky diving. I love sky diving.

She looks on, as if in a dream.

John looks back to Jack, who gives him a "no clue" look".

JOHN

I heard on your interview with Ellen that they won't let you sky dive when you're in production. You must really love it.

Nicole fluffs her hair and giggles.

NICOLE

You don't?

Jack walks forward.

JACK

Cut! Hey, what's going on here? Let's try it again from the top.

EXT. KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK - LATER

Jack, John, and Sheila stand by the truck.

JACK

Sheila, are Nicole and Naomi ready?

SHEILA

They're ready and waiting over by the creek. Mike's all set up there.

JACK

OK guys, let's get to it, it's sweltering out here. Let's hope this one goes better than the first one. Unreal.

EXT. NEXT TO A CREEK - MOMENTS LATER

Nicole and NAOMI WATTS, 36, stroll along with John. Mike's got the camera rolling in front of them, as Jack guides him along.

JOHN
(to Nicole)
So how long have you two been friends?

Nicole and Naomi walk along arm in arm. They both laugh.

NICOLE
How long? I'd say we're going on
thirty years, aren't we Nom?

NAOMI
Let's not date ourselves that much
Nik...how about a good twenty?

JOHN
Don't worry, you two are gorgeous.

They stop next to the creek. Nicole bends down and picks up
a tiny lizard.

NICOLE
Hello there, little guy.

The lizard flicks its tongue in and out.

John looks on, surprised.

JOHN
So, I take it you grew up together,
then, here in Australia?

Nicole doesn't seem to even hear him, as she gazes down at
the lizard in her hand.

NICOLE
(to the lizard)
You're so cute...so cute indeed, my
friend. I love you.

Nicole giggles, twirls around in glee.

JOHN
Alright...uh is everything OK?

NAOMI
Nik can be a strange one, she can.

JACK
OK, cut! Let's try this again.
Nicole, are you alright?

Nicole looks up, a wide smile forms on her lips. She flings
her arms over her head, and releases the lizard...it goes
flying.

All look on with raised eyebrows and looks of confusion.

NICOLE

OK, where were we? Wasn't that little lizard cute? I love lizards...and I love you, Nom.

INT. TV TRUCK - LATER

Jack sits with Mike and John, while Sheila works on John's hair.

JOHN

She's whacked.

JACK

Fucking weird...really fucking weird.

MIKE

Yeah, it's strange alright, but I've been shooting the entire time, so if nothing else, we've got some must see TV here for sure.

They laugh. John swooshes Sheila's hand away. He looks annoyed.

JOHN

Jack, you're sure everything was set up with with her people, right? I don't get it.

Jack sighs, wipes his brow.

JACK

Yeah, everything was cleared, and Nicole was supposedly onboard. Maybe she's on something? Who knows. Maybe it's the heat? Let's just keep trying.

EXT. UNDER THE TENT - LATER

John and Nicole sit facing each other. Jack and Mike stand in front. The camera rolls.

JOHN

So, Nicole, you were telling me earlier about how your life changed when you met Tom.

Nicole stares...a void in her eyes.

NICOLE

Tom?

John looks back to Jack, then to Nicole.

JOHN

Yes, your ex husband, Tom Cruise.

She comes to. Her eyes light up. A big smile forms on her lips.

NICOLE

Tom Cruise...I love Tom Cruise. Tom changed me...he changes everyone he touches.

JOHN

Nicole, what do you mean by that, exactly. How did he change you? Do you mean that he opened doors for your career?

Nicole plays with her hair, seems out of it again.

NICOLE

(little girl's voice)
He changed me, silly. He changes everyone. Don't you know? Haven't you seen?

ANTONIA KIDMAN, 34, walks inside the tent. She looks upset.

ANTONIA

Are you OK, sis?

Nicole looks up at her. Her eyes are expressionless.

NICOLE

She's not my sister...not my real sister. She used to be my real sister, but she's not anymore.

ANTONIA

(to Jack)
I'm going to have to ask you to stop filming. Nikki's not feeling well.

Mike looks to Jack, raises his eyes.

JACK

OK, no problem, Antonia. No problem. Shut it down, Mike.

EXT. KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK - LATER

John and Antonia walk together, alone. The picnic continues behind them.

JOHN

Antonia, what's going on here? No cameras, no BS. Is this some kind of a joke or something?

ANTONIA

I don't know. I really don't. She's been acting strange every now and then for years. She's fine on the set, but...

JOHN

But what?

They pause, as they near the trees.

ANTONIA

Off the record, right?

John nods.

ANTONIA (CONT'D)

She thinks something's wrong with her...like she's not really herself.

John laughs.

JOHN

Not herself? Who is she then?

ANTONIA

She says that Tom turned her...into an...

Nicole comes running up, grabs Antonia.

NICOLE

Antonia! Stop it. Just stop it.

John looks from one Kidman to the other, completely in shock.

JOHN

What the fuck is going on here. Is everyone nuts here?

INT. TV TRUCK - LATER

Mike tapes a wireless Mic to John's chest. Jack and Sheila watch, wide eyed.

MIKE

OK, start talking, John. Let me see if I've got the feed hooked up.

JOHN

Testing...testing...do you fucking read me? This is fucking crazy.

Jack laughs, looks on at the control set. He hits the playback button.

JOHN'S VOICE

Testing...testing...do you fucking read me? This is fucking crazy.

Mike smiles, claps his hands together.

MIKE

OK, we got it. We're set.

Jack looks up. Puts his hands in the air.

JACK

OK, Johnny Boy, ready to make history?

EXT. NEXT TO A CREEK - LATER

John and Nicole walk along the quiet stream.

JOHN

Nicole, talk to me. I'm worried about you. Is everything alright?

Nicole walks along, oblivious, gazing down at the water.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Nicole? C'mon, tell me what's going on here.

She stops. A grasshopper lights on her shoulder. She's unfazed.

NICOLE

I'm not me anymore, John. Tom made me something else. He makes alot of people that way. He has the power.

John lifts his hand to brush the grasshopper away. Nicole jumps back, laughing wildly.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
 (little girl's voice)
 He's my friend...they're all my
 friends. The lizards, the hoppers,
 the ladybugs...all of them.

John shakes his head, as he pulls back. He looks around.

JOHN
 Nicole, this is crazy. What are you
 telling me? What's going on here?

Nicole giggles, spins around, hands in her hair.

She pulls close to John, looks around nervously.

NICOLE
 (whispering)
 I'm an alien...Tom's the master alien.
 There's other aliens too...

INT. TV TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Jack, Mike, and Sheila sit in amazement.

MIKE
 What the fuck?

JACK
 Yep, it's official...she's
 whacked...maybe she's shrooming?
 Can you believe this shit?

Sheila laughs to herself.

SHEILA
 I always thought she was a bit odd...

EXT. NEXT TO A CREEK - CONTINUOUS

LIEV SCHREIBER, 37 approaches from the picnic. He comes up
 fast, shaking his head.

LIEV
 OK, Nicole, enough's enough.

John spins around, a surprised look on his face.

JACK
 Liev Schreiber? OK, what is this,
 some new Candid Camera or something?
 What's going on?

LIEV

Hey John, yeah, it's me. I'm with Naomi...kind of on the down low, if you know what I mean.

INT. TV TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

JACK

This keeps getting better and better. We're gonna be famous, my friends...famous!

MIKE

Should I go out there and film this?

JACK

Naw, let's see how it plays out. Something's fucked up here. I don't buy it.

SHEILA

I love Liev Schreiber!

Jack and Mike both turn to her.

JACK & MIKE

You would.

EXT. NEXT TO A CREEK - CONTINUOUS

Liev puts his arm around Nicole. Gives her a shake.

LIEV

Nik, Naomi wants to see you. Go back to the others. This has gone too far, OK? Seriously...beat it, you knucklehead.

John watches, still in disbelief.

NICOLE

OK. See you guys later. Love you.

She walks off, does a spin, and skips away.

John watches her go, shakes his head again.

JOHN

OK, Liev, what's up here? What's going on?

Liev laughs, shakes his head as well.

LIEV

John, I think you guys have been had. Nik's a whacko sometimes. She's got a strange sense of humor.

JOHN

Go on...

LIEV

Naomi just told me what's going on...and I didn't think it was cool. Nik just signed on for a remake of Invasion of the Body Snatchers. She's in character already and maybe trying to play up to it and start some buzz or something.

John laughs.

JOHN

Are you fucking kidding me? She's gonna get it. She definitely had us going.

INT. TV TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

JACK

That little bitch. She is gonna get it. Can you believe this shit?

SHEILA

See, I told you Liev was cool people. I love him.

MIKE

OK Sheila, calm down there. Sounds like he's already spoken for.

EXT. KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK - LATER

Nicole and Naomi walk hand in hand away from the festivities. Nicole looks like she's back in normal form. She laughs out loud and swings Naomi's hand in the air.

NICOLE

That was fun, huh? They're gonna hate me for this, but I LOVE it.

NAOMI

Well, you most likely have created some buzz for the flick. Did you say Daniel Craig has signed on, too? He's hot.

Nicole smiles and looks deviously at Naomi.

NICOLE

Hot, huh? You little minx. You better just be careful. I like Liev. I think you two are great together. I need to find someone new...someone different...maybe even an American country singer, or something.

NAOMI

Oh, Nik, don't worry, you will. Maybe something with you and Mr. Craig could pop up, as they say?

A dragonfly lights on Nicole's shoulder. It rubs its large, bulbous eyes. Seems to look directly into Nicole's eyes.

NICOLE

Want to know a secret, Nom?

They stop walking. Nicole pulls Naomi close.

NAOMI

You know it, sister. Do tell.

Nicole takes her shoulders in her hands, puts her face up close to her ear. A lizard-like tongue shoots out, buries itself inside Naomi's ear.

Naomi shakes her head, tries to pull away. Nicole holds her firm. Naomi's eyes go wide.

NICOLE

I wasn't bullshitting...I am an alien, and now...so are you. I do love you, though, sister.