

MAROONED

Scene 1: house

Front of house one car arrives (Volvo) with baroque music playing, then second car arrives (Espace) with upbeat cool upbeat music playing

Scene 2 girls sitting in garden in awkward silence mother voice off

Mother: Meg, where are you Meg, Aha there you are, Meg you and your little cousins must be quite bored of this reunion party, why do you not take the little girls canoeing down the river to the estuary ? You could show them the magnificent New Zealand countryside, and I could give you a real kiwi Picnic. Don't forget to come back after 6:00... *(Calls off)* What, yes, coming just getting the wine. See you duckling!!

Ninette: *(Snickers)* Duckling!! Oh yaye we are to have a kiwi boating treep, wiz a kiwi girl, and a kiwi pique nique. What is a kiwi Pique nique anyway? Fruits, nuts, and insectseu?

Meg: What's a French picnic, hum? Frogs and snails

Agnes: Will you to stop insulting your cultural differences. We are meant to be enlightened people, not squabbling ignoramuses, like what you to are behaving like. You two are...

Meg and Ninette: *(interrupting)* Shut up/ La ferme

Scene 3: Beach with canoe Meg doing 100% of the work, while Agnes inspects a plant with a magnifying glass, and Ninette is filing her nails.

Meg: *(Muttering:Pomes and frogs.....useless)*

Ninette: *(she has overheard)*, at least we have SOME idea of fashion. I mean look at that *(fingers Megs T shirt)*, C'est Tragique, SOOO last year Cherie.

Agnes: *(who has not heard the exchange turns around holding a plant and magnifying glass)* Oh what a wealth of flora and fauna, I never knew that the lesser hairy cowslip had HAIRY stems!!

Meg/Ninette: Shut up/ La ferme

Meg: *(false French accent)* your royal barge is ready frog *(and hands her a life jacket)*

Ninette: I am not wearing that disgusting piece of rubber I can swim well enough, come on roast beef, say goodbye to you little hairy plant

Agnes takes the life jacket gratefully

Scene 4: canoe on water

Agnes: I say, Ninette, how come whenever I try to converse you shout farmhouse?

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Ninette: How sad, you anglais, your French is pathetic I was using colloquial. The translation is SHUT UP. Not farmhouse.

Agnes: But I have...

Meg: watch what you're doing with that paddle, your wetting me

Ninette: Cheri, you get these Chanel jeans wet you pay the bill

Meg is showing Agnes what to do with the paddle and she hands it back to Agnes who promptly drops it the splash wets Ninette who turns around and stands up shouting meanwhile Agnes is leaning out to reach the paddle and she almost falls out Meg jumps forwards and misses Agnes who goes into the water while holding on the boat Ninette loses her balance and grabs hold of Meg who also loses her balance and they both fall in. Yells, shouts.

Scene 5: in water swimming

Spluttering, Shouting, Agnes is lying on her back panicking she cannot swim

Agnes: *(repeating faster and faster)* I'm going to die, I'm going to die, I'm going to die

Meg: *(swimming badly in life jacket)* Can't you swim?

Agnes: *(Close to tears)*. Not really

Meg: you egg you made us all fall in

Agnes: I did not, Ninette did

Ninette: *(comes up through the water wearing goggles)* Oh dear what is the matter wiz her? Don't tell me.... she cannot swim. What is that?

Shot of shark fin coming through the water

Agnes wails despairingly

Agnes: *(wails)* Sharks! We're going to die *(she doe thrashing swimming movements with her arms and splashes them all)*

Ninette: But I thought there were no sharks in New Zealand. Shut up cry baby! Meg what shall we do *(she grabs a life jacket that is floating by and wrestles it on)*

Meg: The current is taking us out, we cannot swim against it! And we've got sharks after us! *(Shot of 2 shark fins coming towards them)*. All we can do is head to Kerim Island, over there.

Ninette: *(she collars Agnes and swims slowly off)* I hope you can make it come; speed or the sharks will get you

Meg: *(puffing)* you mean hurry

Scene 6: Shot of Saddle Island

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Scene 7: beach girls crawling up it Ninette still dragging Agnes

Ninette: *(lying on her back groans)* Oullie! Aye! We made it!

Agnes as soon as she is on dry land she runs through the shallows up the beach and straight to a tree which she hugs and kisses)

Agnes: Land, Dry land, I will never leave you ever again *(kisses tree again turns around and sinks slowly to the floor).*

All three girls stand up and look out to sea

Agnes: We're marooned. Just like in Robinson Crusoe

Ninette: *(yawns)* Ees maroon a sort of colour?

Meg: *(kindly)* you need to read the dictionary frog

Scene 8: Beach a few hours later

Meg: what are we going to do for shelter? It's going to go dark soon.

Agnes: In the book I was reading on the plane the hero is a man in the same predicament as us

Ninette: Predicament? Translation please

Agnes: situation! As I was saying before being so rudely interrupted, he said that the first thing one must do is to make a shelter.

Meg: How?

Agnes: *(swelling with pride)* Well if you follow my instructions...

Meg: alright

Ninette: perhaps

Agnes: well first we need some sticks, some ferns, from the tree fern, for the roof and see if you can find something we could use as string

Girls get up and go there different ways Agnes goes to pick up a stick and says

Agnes: North is where the sun is, so 5 degrees to the left... *(She scratches the floor with her stick.)* 4 feet wide, and so it would be about 4 feet high so here and here *(Scratches floor with stick)*

Ninette: Oyo Agnes I found this liana if you pull the bark off it does good string

Meg: got the ferns control freak. Hey frog, help me with the sticks

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Scene 9: Inside hut

Ninette: I told you we should have put more leafs on the roof; it was dripping on me all night

Meg: Quit complaining frog at least you did not have your feet outside all night

Agnes: first I've been drowned, then I've attacked by sharks, then I've been dragged through enough sand to cover the empire state building , then I've been stuffed into a leaky habitation with two great snoring oafs.

Meg: stop being a wining pom, I let you sleep in the driest place in the hut because you had the idea of the hut in the first place, and what do I get for my kindness a wining pom.

Ninette: oh stop complaining you two. What are we going to do for petit dejeune? I keep thinking of chocolate chaud

Agnes: Robinson Crusoe used a nail as a fish hook and threads from his shirt for a line

Meg: But we do not have any nails or hooks

Ninette: I could lend you my wire Dior bracelet, handmade in Africa. But only because I'm hungry.

(She starts to unwind her bracelets)

Scene 10: Beach

Meg pulls laces out of trainers and ties them together; Ninette is bending her bracelet into an artistic shaped fishhook. And Agnes is searching for a nice fishing rock.

Scene 11 Beach in front of hut

Ninette is watching Meg and Agnes discuss how they should cook the fish that they have caught

Agnes: I think that it should be boiled.

Meg: how we do not have a pan?

Ninette stands up grandly and spreads out her arms in a dismissive gesture

Ninette: Stand aside amateurs. Let the French do the cooking. I give you poisson rotit aux *(Pauses to think)* algues.

Meg: *(Whispers to Agnes)* What did she say

Agnes: I think she said: roast fish with seaweed

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Meg: Seaweed?!

While the Meg and Agnes are talking Ninette is trying to embed two sticks Meg takes over and plants them

Meg: the French might be able to do wonders with seaweed but they cannot set up a Barbie for the life of them.

While Meg and Ninette are cooking the fish Agnes wanders off to the edge of the beach she sees a bag floating slightly out from the beach she wades in and gets it. Meg notices what she is doing and shouts to her

Meg: What are you doing Agnes?

Agnes opens the bag and gives a shout of delight

Agnes: Halleluia! look it's our picnic bags from yesterday it must have floated with the tide

Ninette: (shouts) bring it here

Agnes runs up to the girls with the bag Ninette takes a look at the contents

Ninette: well we have fish for dinner, and it seems that the ice blocks kept everything cold; we will keep the picnic for dinner and tomorrow

Agnes: you know what I'm glad you packed cutlery and plates and condiments Meg

Ninette gets on her knees and pulls out a fag lighter she starts trying to light a fire with it. Agnes and Meg look disgusted

Ninette: What are you staring at, I don't smoke. It is a present for my papa, he smokes

Scene 12: Going to bed in hut

Agnes: I'm glad you wrapped our picnic blankets in a plastic bin bag, Meg

Ninette: I did not think that they would float

Meg: Ah well us kiwis think of everything

Silence. They snuggle under the blankets. Panning shot of Ninette lying on her side. We see a moving smudge on her arm Zoom in and we see a giant weta crawling up her arm. Loud scream

Ninette: A l'aide A l'aide Maman une bête enleve la enleve la (repeats 3 times)

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Meg: (*looking at insect on floor and says in false terrified voice*). Oh watch it every one! It's that bug with a lethal bite! Don't go near it, it is the most dangerous insect on earth

Agnes: No it isn't! The Giant Weta is a rare, protected, and **harmless** member of the arthropod genus. This one is an egg bearing female, this can be seen by her swollen abdomen

Ninette: I do not want to examine that swollen creature, Get it out

Meg: Well protected or not it is still getting moved out of my bed

Ninette: are there any more, I hope not (*Shivers*)

Meg: (*She has overheard*). You should better watch out Wetas hunt in large numbers

Ninette: Berk

Agnes: Of course they don't giant Wetas are solitary animals who only get together to mate

Meg: I really needed to know that

Scene 13 Beach looking for PIPs

3 girls walking towards beach

Meg: lets collect some pipis for lunch

Ninette: is this some kind of joke?

Meg: I don't see what is funny about some squidgy creatures in shells

Ninette: Ohhh I thought... never mind

Agnes: you have a disgusting mind

Scene 14

Ninette: (*Sunbathing*) Personally I prefer scallops to those mouthfuls of car tire

Meg: oh Ninette stop complaining (*Semi affectionately*)

Agnes: (*muttering while swatting flies*) Horrid flies! What's that dot out there, out to sea, I cannot see it, I don't have my glasses

Ninette runs down to the edge of the water

Meg: perhaps if it came closer- It must be a boat

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Agnes: not a shark?

Meg: not that big

Ninette: (*Shouts incomprehensibly*) it's papa's dinghy! He's here! We're saved!

Meg and Agnes cannot understand Ninette

Meg (*Shouts*) What?

Ninette shouts it all again

Meg: what IS she screaming about? Papasdingy?

Agnes: no she said Papa's dinghy! What's a dinghy?

Meg gets up and shouts: It's Ninette's dad

Shot of huge private yacht sailing yacht

Meg: That's not a dinghy! It's HUGE!

Scene 15: Bedroom girls are sitting on the bed

Meg: I thought your dad was some chappie who made clothes

Ninette : that's my mother, my father makes films

Agnes: You? Know what

Ninette/Meg: What?

Agnes : I have not had the same amount of attention since I broke my leg last year

Meg : we should do it again

Ninette groans comically and falls onto bed. All laugh