

AT ONE WITH NATURE  
Short Film screenplay  
Written by  
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AWG Script Registered No:#325626065

Logline:

A couple escaping city life, buy an idyllic rainforest cabin advertised as: "Even the crocodiles are tame".

1 EXT. ESCAPE COVID CAR SALES - DAY

A Car Sales Yard sign reads:

ESCAPE COVID CAR SALES

Opening credits begin:

AT ONE WITH NATURE

Written by C.B.Ritter

Play song: Title "City Girl"

SONG

Sittin' in the city with a city  
girl  
kind-a world  
feelin' like we're reelin' in this  
lit-tle world  
then... you... came...  
then... you... came...  
I... dreamin' I'm believing it's my  
don't know you,  
I pre-pare my-self to... smile

The yard has only one vehicle for sale:

A 1960s Kombi Van covered in Hippy Flower Power murals and...

"At one with nature" written on the side.

A "FOR SALE" sign rests on the dashboard.

A tall, slim Goth/Fetish SALESWOMAN dressed all in black with a white face mask slinks towards the Kombi.

She reaches inside, flipping the "FOR SALE" sign to "SOLD".

FADE OUT SONG:

Opening credits end.

2 EXT. MISTY RAINFOREST - SINGLE LANE ROAD - DAY

From above coming down:

As the mist clears we follow the Kombi driving along the single lane road.

CUT TO:

3 INT./EXT KOMBI/REAL ESTATE OFFICE - DAY

INSIDE VAN: An ecstatically happy, wildly attractive, 30s caucasian City Slicker MALE AND FEMALE COUPLE adorned in gold and diamond jewellery.

The Female is driving. She turns on the radio and they both sing along:

Play song: "Rock Eternity"

BOTH

Well I've been lay back  
 feelin' fine  
 workin' playin' by my design  
 lookin' for love if it comes my way  
 taken what life dictates I may  
 taken what life dictates I may yeah  
 Lady luck smiles you stand a chance  
 until then why don't you dance...  
 come on and dance...

FADE SONG:

They slow down as they approach the only building to be seen.

An idyllic old-style Real Estate Office.

She pulls over and turns the radio off.

4 EXT. REAL ESTATE OFFICE - DAY

Outside the Real Estate Office a sign on the footpath boasts:

"EVEN THE CROCODILES ARE TAME"

The Couple hop out and walk towards the building.

The large sales window has only one For Sale Listing:

An idyllic cabin nestled beside a river.

They stop in their tracks and simultaneously fist pump:

"Yes!"

They rush inside.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. REAL ESTATE OFFICE - DAY

The couple rush back outside dressed in "Hippy" gear and "Flowers in their hair" swinging a Key Chain.

They scurry back into the Kombi and drive off.

The unseen Salesperson's hand flips the "FOR SALE" Sign to "SOLD"

CUT TO:

6 EXT. RIVER JETTY - AFTERNOON

The happy Couple are laughing and enjoying their new-found lifestyle.

They are celebrating with a picnic banquet of treats and champagne, kissing and cuddling.

They test the water, dangling their feet into the murky water.

They splash and kick loudly spraying water over each other.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. DOWN RIVER - AFTERNOON

A CROCODILE laying on the muddy bank scurries into the water.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. RIVER JETTY - AFTERNOON

The Couple stand and take their clothes off.

Holding hands they jump in.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

Shafts of green tinged sunlight pierce the now clearer water.

SLOW MOTION

The Couple dive deeper beside the jetty's piles exploring.

They swim back under the jetty towards the bank and through lush green reeds gently swaying in the current.

REAL TIME

A FLASH IMAGE of a long dark creature swims across the screen behind them.

Unaware and innocent as children, they continue.

Suddenly, they come upon a one-metre-diameter circle of shiny razor-sharp barbed wire floating vertically resembling the "Jesus Crown of Thorns".

The Couple appear shocked for a moment, then once again indulge themselves in the wonder of their adventure and...

One-by-one swim through the mysterious gauntlet.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. RIVER JETTY - CONTINUOUS

SILENCE

Hold for 10 seconds on the empty jetty.

Then a gentle breeze slowly grows in intensity to a HOWLING WIND.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. UNDER RIVER JETTY - RIVER BANK - LATER

Calm returns as the Woman pops her head up beside the bank and slowly wipes her face, exhilarated!

The Man is nowhere to be seen.

Further down the bank, she notices a fat old CROCODILE slowly rise and meander towards her, like a tame puppy.

The Woman smiles, completely at peace with nature.

CLOSE UP:

The CROCODILE turns and comes nose to nose with the Woman.

Hold scene for 3 seconds:

She is completely bemused by the experience.

WOMAN

Oh my, aren't you...

In a flash the CROCODILE tilts its head and snaps at her face:

CRUNCH!

The Crocodile pulls back immediately nose to nose and remains motionless.

The Woman's face is crushed and bloody, she slurs her final word:

WOMAN (CONT'D)

(slur)

Beautiful...

Her head slams to the deck!

CUT TO:

12 INT. REAL ESTATE OFFICE - MORNING

The Real Estate Agent's arm, now wearing the couple's gold and diamond jewellery flips the Cabin's "SOLD" sign back to "FOR SALE".

CUT TO:

13 EXT/INT. TRAFFIC JAM/LIMO/CARSALES YARD - MORNING

We come down on a Stretch-Limo stuck in traffic.

Inside is a well-to-do AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS COUPLE fighting and stressed out. Their argument can barely be heard.

The DRIVER disengages from the argument and looks out the window at the Car Sales Yard.

The GOTH/FETISH SALESWOMAN is placing the "FOR SALE" Sign back inside the same old Kombi.

The PASSENGER in the Limo notices the other lost in thought, they both look out at the Kombi.

They smile and kiss, then rush out of the Limo!

SLAM TO

RED SCREEN

ROLL END CREDITS:

Play song: Title "Jenny"

SONG

Jenny told Betty... Sammy left town  
 not so long ago...  
 Jenny told Betty... he could be the  
 one...  
 don't be so certain you'll be  
 understood...  
 freedom... freedom...  
 freedom to say what you wanna  
 say... freedom... wooo... wooo...  
 Ja/ja Jenny... Jenny  
 Cathy can't cry cause she knows  
 what it's like...  
 Ja/ja Jimmy ain't nice... but he  
 holds her tight...  
 runnin' down your list... of bright  
 ideas  
 poor little precious, will you  
 never learn(walkin'on fire)...  
 (Bridge)  
 Sa/sa/Sammy saw the stars gettin'  
 caught in their eyes  
 Ca/ca china doll... snapdragon  
 taboo...  
 Jazzy just came along for the  
 ride...  
 Jo...don't you wanna know where  
 Sammy has gone...  
 Ja/ja ja/ja Jenny...  
 Ja/ja Jimmy ain't nice...but he  
 holds her tight...  
 runnin' down your list of bright  
 ideas  
 poor little precious will you never  
 learn (walkin'on fire)  
 runnin' down your list of bright  
 ideas  
 poor little precious will you never  
 learn (walkin'on fire)  
 runnin' down your list of bright  
 ideas  
 poor little precious will you never  
 learn (walkin'on fire)  
 runnin' down your list of bright  
 ideas  
 poor little precious, will you  
 never learn (walkin'on fire)  
 (never learn) walkin' on fire....

THE END.