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## **BLUE MIST**

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EXT. BLUE MOUNTAINS LOOKOUT - EARLY MORNING

A camera clicks rapidly.

The vast landscape of trees stretch as far as the eye can see. A hint of blue mist highlights the beauty on the Blue Mountains National Park.

EVE(22) walks into frame, she pulls her camera away from her face leans against the fence and stares at the view. It's still, calm and beautiful.

**TITLE CARD: BLUE MIST**

The sound of two beeps from her hearing aids are heard. Eve shakes her head.

TOM (22) walks up behind Eve and snuggles in for a kiss. Eve's hearing becomes distorted and crackly. She shakes her head again.

TOM  
What's wrong?

EVE  
Nothing... it's magical.

TOM  
It's FREEZING! It must be below zero.

Tom breaths out the cold air.

TOM (CONT'D)  
Yep!

EVE  
So dense...

TOM  
Makes you feel really small, doesn't it?

Eve looks into Tom's eyes and smiles. He hands Eve a FLASK of steaming tea.

TOM (CONT'D)  
I remember everything.

EVE  
Not everything.

Eve pulls her hearing aids off.

EVE (CONT'D)  
Dead!

TOM  
Batteries?

EVE  
No.

Eve puts her hearing aids into Tom's hand.

EXT. BUSH TRAIL SIGN - DAY

Tom shows Eve the walking route.

EVE  
How long?

TOM  
Five hours.

EVE  
Long.

Tom produces two CHOCOLATES and a WHISTLE. Eve takes both chocolates and the whistle.

TOM  
Really?

Eve eats one chocolate and puts the other in her pocket, then grabs the WHISTLE.

Eve looks to Tom who covers his ears knowing what's coming... Eve blows hard. The sound echoes around the park.

TOM (CONT'D)  
Feel good?

Eve nods then slides the whistle over her head.

Tom sets off down the path with his map. Eve follows with her camera.

EXT. BUSH TRACK - DAY

Eve and Tom are walking down into dense bush.

Eve stops to take photos.

They reach a fork in the track. Tom consults the map.

Tom heads right Eve follows shortly after.

EXT. ROCK FACE - DAY

Tom walks around a large rock face.

On the other side reveals a small waterfall and sandstone steps.

Eve takes photos of the dense bush below.

TOM  
CHECK THIS OUT!... Shit.

Tom remembers Eve can't hear him and waits for her to appear.

Eve stares at the mini waterfall but hears nothing. She runs her hand under the water and closes her eyes.

Tom takes Eve's hand and they continue across the stones down the stairs.

EXT. BUSH TRACK - DAY

Tom notices a fallen log and climbs on. Eve watches from the sand taking photos of him.

TOM  
Come on...

EVE  
No, it's too high.

TOM  
No it's not...

Tom holds out his hand. Eve throws her camera over her shoulder and climbs on. Tom pretends to slide off and Eve holds on for dear life.

EVE  
Tom!

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Tom and Eve sit under a naturally created cave.

Tom produces two apples and some water. Eve is distracted by her mobile phone. Tom swaps her mobile for an apple and her real camera.

EVE  
Hey!

Tom slips Eve's mobile in his bag, she rolls her eyes.

TOM  
Look - it's amazing.

EVE  
You can talk, uploading to Facebook.

Eve looks at the vast Blue Mountains view.

Tom bites into his apple and nudges Eve, she smiles and nods.

EVE (CONT'D)  
You're right.

EXT. WATERFALLS - DAY

Eve approaches a beautiful cascading WATERFALL.

Water tumbles into the crystal clear pond, she's unable to hear the water but is mesmerised by it's beauty.

Tom walks up behind Eve taking in the Waterfall.

EVE  
It's beautiful.

Tom nods and kisses Eve on the cheek.

**--LATER**

Eve and Tom are lying on the sand below the waterfall. They stare at the clouds, holding hands.

Tom pulls Eve close. They roll into each other, their noses almost touching... they kiss.

Eve opens her eyes first and smiles.

EVE (CONT'D)  
It's getting dark.

Tom looks up then looks to Eve's watch.

INSERT: 4PM.

TOM  
Shit.

Eve shakes out her rug and sets off on the track.

EVE  
Now you'll have to keep up with me!

Tom looks back and spots the whistle. He picks it up and walks off after Eve.

EXT. BUSH TRACK - DAY

Tom is walking ahead. Eve looks out at the view and takes photos, she falls behind.

Tom looks back for Eve.

TOM

Eve

He stops himself *she can't hear me.*

Eve appears through the trees a short while later. Tom smiles to himself and sets off again down the bush track.

EXT. BLUE MOUNTAINS LOOK OUT - DAY

The rumbling sound of wind is heard over the vast mountain range as the sun slowly lowers over the horizon.

Tom breaths in the view and looks back to see Eve totally absorbed with her camera. She catches him looking and takes his photo, he smiles as she jumps off the log playfully like a child.

EXT. BUSH TRACK - DAY

Tom heads back up the rock face.

Eve walks deeper and deeper into the bush, stopping only to feel the moss on the trees and the water on the rocks. She looks up through the trees to see the sun: it's getting lower.

EXT. BUSH TRACK - DAY

TOM

EVE!

Tom runs back.

He looks around then stops, listening for anything - NOTHING.

He grabs his bag, remembering her hearing aids.

TOM (CONT'D)

Fuck

EXT. BUSHLAND - DAY

Eve stops and looks around, all she can hear is ringing in her ears.

EXT. BUSH TRACK - DAY

Tom runs up the track. He reaches the fork in the track and takes it right, charging up the mountain as the light rapidly decreases.

EXT. BUSHLAND - DAY

Eve looks for Tom then runs up the steps.

EXT. BUSH PATH - DAY

Tom runs to the end of the path then collapses with exhaustion.

Eve's whistle slips out of his hand.

Tears stream down his face.

He looks out at the look out then charges back up the mountain path.

EXT. BUSHLAND - DAY

Eve looks around calling for Tom... *she can't hear anything.*

EVE  
(silent)  
TOM!

The ringing intensifies as Eve loses her balance.

EXT. BUSH PATH - DAY

Tom runs back down the path calling for Eve.

TOM  
(silent)  
EVE!

The only sound is Eve's breathing.

**INTERCUT**

EXT. BUSH PATH - DAY

Tom sits on a rock, he pulls out his mobile phone.

TOM  
Mum... it's Tom... I don't know where Eve is... I don't know... were hiking... she fell behind me or I walked ahead... No I've got her phone... yeah and her hearing aids I've got all of her stuff Mum... No I took it off her it's my fault. I don't know I've been running now for... like an hour and I have no idea... I don't know where she is... Ok.

EXT. BUSHLAND - DAY

Eve is all alone in the thick bush. She waves her arms and calls out.

EVE

TOM!

**END INTERCUT**

EXT. BUSH PATH - DAY

Tom runs back up the mountain, the squawk of cockatoos make him stop and look back... *did I hear her? ...*

EXT. BUSHLAND - DAY

Eve runs along the path at a cracking pace.

She stops to look around and becomes disorientated.

Unsure which path to take she runs off down the rocks and slips.

EVE

T-O-M!

EXT. GORDON FALLS LOOKOUT - DAY

WIDE of the vast mountain range below.

Tom is on his mobile as the light rapidly disappears against the Blue Mountains.

TOM

She's missing... I don't know...  
Katoomba end... No I've got her  
phone and her hearing aids... yeah  
she's deaf!... No she doesn't know  
anything about the bush... No I've  
got EVERYTHING... It's my fault.

EXT. BUSHLAND - DAY

Eve struggles to find her way back through the bush. She panics and drops her camera.

EVE

TOM!

She climbs up into a cave.

Unbeknownst to her the sound of helicopters are in the distance.

EXT. GORDON FALLS LOOKOUT - DUSK

Tom stares at the mountain range holding his mobile.

The sound of Police sirens and helicopter are getting louder. Tom turns around as if he sees or hears something.

EXT. ROCK FACE - DUSK

CLOSE on Eve as tears stream down her face... then SILENCE.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Tom is slumped in a chair staring into space clutching the WHISTLE.

A plain clothed DETECTIVE walks in with a COFFEE MUG, she slides the mug to Tom.

DETECTIVE

So Tom we found this.

Tom looks up. The Detective is holding Eve's camera.

The Detective sits in the chair opposite Tom and looks through the photos.

DETECTIVE (CONT'D)

Well, it looks like a nice day out.

The Detective looks to Tom.

TOM

It was.

She places the camera on the table between them. Tom looks to the Detective.

DETECTIVE

Tom, you said that this was your fault.

Tom looks at the detective suddenly aware of the situation he is in.

DETECTIVE (CONT'D)

So where is she?

CLOSE on TOM's face.

TOM

I don't know.

The detective takes one last look into Tom's eyes.

Tom swallows hard.

EXT. BUSH TRACK - DUSK

Eve stumbles along the bush track, moving deeper into the Blue Mountains.

EXT. BLUE MOUNTAINS - DUSK

The loud squawk of cockatoos is heard over a wide panoramic shot of the Blue Mountains National Park and then...

SILENCE.

SMASH TO BLACK