

Film Treatment: The Private Diary of Egan (Bush) Tucker

Genre: Drama / Coming-of-Age / Thriller

Setting: 2016, Coromandel bush and urban Auckland, New Zealand

Logline:

He has endured many things in his fifteen years of living in the remote bush, trying to find his mother and guided by a moral code, Egan and his faithful companion, Crackerjack, are about to face their biggest challenge yet... The city.

Overview:

Now 15, Egan Tucker raised in secrecy and isolation by his mother. They fled the city when Egan was a baby from his father had violently abused them. Their happiness and solitude interrupted first by the sudden appearance of hunter JT who saves Egan from a rampaging bush pig. The man and the teenager clearly have an affinity for the bush and an unlikely friendship forms. Egan progressively reveals the ethical codes his mother (Moma) has instilled in him, and JT clearly is fascinated.

When Moma goes missing on a routine trip for supplies, Egan and his trusty dog Jack are forced to go in search of her. With his powers of observation his findings lead Egan and Jack to the city. A world which neither has ever experienced. Whilst he does have his essential survival skills from the bush, the hustle and unethical nature of the streets sees Egan lost in a robbed of his possessions by a gang of street-kids led by the swaggering Reggie.

The tables are turned when Reggie is in turn set upon by a rival street-gang, Egan becomes her rescuer and proves himself very handy in a fight, and in doing so wins the respect of Reggie. Although Reggie tries to help Egan find Moma, she also sees value in the reward on offer to find the missing child.

Reggie secretly arranges a meeting with Raymond and a surprised Egan. At first Egan is happily reunited with his long-lost Father and moves in with him and his new partner. As it becomes clear that Moma's fears of Ray as a disturbed and violent man are indeed true. His life is forever changed when Egan is informed by the police that his Moma has died. The situation

with his father deteriorates even further out of control and in a rage, Raymond drunkenly shoots Egan with his own treasured crossbow.

Egan's life is lost, but his profound effect on each of the people he meets, allows them to live a life full and rewarding. The mantel to uphold a life lived through the code is transferred to all the people who have been touched by Egan's authenticity and empathy.

Inciting Incident:

Everything changes when Moma goes to town for supplies and does not return. Days stretch without word, and Egan – his mind races, what could have happened, where could she be, his mind turn to the worst-case scenario, Moma has been arrested. Egan's only choice, venture into Auckland.

The City:

Auckland is a brutal jungle of concrete and noise. Egan's bush skills help him survive on the streets, but he quickly realizes that the rules of the forest do not apply here. When he is robbed by a street gang led by **Reggie**, Egan's life seems doomed to spiral. However, after he defends Reggie from a violent attack, an unlikely friendship form. Reggie and her crew – Junior, Mohawk, and Allan – become his guides through this new, perilous world.

Turning Point:

The fragile trust breaks when Reggie betrays Egan, calling **Raymond**, the violent man from whom Moma once fled – Egan's biological father. Egan is dragged into a new life with Raymond and his fiancé, Lauren. Though initially hopeful, Egan soon confronts Raymond's dark side. Raymond's jealousy and alcoholism unravel his family, culminating in a violent attack on Lauren, who flees. Raymond's rage turns on Egan.

Climax:

The final confrontation is a brutal chase through unfamiliar bushland, as Raymond pursues Egan with a crossbow. Egan climbs desperately into the trees with Jack and J.T. close behind. J.T. intervenes just as Raymond prepares to shoot, but the moment spirals tragically out of control.

Resolution:

In a courtroom filled with media and the fractured community Egan touched, J.T. faces judgment. Egan is dead, but his kindness, courage, and the code instilled by his mother have left an indelible mark. His story becomes a powerful testament to survival, love, and the fight to protect the vulnerable.

Themes:

- **Isolation vs. Connection:** Egan's journey from silence and seclusion into the chaotic, often cruel world outside.
- **Survival and Morality:** The physical and emotional codes that define human resilience and kindness.
- **Cycle of Violence:** The legacy of trauma, addiction, and abuse – and the struggle to break free.
- **Hope and Loss:** Finding light amid darkness, and the cost of fighting for family and identity.

Visual Tone:

The film contrasts the serene, almost sacred atmosphere of the Coromandel bush – lush greens, golden light filtering through ancient trees – with the harsh, grey urban sprawl of Auckland's streets and alleys. The wilderness scenes evoke a timeless, primal world, while the city sequences pulse with gritty realism and tension.

Character Arc:

- **Egan Tucker:** From sheltered boy to a brave young man who learns to speak, fight, and love beyond his fears.
- **Moana (Moma):** A protector haunted by her past, whose love forms the foundation of Egan's code.
- **J.T.:** The steady, compassionate adult who offers guidance without judgment.
- **Raymond:** A man battling inner demons, whose violence ultimately destroys the fragile family he tries to control.
- **Reggie:** A street-smart survivor whose betrayal and friendship complicate Egan's quest.