

JEMMA CRAIG

# QUETTA BROWN

WHO AM I?



A STORY OF LOSS AND BELONGING FROM ONE  
OF THE WORST MARITIME DISASTERS IN  
AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

# FORMAT

5 Minute Hybrid Documentary

# LOGLINE

A story of loss and belonging from one of the worst maritime disasters in Australian History.

# SYNOPSIS

On a moonlit night in 1910, Quetta Brown sits in her living room, haunted by her past, the press, and her lost identity. The ocean has called to her since the night the RMS Quetta sunk off the coast of Far Northern Queensland on February 28th, 1890, taking her family, her home, and her name with it.

As the only child survivor of what was considered one of the worst maritime disasters in Australian history, young Quetta Brown was orphaned, and too young to remember who she was and where she came from.

Now, 20 years later, she sits in her living room and reads an article about the incident. We hear the voices of press, reporting on the story. Publicly named after the ship that stole her true identity, Quetta has been hounded all her life about the events of that night. As her story plays out, we begin to see her state of madness as her rooms transforms into a sinking ship. Quetta Brown is never allowed to forget about the past she just can't remember. We are introduced to Quetta's alter ego in the form of the underwater ghost of her true identity, forever trapped under the waves.

# VISUAL STYLE

Quetta's story will be told through highly stylistic and surreal visuals, with a combination of studio and set design, projection, building sound design/music, ghostly underwater visuals, archival images and animation. This form of visual storytelling will be used to represent the assumed state of anxiety and frustration that Quetta Brown may have felt about never being able to satisfy the burning questions of who she was, and to show her stolen agency within her own story.

Although this is a fictionalised recreation of events, it will highlight an interesting character within a very real and tragic true story. This might help bridge the time separation between when these incidents occurred and the audience connecting to the story.

# THEMES

This story highlights an incident in Australian history that saw a devastating loss of life at the time, and Quetta Brown's tale represents a disconnection between self and place. It shows the unwavering and destructive force of nature as an immediate threat to what we know as society.

Quetta Brown would have spent her life haunted by a past she had no memory of. No matter how hard she tried, she could never find out who she was or where she came from. This is a unique story, but represents a humans need for place and belonging in the world. This film is will be an exploration into belonging and a stolen identity, told through the life of a young woman of Australia's very real history - Quetta Brown.