

APPENDIX

SYNOPSIS



This epic romance movie starts with information about World War II and its effect on Australia. The issue of this is the attempt of whites to take away aboriginal children and place them in Missions

Islands to phase out the culture which is called Stolen Generations.

Then the movie begins where King George (David Gulpilil), an aborigine man, teaches his grandchild various things. His grandchild's name is Nullah (Brandon Walters). He is mixed-race. It is in September, 1939. Nullah is in Billabong River to catch fish with his grandfather. Suddenly, a dead man falls into the water. Nullah sings to the horse until it becomes calm. He rides it back to where he lives, Faraway Downs. He jumps down off the horse after he sees a car coming down the road. He runs and hides in the water tower, afraid someone is going to come take him away (Stolen Generations). But it's not people to take him away, but rather The Drover (Hugh Jackman), Lady Sarah Ashley (Nicole Kidman), Magarri (David Ngoombujarra) and Goolaj (Angus Pilakui). Lady Sarah Ashley is an English aristocrat who inherits the cattle station Faraway Downs in Australia.

Nullah informs this story starts a while ago in another faraway place called England. Lady Sarah Ashley will go to Australia and sell Faraway Down by herself.

Then Sarah is on a plane, receiving various messages from her husband that she need not come down to Australia. However, she is told that she will be meeting up with her husband's helper, Drover. The city which she lands in is Darwin.

In Darwin, Drover is in a bar trying to get a drink while a man teases him about who he hangs out with. He tells his friend, Magarri, to wave his hat when the woman shows up. He then proceeds to get in a fight with most of the bar. Sarah walks into the bar looking for Drover. Her suitcases are on the steps, while the fight makes its way around the bar. The saloonkeeper, Ivan (Jacek Koman) tells her that women are not allowed in that bar and she walks out to find that one of her suitcases is about to be used to hit someone. As it is swung around, it flies open, spreading her undergarments around the group of men. Sarah is ashamed and surprised, and is finally introduced to Drover.

Next, a very loaded up truck is driving through the outback, with Sarah wearing glasses, a hat with a net around it, gloves, and everything else that makes her overdressed for the heat and outback. Magarri is up on top on a chair. In the night, they take a rest.

The next day, they continue their trip then stop and the woman driver pushes off a white man into the road who is drunk and asleep. Drover informs Sarah that he is her accountant for Faraway Downs. His name is Kipling Flynn (Jack Thompson).

An aboriginal girl runs up along Drover's side of the truck and she wants him to come hang out, but he tells her he is delivering a package. Sarah is sure that Drover is exploiting women down in Australia and she assumes her husband is doing the

same. Then and they get into an argument. Drover is really talking about horses, but Sarah assumes he is simply referring to women as horses (mating an English thoroughbred with an Australian brumby).

Finally, they reach Faraway Downs. Sarah angrily gets out of the truck and walks into the house, although Drover tells her not to go in. She does anyway and sees her husband lying dead on the table. Then Neil Fletcher (David Wenham), the drover in Faraway Downs, leads the funeral ceremony.

Now it seems that Sarah really will sell the property to the Carney Empire. If it is sold, the company will have a monopoly over the cattle business. That night, Sarah cannot sleep. She gets out of bed when she hears a noise. She walks outside, trying to find where it is coming from. Nullah is in under the stairs. But she gets scared, so she runs back inside, but Nullah is in there. He says he sung her to him and King George told him that she is like rain and much needed in a dry desert. He also tells her that Lesley 'King' Carney (Bryan Brown) is stealing her cattle, driving them across the river. All of a sudden his mother comes running in, begging her to keep her son away from the police. They hear a noise walking around outside and they all hide behind her trunks. It is Fletcher, her husbands' main drover.

In the morning, Sarah is getting ready to leave when Fletcher comes up to her. Sarah asks about the cattle, saying that Nullah told her about them. He turns around, not so happy, asking Nullah to come to him. In the night before, Fletcher come out of place where Nullah and his mother, Daisy (Ursula Yovich), live. So Nullah is Fletcher's son. His mother and grandmother, Bandy (Lillian Crombie), tell him in

their native language to go to him. He does, and Fletcher asks again if he saw anything, also telling him quietly that if he says anything, he will beat his mother. Nullah does not say anything more and Sarah says that maybe he was mistaken. Fletcher hands him off to the cook, Sing Song (Yuen Wah). But Nullah gets away and runs up to the windmill, which Fletcher said had not run in years. Nullah climbs up the tower and takes out a pin and the wheel springs to life, turning on a faucet. Nullah shouts that Fletcher lies. Fletcher is rage. He runs after Nullah and hits him, Nullah's mother and grandmother. Sarah runs over and smacks Fletcher with a riding crop. Then, she fires him on the spot. Fletcher tells her she will not have anybody for the Drive in the morning taking 1.500 cattle to Darwin.

Nullah calls her from then on, Mrs. Boss. She demands to know the truth about the Faraway Downs by asking Flynn. He tells her that Carney has been siphoning off her cattle and the overall state of finances, which is not good. However, if they can get their 1.500 cattle to the docks to sell to the Army before Carney, she will be set for a long time. Then, Drover comes bringing in a herd of wild horses. She walks back to the house as he starts yelling about where all the men are. She explains that she fired Fletcher. He cannot understand why, thinking she dismissed them for some stupid reason. She tells him that he was stealing cattle and he seems a little less angry. She wants him to drive the cattle, promising her thoroughbred to him if he helps.

But he now does not have enough people to help drive the cattle. He has only three, himself, Magarri, and Goolaj, but he needs seven. Then Nullah's mother and grandmother show that they can ride horses. Nullah and Sarah note they can ride, too.

The day before they leave, a car is seen driving up the road. Nullah again runs for the water tank (that has some water in it because the windmill works) and his mother follows him. Sure, it is the police. One of the police, Sergeant Callahan (Tony Barry), tells Sarah that they think the killer of her husband is King George. They are working to find and make a justice for him. He also is looking for a little boy (Nullah) to which Sarah says she will keep a lookout. During this time, one of the men from the car uses the faucet to cool down. However, this fills up the water tank. Nullah and his mother cling to the ladder, but they cannot call for help. The ladder breaks. Nullah tries to hold her up, but it is too hard. The car finally leaves as Drover rides up. Sarah tells him that Nullah and his mother are in the tank and asks him to help them. Drover gets up to the tank and can only lift the mother's lifeless body out. Nullah is heartbroken.

That night, Drover explains that her name cannot be said again because of the aboriginal cultural and Nullah needs mothering. Hence, Sarah finds Nullah and offers her condolence. He is curled up against the wall and wants her to go away. She asks if he wants to hear a story. He is always interested in hearing stories and she tells him a bit about the *Wizard of Oz*, after she sees an ad for the movie in a newspaper she is sitting on. She tells him about the twister and sings a little bit of *Somewhere Over the*

Rainbow and Nullah makes connections about King George (magic man/*Wizard of Oz*) and the rainbow serpent.

The next morning, they are about to set out. Finally, Flynn is riding a horse and ready to join the drive. They set out for a very long journey. Meanwhile, King Carney learns that not only Sarah is not going to sell her property, but also that she is driving the cattle to the docks to sell. Carney tells Fletcher to make sure they do not get that far.

One of the nights, they drive into a canyon and King George is following the group. From the top of his hill, he can see four riders approaching in the distance. It is Fletcher and 3 cronies. Nullah tells Flynn that King George is his grandpa and asks if he knows how to play *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* on his harmonica, which he does. Drover makes assignments to watch the cattle and keep them calm.

When Flynn and Nullah have their shift, Fletcher and his group pour gasoline on some brush behind the cattle. They light a match and the brush goes up in flames. Everyone wakes up and Drover realizes that the cattle are head towards the cliff. Nullah and Flynn are closest to the front, so they take off for the cliff to try to round the cattle back towards the canyon. Flynn and Nullah closely navigate the edge of the cliff, trying to stay ahead of the cattle. One or two cattle slip off the side. But Fletcher and his cronies have thought ahead. They lit another fire, cutting off a safe place, and spooking the cattle back towards the cliff. Flynn and Nullah are riding farther in, but all of a sudden, Flynn's horse breaks a leg. Nullah cannot reach Flynn and the cattle are rushing at Nullah, who is at the edge of the cliff. He attempts to sing a magic song

to stop the cattle, with King George chanting from the canyon. Miraculously, the cattle stop. Nullah collapses, but Sarah catches him before he tumbles down the cliff. Drover runs to Flynn, who is bruised, bloodied, and has a leg in a rather grotesque position. He tells Drover that he stashed some alcohol under the wagon and giving him his harmonica. He also tells him that Sarah's husband was killed with a glass-tipped arrow. The glass comes from the same area that King George is from. Hence, it looks like King George killed the man. Flynn dies as Drover derives a conclusion.

Most of their stuff is burned. Drover tells Sarah what Flynn said and Fletcher, the man who has killed her husband by using the glass-tipped arrow to put the blame on a certain aborigine, so he probably was. Then, they decide to move on in the night.

The next time they stop, they get out the rum and give a toast to Flynn. Some of the group play music and Sarah asks Drover to dance, teaching him some Foxtrot Dance. They get close and eventually share a small kiss. They are interrupted by Nullah in a tree above them, who asks if they are going to do wrong sideways business. Then Sarah and Drover talk about their past business. Drover was married once. At that time, he had to go to war. When he came back, his wife had TB. But the hospitals rejected her because she was black. He did not have children. He asks her if she has any, but she tells him she cannot.

The next time they travel, they are driving across a really dry place. Magarri is at a watering hole. He tells the water is bad and Fletcher is the one who probably poisoned it. The nearest water is a five-day ride, but Magarri remarks that across one of the deserts, a three-day ride, there is water. That is Kuraman, the desert land.

Drover argues that there is no way they can drive across it, because there is no guide to help us to find a way, so they will get lost and die. Suddenly, King George appears to help. Nullah asks him to find the way to water. They follow him. King George is shown singing and dancing his way through the desert. Drover explains that the aborigines have a song for every rock and landmark, allowing them to find a way.

In Darwin, King Carney is pressuring an Australian Army officer in charge of beef supply, Captain Emmet Dutton (Ben Mendelsohn), to sign a contract for his cattle. Then, a newspaper informs about a cattle drive across the desert that killed all the members, including Sarah. Catherine Carney (Essie Davis) reads it. Carney and Captain Emmet Dutton see that there is a group of cow comes. Sarah rides and says she will accept 20 percent less than what Carney wants. Carney argues that the contract is signed, but Dutton notes that it only applies once the cattle are on the ship. Both groups race to board their cattle first.

Sarah drives the cattle straight down the dock while Drover tries to stop Carneys cattle. Everyone regroups for a drink at the bar. Sarah walks in, and Ivan, again tells her that there are no ladies allowed. But a fellow at the bar says that she just drove cattle. Sarah is not lady and she deserves a drink. She and Drover drink a shot.

The next day, Sarah goes outside to see Drover working with the horse she promised him. She tells him that he could manage Faraway Downs. But he is not interested. She also tells him that she is the guest of honor at a town hall the next night and there is a suit for him, although he does not want to go.

At the town hall, all the men are fascinated with her. She dresses a red Chinese dress and eventually meets up with a doctor who runs the mission and she tries to convince him to stop taking children away from their mothers. She insults the group by saying that they never ask the mothers about taking the children and they certainly cannot ask the fathers because they are all there. In the midst of this, the first dance with Sarah is being auctioned off because Carney offers 500 pounds. They dance and he tries to convince her to give up Faraway Downs, saying that the people who live there will be taken care of and put them in the contract. Then, he asks her if his lawyer should draft up the papers. However, everyone's attention has turned towards the entrance. She realizes that it has gone quiet. She turns around to see Drover, all dressed up. She tells Carney that Faraway Downs is no longer for sale.

She walks up to him. They dance, as everyone is incredulous that she would dance with him since he associates with aborigines. They leave the town hall and walk down by the docks and bar. It begins to rain and they kiss again. Everyone is out celebrating the rain. They go back to her room and make love. At the town hall, a drunken Fletcher is stumbling and Carney basically tells him he is worthless because he was supposed to stop the cattle and he did not. But Fletcher is also dating Carney's daughter, Catherine Carney, so he better be careful. During the town hall, the rest of the group is watching a showing of the *Wizard of Oz*, which Nullah loves.

Next, it is back to life at Faraway Downs and the love between Sarah, Drover, and Nullah. Drover still goes on drives for horses, but mostly life is going well. Nullah says that King George wants him to go on a walkabout, in order to become a

man. Drover tells him that Sarah is the boss, so only if she tells him he can. She does not want to let him go, but Drover argues that it is his culture. Then, a newspaper says that Carney died in an alligator attack. But that's false. Fletcher hit Carney into the water and then he was attacked.

Because of that, Fletcher marries Catherine Carney, and he becomes new king in Carney Cattle Company. One day, Fletcher stops by to talk to Sarah. He tells her Carney died in an alligator attack and says how dangerous it must be in the wild. She wants him to leave, but he stays longer, ultimately pointing out a display of glass-tipped arrows. He leaves and Sarah tells the grandmother not to tell Drover he was there.

In the morning, Sarah is distraught because Nullah is missing. She wants Drover to come help find him, but he tells her that he is safe with King George. He also says that Nullah is not his child. Sarah becomes very angry. Their argument ends with her telling him not to return if he is going to be gone another six months driving cattle. But Nullah and King George are not safe. The police, Sergeant Callahan, caught them. Nullah is sent to the mission and King George is put in jail.

One day, Sarah drives to Darwin. The town is being evacuated because of the growing threat of war. She is looking around and then decides to walk down on the docks. She tries to get him back, but since he is part of the mission. The other women do not know why she is acting that way, but Fletcher's wife, Catherine Carney Fletcher, wants her husband to do something. Sarah walks the dock and says goodbye to Nullah, promising him she will get him back.

Sarah stays and works in the city for the Army at their radio headquarters. Then she gets to see Nullah and today is such a day. She has made friends with Catherine Carney Fletcher and they work together at the headquarters. However, the war has other plans.

The main radio for Darwin is located on the same island as the mission. Japanese planes take off from a carrier and head towards Darwin and the Mission Island. They bomb Darwin and Mission Island. Sarah walks toward the windows and sees the planes and a large explosion occurs. Eventually the chief opens the door for the prisoners including King George.

Back in the outback, Drover and Magarri are setting up camp at the same spot they did when Drover danced with Sarah. Magarri is whistling. Drover knows and reminds the song of Sarah. Magarri tells him to just admit that he still wants Sarah and makes reference to his first wife, who was Magarri's sister. They also argue a bit about Nullah. Drover says that Nullah should go on a walkabout because it is culture and Magarri says he is always hiding behind aboriginal arguments. They then see a convoy of American troops driving down the road and they both realize that something must be wrong in Darwin. They both take off for the city. Meanwhile, Captain Emmet is walking through a makeshift hospital and two soldiers are carrying a dead body on a stretcher. They say Sarah Ashley.

Drover and Magarri get to the city and most of it is in flames. He finds someone who knows Sarah and they tell him that she worked at the Army headquarters. He runs down there and the entire building is on fire. He wants to run

in, but is stopped by Magarri. He begins walking through the city and thinks of all the memories of them together in various places. He makes it to the bar, gets a drink, and gets Ivan to serve Magarri (who was not allowed in the bar because he is black). Meanwhile, a priest is trying to get a boat to go the island. Ivan, Magarri and Drover go to the docks and get a sailboat and head over to the island.

Captain Emmet asks to see the person his authorities with are caring. He says there is a mistake, that the woman is Fletcher's wife. Then, Drover and the two men see the place is in flames. They fear but slowly walk towards the burning houses. They hear noises in the bush. Then, most of the children come out. Nullah calls out and Drover hugs him tightly. Nullah asks if Mrs. Boss came too, but Drover tells him that they can't say her name anymore. Then, Japanese troops are moving in, so they will have to swim out silently to the boat. Magarri tells Drover to get the kids to the boat and he will distract the troops. He takes a gun and fires some shots at the troops as the rest make it to the boat. Magarri's gun jams, so in order to keep the others safe, he runs down the shore. The Japanese finish him off as Magarri watches the boat float silently away.

In the morning, the Army is packing up the troops and any civilians and pushing farther inland. The last caravan is leaving and Sarah is hesitant to leave. The boat is almost to the docks, as it is navigating around destroyed ships. Sarah is about to get in the truck when she hears a harmonica playing music. It's Nullah on the front of the boat and the other children eventually join in singing. She keeps hearing it, so she runs toward the docks. As the smoke clears, the boat comes closer. She sees

Nullah and the others. Nullah runs up the dock and gives her a big hug, saying he sung her to him. She asks how they got back and he just smiles and looks down the dock. She turns around and there is Drover. He is amazed she is alive and they hug. The rest of the children come up and Captain Emmet loads them up into the caravan. Sarah, Drover, and Nullah embrace, and Captain Emmet tells them Faraway Downs is probably going to be safe.

Drover goes to the bar to get something while Sarah is on the docks. Nullah is walking in the space between. Fletcher walks around, despondent over everything, from his place being bombed, to losing his wife. One of his old cronies comes up to him as he sees Nullah running around, and Fletcher takes his gun, telling the guy to find the police chief to say there is looting. During this time, King George has been watching events unfold from a water tower. He sees Nullah running and Fletcher beginning to take a position. King George starts ripping a section off the tower. Sarah senses something is wrong and yells at Nullah and starts to run towards him. Drover looks back from the bar and can see Fletcher aiming a gun at Nullah. He runs from the bar to protect Nullah. A shot rings out as Drover reaches Nullah. Fletcher is shown holding the gun, ready to take another shot. But King George throws a spear at him, impaling him. King George says that Nullah is his son but he is his grandson too. Fletcher dies, slumped over a pile of rubble. Drover is holding Nullah, telling him to wake up, and he does. He tells Drover he is ok, that there was no bullet.

The family is headed back to Faraway Downs when they stop for the night, again at the place where they danced. Everyone is collecting firewood when Sarah

looks back and sees King George. He beckons Nullah to come and join him. Sarah kisses him goodbye before he runs off. She lets him go, but actually she is hard to do that. The final screen tells us that Australia finally ended their Stolen Generations policy in 1973. In 2008, the Prime Minister issued a formal apology for the governments actions (the members of stolen generations).