

CAMERAMAN

Written by

Joseph Velazquez

FADE IN:

INT. TELEVISION PRODUCTION OFFICE - DAY

A poster for "Crickey, Crocodiles!" hangs on the wall, showing the show's host, who we will know as JIMMY "COOL" WALLER, 40's, on open water behind a boat using two CROCODILES as water ski's, shocked yet delighted to have just noticed the rope he's holding onto is actually a SNAKE.

WALLER (O.C.)

Love your last show, love your camera work mate, love it. Love your last name.

JASON RODGER, early 30's, city kid whose idea of playing outside was skateboarding, sits uncomfortably across from Waller, the human embodiment of a toddler's ear-to-ear smile of joy. Waller leans in and suggestively pumps his fist.

WALLER (CONT'D)

Rodger. Literally means "to fuck."
Your name's a verb, mate.

JASON

Everyone calls me Jason.

WALLER

Rodger. Epic mate, epic. Can't wait to say it everyday when you're on the compound.

JASON

I got the job?

WALLER

Too-fucking-right you got the job!

Jason is visibly relieved, but becomes hesitant.

JASON

But . . . my visa expired.

WALLER

Consider it sorted.

JASON

You, um, you are aware I've never done a -uh, -uh-

He scans the office's framed photos of Waller with animal after animal.

JASON (CONT'D)
-a nature show before, right?

WALLER
You're perfect! I need an action
camera man, you need a job.

SPLIT SCREEN - FLASHBACK

5 people in 5 different Australian film sets fire Jason
simultaneously.

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICE - DAY

JASON
I am a little concerned-,
interested in the animals. The
snakes, and crocodiles, and like,
y'know the deadly animals - what if
they try to bite me?

WALLER
They'll definitely try to bite you.

Jason waits for Waller to indicate it's a joke. He doesn't.

WALLER (CONT'D)
But they only strike out of fear-

RACHEL HAWKINS, late 20's, silver-spooned new age nature-
loving optimist, pokes her head in through the door.

RACHEL
Waller?

Jason's smiles suavely at her. Rachel quickly dismisses him.
She strolls in carrying a SNAKE.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Take a look at Mickey's tongue-

Jason YELLS and jumps onto his chair when he sees it.

WALLER
Rodger!

RACHEL
What the hell is wrong with you?

Jason tries to back up his chair while squatting on it, but
falls over. The CRASH makes Waller stand up and the snake
HISS and spring out of Rachel's arms.

JASON

Ah! Ah!

Jason scurries away as the snakes shimmies towards him. He hits the wall and covers himself in the fetal position and shuts his eyes, waiting for the strike.

None comes.

He slowly opens his eyes. Rachel stands over him holding the snake.

RACHEL

What the hell is wrong with you!?

JASON

A snake like that killed my kid.

Rachel and Waller GASP.

JASON (CONT'D)

Kid- Billygoat. A snake like that killed my goat.

WALLER

In Los Angeles?

Jason tearfully nods.

JASON

He was a movie goat. Hollywood Billy. Oh, poor Billy.

RACHEL

He's a fuckwit.

WALLER

No Rachel. He's the missing ingredient our show has been waiting for.

He extends his hand to Jason to lift him up.

WALLER (CONT'D)

Right, Rodger?

Jason looks up at Waller, proud, Rachel, skeptical, and Mickey, slithering his tongue in and out of his terrifying snake mouth.

Jason extends his own hand up to meet Waller's.

TITLE: CAMERAMAN