

CRUMMY MUMMY

Written by

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FADE IN

EXT. MINING CAMPSITE - BALLARAT - DAY

SUPER: Gold Diggers, 1855, Ballarat, Australia.

A small stream. Some PROSPECTORS pan for gold, others chip away at the bank of the creek with shovels and picks. WHACK! PROSPECTOR 1 brings his pick down and uncovers a gold nugget. There's jubilation at his find.

EXT. STRAYWAYS CARAVAN PARK - DAY

SUPER: Modern Day Gold Diggers, 1990, Ballarat, Australia

DEBBIE, 20's, Trailer park trash personified, sits on the porch of her caravan and holds SHONA, a baby. Beside her is TRACY, who also has a young baby in her arms. Debbie points as a FORD EDSEL drives slowly past their van.

DEBBIE

Look at that Shona, mag wheels!

TRACY

Did you see that? He still has ten months left on his rego. sticker!

Debbie whistles as if impressed.

DEBBIE

He must be rolling in it.

Debbie holds Baby Shona up high above her head so that she can get a good look.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

That's what you want when you get older Shona. Marry a rich Sugar Daddy, and you won't end up in a dump like this.

SUPER: Modern Day Gold Diggers, 1990, Ballarat, Australia

Tracy nods in agreement as Debbie continues to give Baby Shona her first lesson in life.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Whatever you do, don't marry for love, marry for money.

INT. DEBBIE'S VAN - DAY

SUPER: Sixteen years later.

Shona, 16, who still hasn't lost her puppy fat yet, sits on the sofa next to Debbie who watches the tiny TV screen. Images of Zsa Zsa Gabor appear on the screen.

ZSA ZSA GABOR
Dahling, I'm a marvelous
housekeeper, every time I leave a
man, I keep his house.

A bored Shona stares out the window. Debbie elbows her and offers Shona a cigarette. Shona shakes her head no.

DEBBIE
You sure? They'll help keep you
thin, Porky...uh, I mean Shona.

Shona ponders this for a moment then takes a cigarette.

EXT. DEBBIE'S VAN - DAY

Shona sits with MORAG, 16, a frenemy personified.

MORAG
Are you crazy? Why do you want to
quit school for?

SHONA
So I can get pregnant, marry a
millionaire and quit living here.

MORAG
You wanna leave the Strayways
Caravan Park?

SHONA
Well, maybe not. We could like, be
rich enough to buy our own van and
take the site under the tree, near
the toilets.

MORAG
Prime location. But where ya gonna
find someone that rich?

Shona watches as RAT, 20, a guy wearing a bikie's jacket, with the word "RAT," and a cartoon image of a Rat riding a motorbike printed on the back of his jacket drives by on his Harley chopper. Shona grins.

EXT. LAKE WENDOUREE - NIGHT

Shona sits on the back of Rat's motorbike as they pash. It's getting hot and heavy.

RAT
How old are you?

SHONA
Eighteen.

He smiles, and there's the sound of a zipper being undone.

SHONA (CONT'D)
(mutters under her breath)
In a couple of years.

INT. DEBBIE'S VAN - DAY

SUPER: A few months later.

Debbie's eyes are glued to the TV screen. Shona enters the van; she's visibly pregnant. Debbie watches as Shona makes her way to the fridge.

DEBBIE
You're getting a bit fat lately.
You considered doing sit-ups?

EXT. LAKE WENDOUREE - NIGHT

Shona sits on the back of Rat's motorbike as they kiss. For a moment they stop.

Shona imagines herself in a church wearing a bridal gown, RAT lifting the veil and kissing her, confetti raining down on them as she gets on the back of RAT's noisy Harley-Davidson and they drive off together, forever happy.

She snaps out of her daydream and gazes lovingly at Rat.

SHONA
Ever dreamed of having a Rat or
Shona Junior?

Rat glances down at her swollen belly and soon understands.

Shona's shoved off the back of his bike. The bike roars as he drives off with Shona still sitting on the ground. She yells after him.

SHONA (CONT'D)
Is that a yes or a no?

Rat gives a one finger salute as he drives off.

Shona looks upwards to the dark sky where his finger pointed and peers hard.

SHONA (CONT'D)
What? I don't see nuffin'.

INT. DEBBIE'S VAN - DAY

Debbie does the dishes.

A business card slides under the door of the caravan.

The sound of a Harley motorbike is heard driving away.

Debbie picks up the card. On the front, it reads "FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC."

Debbie turns it over and reads the back of it. Her face turns red, and she puts the card into her apron.

LATER: Shona has a box of tissues next to her as she and Morag sit on the sofa eating TIM-TAM chocolate biscuits as they watch PRIDE AND PREJUDICE.

MORAG
I wouldn't worry about it...I'm
sure you'll be able to do something
to attract another man?

Shona's eyes light up as an idea sparks.

INT. BALLARAT TATTOO PARLOR - NIGHT

Shona sits in a recliner chair as the bandana-wearing BEARDED TATTOO ARTIST, 50's, works on her. Morag watches in awe.

INT. DEBBIE'S VAN - DAY

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE plays on TV yet again as Shona and Morag sit on the sofa eating chocolate TEDDY BEAR biscuits.

MORAG
Enough with the Mr. Darcy already.

She changes channels to PERFECT MATCH, a dating game show.

MORAG (CONT'D)

I'm surprised that the Tattoo Guy didn't ask to look or touch them.

SHONA

Same here.

Shona looks at her new tattoo. The words "LOOK HERE," tattooed just above her breasts as well as an arrow that points to them. Shona checks herself out in a mirror and adjusts her breasts.

SHONA (CONT'D)

Yeah, he must be gay or something.

MORAG

Never mind, I'm sure there's some other way you can find a rich guy?

A TV advertisement comes on for WINNERS CASINO, GOLD COAST that shows beautiful beaches, buildings, people, and gamblers winning big at roulette. Shona's enraptured.

EXT. BALLARAT BUS DEPOT - DAY

Shona wears thongs, a crop top that reads "YOU CAN TOUCH THIS." She carries a six pack of VB beer and has a packet of cigarettes. Her clothes are way too small. Morag hugs Shona before she boards the bus.

MORAG

Don't forget to write.

Shona gives her a look as if to say not likely.

MORAG (CONT'D)

Well, keep in touch.

INT. GREYHOUND BUS - DAY

Shona boards the bus and strolls towards the back seat. A PASSENGER sits there. Shona indicates for them to move. They move. Shona sits down in the middle seat and puts one of her dirty feet on the seat armrest in front.

She lights up a cigarette as the bus pulls out. ELDERLY PASSENGER gives a disapproving look.

SHONA

What? These are part of my diet. I'm having a bitch of a time trying to fit into me clothes.

BUS DRIVER
Hey, no smoking allowed!

SHONA
Alright, don't get your knickers in
a knot.

Shona stubs it out on the wall of the bus. She grabs a beer
can, opens it and drinks. Elderly Passenger stares in dismay.

SHONA (CONT'D)
What?

ELDERLY PASSENGER
You shouldn't be drinking that!

Shona takes a moment to study the can in her hand.

SHONA
S'pose you're right. I should
switch from VB to XXXX beer if I'm
gonna be living in Queensland,
shouldn't I?

ELDERLY PASSENGER
No, you shouldn't be drinking beer
at all!

SHONA
Not everyone can afford rum.

ELDERLY PASSENGER
You shouldn't drink any alcohol
period when you're pregnant.

SHONA
What are you the fun police?

ELDERLY PASSENGER
Haven't you heard of Fetal Alcohol
Syndrome?

Shona pounds her fist into her hand.

SHONA
No, but I've heard of the Nosy
Parker Nursing Home. I can get the
driver to drop you off there if you
like...Besides Mum, drank all the
time when she had me. Never did me
any harm.

Shots of Shona on the long trip: Excited, reading a Tattoo Ink magazine, sucking up a lurgy then spitting out the window, lifting her leg to fart.

INT. GREYHOUND BUS - NIGHT

Shona's asleep snoring with mouth open and drool running out onto the sleeping Passenger beside her.

INT. GREYHOUND BUS - DAY

The sun rises, and she's woken by the P.A.

BUS DRIVER (V.O.)
We will soon be arriving at the
Gold Coast depot.

Shona leans over her drool soaked Passenger to peer out the window. It's day time, and the bus is passing a beach where gorgeous girls in bikinis sunbathe and play volleyball. She smiles broadly.

EXT. GOLD COAST BEACH - DAY

On the sandy beach, a row of well-tanned girls lay on their stomachs. At the end of the line is a very pale and pasty white Shona. She looks out of place and wears a bikini that is way too revealing.

Like the other girls, Shona also lays face down. However, her big belly means that her feet can't touch the ground and they appear to be paddling in the air.

LATER: A volleyball match is in play. Four bikini girls go to dig the ball. One of them is Shona. They collide. The other three go flying off in different directions after crashing into Shona's big belly.

Shona checks her watch. It's 4.15pm. She's badly sunburnt. She leaves the beach, walking gingerly, every step in pain.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING - DAY

Still feeling the painful effects of sunburn, Shona enters the building slowly and stands in line waiting to be served.

LATER: The digital clock clicks over to 4.55pm, and Shona's arguing with JAKE, 30's, overweight, overworked, but a caring Housing Officer.

SHONA

What do you mean you've got nowhere
for me to stay tonight?

JAKE

We've got waiting lists for housing
a mile long. If you had a
disability, then that could help
you get one quicker.

Shona ponders this for a moment and glances at her huge
belly.

SHONA

Would being a smidge over your
ideal weight qualify?

JAKE

Nice try.

He hands her a card for a WOMEN'S REFUGE.

JAKE (CONT'D)

You could give this place a go.

EXT. GC WOMEN'S REFUGE - NIGHT

Shona enters the building. It's run down, crowded and
unappealing. Mums try to control their hyperactive kids.

INT. GC WOMEN'S REFUGE - CONTINUOUS

It's a crowded shared bedroom. Kids bawl, women cry. A
MOTHER changes a diaper right next to Shona. Shona gets a
whiff of this and looks like she's going to vomit. She moves.

Shona sits on another bed. The person next door is a BAG
LADY. Shona covers her nose, fans her hand in front of it
and moves elsewhere.

She lays down on a bed. An OLD WOMAN, with a smokers cough,
hacks continually. Shona can't sleep. She gets up and heads
towards the exit door.

EXT. GC WOMEN'S REFUGE - CONTINUOUS

Shona exits the building, checks the surroundings and sees a
skip bin. She takes a large piece of cardboard from it.

EXT. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING - NIGHT

Shona drops the cardboard to the ground in the doorway of the Department of Housing and gingerly lies down on it.

EXT. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING - MORNING

Shona wakes, stretches, she's sore and looks like she's slept on the street, which she has. She's grumpy. She hides her piece of cardboard and then waits at the door of the Department of Housing. Ready to be first in.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING - MORNING

Shona takes ticket number one and approaches Jake. He shakes his head no. We don't hear them, but soon they're in a full-on argument. This repeats on Wednesday and Thursday. Shona becomes more disheveled looking with each day.

INT. JAKE'S CAR - NIGHT

Jake's driving home. He answers his phone.

VIOLET (O.S.)

Jake, can you drop Mum's birthday card to me tonight so Keith can sign it?

Jake smacks the wheel and does a u-turn.

EXT. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING - NIGHT

Jake parks his car. He's surprised to see Shona lying asleep on cardboard in the office doorway. He gently wakes her.

JAKE

What are you doing here?

SHONA

Waiting for a Sugar Daddy or accommodation. Whichever comes first?

JAKE

You don't even have a blanket. Aren't you cold?

Shona shivers.

SHONA

I've got my sunburn to keep me warm.

JAKE

What about the women's refuge?

SHONA

Been there.

JAKE

Oh...You can always get some private accommodation until--

SHONA

Centrelink's not due 'til next week.

JAKE

You could ask them for an advance.

SHONA

I already did.

JAKE

What'd you spend that on?

Shona, heavily pregnant, points to a new tattoo that has the outline of a heart with the words "GOLD COAST" on it.

Jake checks the surrounding area, it's badly lit and looks unsafe. He sighs.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Come with me.

INT. JAKE'S LOUNGE ROOM - NIGHT

Jake makes a bed on the sofa, while Shona watches.

JAKE

And you can't tell anyone about this, got it?

INT. JAKE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jake shows Shona the double bed in the bedroom.

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