

SMUGGLER'S COVE

by
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BLOW HOLE BAY - BOOK NO. 2 "SMUGGLER'S COVE"

EXT. BLOW HOLE BAY BEACH. NIGHT

A SHOOTING STAR darts across the night sky. MUNGA PETE sweeps the night sky with his BINOCULARS. LITTLE NIPPER gazes up at the vista of twinkling stars while ALBERT plots them on a graph.

LITTLE NIPPER
Shooting star!

MUNGA PETE
Where?

ALBERT
Off Orion's belt.

MUNGA PETE
Point man!

LITTLE NIPPER
And another!

ALBERT
In the Carina Nebula

Munga Pete swings the binoculars in the direction Albert is pointing. Munga's POV of a spectacular explosion.

MUNGA PETE
Wow! You should see what it looks
like through these babies.

LITTLE NIPPER
That's no shooting star. That's a
flare. Someone's in trouble!

Munga Pete jumps behind the wheel of his 4WD

MUNGA PETE
Get in.

Albert and Little Nipper scramble in after Munga Pete and they set off down the rocky headland as the flare drifts to the ground.

INT. INTERIOR. 4WD. NIGHT

Munga Pete, Little Nipper and Albert are tossed violently around the cabin.

LITTLE NIPPER
Why don't we take the road?

MUNGA PETE
No, the satellite guidance system
has plotted the most direct
route.

ALBERT
But that would be over the...

EXT. HEADLAND. NIGHT

The 4WD comes to rest balancing precariously on the edge of a cliff. Munga Pete, Albert and Little Nipper scramble out. The 4WD tips over the edge and crashes on the rocks below.

MUNGA PETE
Damn!

LITTLE NIPPER
Over there! What's that?

Torchlight blinks on and off. The three duck down behind a sand dune and begin to talk in twee English accents (aka Famous Five)

ALBERT
Jesus' Sneakers! Are you thinking
what I'm thinking?

LITTLE NIPPER
You don't mean?

MUNGA PETE
What? What?

LITTLE NIPPER & ALBERT
Smugglers!

A speedboat roars to life. Munga Pete, Albert and Little Nipper scramble down the sand dune to get a better look but it disappears around the rocky headland.

LITTLE NIPPER
Too late!

ALBERT
I found something.

Munga Pete and Little Nipper run over to where Albert is standing. The shoreline is littered with bottles.

MUNGA PETE
"Contraband!"

Little Nipper reads the label on the bottle.

LITTLE NIPPER
No, shampoo.

MUNGA PETE
What?

ALBERT
Smells like green apples.

LITTLE NIPPER
Who would go to all this trouble
for shampoo?

EXT. BLOW HOLE BAY. MAIN STREET. DAY

GIRLS in bikinis throw BOTTLES of Shampoo from the back of a truck. PEOPLE scramble for a freebie. The truck pulls up outside the TOWN HALL. The MAYOR stands by a podium on the Town Hall steps.

MAJOR SWINEBURN
I'd like to be the first to
welcome Lexy Mentos, celebrity
hairstylist to Blow Hole Bay.

The crowd applauds politely. LEXY MENTOS takes the podium. He pauses for dramatic effect between every pronouncement.

LEXY
Your hair...is my life.

The crowd doesn't respond.

LEXY
After scouring the globe for the
perfect location and tax haven,
for my hairstyling academy I
have finally settled on
Blow...Hole...Bay.

A couple of people clap halfheartedly. The Mayor stumbles forward to the microphone to press home the point and makes the declaration.

MAYOR
HAIR is Blow Hole Bay's future.

The crowd applauds wildly. Cut to a MONTAGE of very similar pronouncements made by Major Swineburn over the years.

MAYOR SWINEBURN
Waterlogged World is Blow Hole
Bay's future...Ostriches are Blow
Hole Bay's future...Gambling is
Blow Hole Bay's future...Prison
farms are Blow Hole Bay's future.

LATER THAT DAY

The crowd and hoopla have dispersed. Little Nipper, Albert and Munga Pete wander through the debris. It starts to rain.

MUNGA PETE
I suppose that solves the mystery
of the shampoo smugglers.

LITTLE NIPPER
Hey, want to spot road kill out
on the interstate?

The Pataka people mover pulls up.

ALBERT
Sorry guys, I got this family
reunion thing.

Albert is wrenched inside the van.

LITTLE NIPPER
How about a surf, Munga?

MUNGA PETE
Beach 'closed. Cyclone
conditions. Catch 'ya.

Munga trots off with surfboard in tow.

MONTAGE LONELY LITTLE NIPPER

EXT. LITTLE NIPPER'S HOME. RAINY DAY

RUTHIE NIPPER shoos Little Nipper out the front door and turns a sign over in the window, "SSHH! Shift worker asleep".

EXT. TOWN HALL. RAINY DAY

LIEUTENANT GILLETTE and CONSTABLE KIBBLE move on little Nipper from the front steps of the Town Hall.

EXT. SURF CLUB. RAINY DAY

Little Nipper walks in rain past the SURF CLUB (closed due to renovations). The wind has ripped off its roof.

EXT. BLOW HOLE BAY MAIN STREET. RAINY DAY

Little Nipper turns the corner of a boarded up shop front. He hears a strangled cry.

Little Nipper's POV down an alleyway where he sees Lexy Mentos sprawled on the ground with TWO THUGS standing over them. Little Nipper blows hard on his lifesaver's whistle. The thugs scatter.

LITTLE NIPPER
Mr. Mentos - Are you all right?

LEXY
Where's my, my...

He clutches at the top of his head and spins his toupee to the front. Little Nipper doesn't seem to notice.

LEXY
What's your name, boy?

LITTLE NIPPER
Little Nipper.

LEXY
You saved my life.

LITTLE NIPPER
It's what I do. I'm a junior lifesaver

LEXY
How much does that pay?

LITTLE NIPPER
Oh it doesn't. It's volunteer.

LEXY
In that case, I'll double it!

LITTLE NIPPER
What?

LEXY
From now on, Little Nipper, you work for me.

LITTLE NIPPER
Wow, like a job?

LEXY
More like a family.

EXT. OCEAN - CYCLONIC CONDITIONS. DAY

MUNGA PETE
You call this a storm! This is
nothing! Bring it on you
mother...

A bolt of lightening strikes Munga Pete and snaps his surfboard in half. He disappears under the surface.

EXT. OCEAN BOTTOM. DAY

Munga Pete sinks like a stone to the bottom of the ocean.

A shadowy feminine figure emerges from behind a screen of seaweed. A pair of doe like eyes fringed with long lashes blinks at Munga Pete. The figure glides forward.

Munga Pete opens his eyes momentarily and glimpses a pair of seductive eyes.

FADE to Black

EXT. BEACH. DAY

Munga Pete comes-to on a makeshift raft made from his broken surfboard bound by a couple of lengths of seaweed.

MUNGA PETE
Where am I?

SEA COW bobs to the surface

MUNGA PETE
Ahhhggg!

A frightened Sea Cow dives under the surface.

MUNGA PETE
No, no. Come back!

Munga swings around, trying to catch a glimpse of Sea Cow. Sea Cow head bobs up a little way off.

MUNGA PETE
You saved me.

SEA COW nods.

MUNGA PETE
You can understand me?

SEA COW nods again but grins vacantly at Munga Pete.

There is a roar of a motorboat. Sea Cow, suddenly dives and disappears under the water.

MUNGA PETE

But I don't even know your name!

ROY SAVAGE drunk at the wheel of his motorboat throws a beer tin to one side.

ROY SAVAGE

Get outta' the road! Bloody Sea cow!

MUNGA PETE

Sea Cow...Sea Cow...Will I ever see you again?

INT. LEXY'S MANSION. DAY

Lexy, dressed in silk pyjamas, is seated at his enormous desk going through his mail. A squeegee wipes the soapy window behind Lexy and reveals Little Nipper outside with bucket. Little Nipper runs the squeegee over the glass again to reveal a panoramic view of the ocean. The sound of the squeegee on the glass is unbearable. Lexy can't focus on what he is doing and gestures to Little Nipper to come inside. Little Nipper steps into the room.

LEXY

Little Nipper, I want you to take this parcel over to Tony. Tell him - IT'S OVER.

LITTLE NIPPER

It's over. Okay.

LEXY

And, Little Nipper?

LITTLE NIPPER

Yes?

Lexy pinches Little Nipper's cheek and then slaps it. Little Nipper reels back.

LEXY

You know, kid? You're all right.

Little Nipper backs out of the room holding his smarting cheek.

INT. CONTINENTAL BARBER SHOP. DAY

Little Nipper hands TONY, the local Italian barber, a box. Tony opens it and pulls out a doll's head.

Its hair has been shorn off. Tony covers his mouth to gag an involuntary scream.

EXT. CONTINENTAL BARBER SHOP. DAY

Tony puts up a closed sign and scurries away.

MONTAGE SEQUENCE

EXT. CONTINENTAL BARBER SHOP. DAY

The barber shop has a 'FOR SALE' sign in the front window.

INT. FISH MARKETS. DAY

STALLKEEPERS hand over crates of FISH to Lexy which Little Nipper collects.

INT. GROCERY STORE. DAY

Little Nipper delivers boxes of shampoo while Lexy is paid handsomely by a nervous looking clerk.

EXT. LUXURY CRUISER. DAY

The flag flaps in the breeze from the mast of a luxury cruiser, its unusual skull and cross-bones design features hair rollers, scissors and comb.

Little Nipper blows out birthday candles on a cake and then poses for a photo with Lexy. In the background Lexy's bodyguard push a man, bound and gagged, overboard.

INT. LITTLE NIPPER'S HOME. DAY

Little Nipper struts through the kitchen on his way out the back door. FRANK NIPPER puts down his TV guide and Ruthie Nipper jumps up from the kitchen table to greet him. Little Nipper has traded his shorts and suntan for a leather jacket and slicked back hairstyle.

RUTHIE NIPPER
How about some breakfast?

LITTLE NIPPER
Thanks, but I gotta go. Time
waits for no man.

RUTHIE NIPPER
I don't want you spending so much
time with that man. Frank, say
something.

FRANK
Your mother's right.

LITTLE NIPPER
But why?

RUTHIE NIPPER
He's a foreigner. He throws a lot
of money around. And there's talk
that he's not 100% legit.

LITTLE NIPPER
He pays better than the paper
round and I get heaps of free
stuff.

Little Nipper empties his pockets of luxury items

RUTHIE NIPPER
This is what I mean. I don't
trust him.

LITTLE NIPPER
Well he's my friend and he thinks
I've got potential.

RUTHIE NIPPER
What?

LITTLE NIPPER
Potential!

RUTHIE NIPPER
Don't be ridiculous. I forbid you
to see this man again.

LITTLE NIPPER
You can't stop me!

RUTHIE NIPPER
Frank!

But it's too late Little Nipper storms out of the house.
Frank Nipper manages to mumble after his departing son.

FRANK NIPPER
I think you've got (beat)
potential.

INT. WAREHOUSE. DAY

Lexy Mentos lectures Little Nipper as they weave their way through assorted merchandise like meat carcasses suspended on hooks, boxes of electrical goods and racks of fur coats.

LEXY MENTOS
You're my boy now, Little Nipper.
I don't want you hangin' round
with those bums at the Surf Club

LITTLE NIPPER
But they're my friends.

LEXY MENTOS
You don't need friends. I told
you, you have family now.

LITTLE NIPPER
Like you're my Dad?

LEXY MENTOS
Yeh, and you like a son to me.
Now get lost.

Little Nipper walks past a line of TEENAGE GIRLS cutting the hair of reluctant VOLUNTEERS, bound to chairs.

ROSEMARY GUNNER, collapses of exhaustion. Little Nipper rushes to her aid and tries to revive her with the kiss of life.

ROSEMARY
Yuck! You stuck your tongue in!

Rosemary begins to lose consciousness again.

LITTLE NIPPER
We got to get you some air.

ROSEMARY
But it's not my break.

Little Nipper helps her outside.

EXT. WAREHOUSE. DAY

Little Nipper and Rosemary stumble outside. Rosemary squints up at the bright sunshine.

ROSEMARY
That's better.

LITTLE NIPPER
You should rest.

ROSEMARY
An apprentice never rests.

LITTLE NIPPER
Why do you want to be an
apprentice?

ROSEMARY
Hairdressing's my ticket outta
this deadbeat town. Even if it is
through Mr. Dodgy.

LITTLE NIPPER
What do you mean?

ROSEMARY
You don't reckon he made his
money outta shampoo, do you?

LITTLE NIPPER
I'm not listening. La,la,la,la...

ROSEMARY
And you-want to know something
else? The guy wears a rug.

LITTLE NIPPER (GETTING LOUDER)
...la, la, la, la.

ROSEMARY
Bald as a cue ball!

LITTLE NIPPER
No!!!!!!!

EXT. SURF CLUB. DAY

Munga Pete climbs the stairs and walks past some rundown
offices.

INT. SURF CLUB. OFFICE. DAY

Munga Pete opens the door on a room covered in protest
posters, the environmentalist's war room. SYLVIA LE PLAGE
is on the phone.

SYLVIA
We're betting on a big turn out
for the rally.

MUNGA PETE
Wow, you're really got the office
looking sharp.

Sylvia slams down the phone and questions Munga sharply.

SYLVIA
What do you want, Munga?

MUNGA PETE
I'm wanting to get in touch with
her.

Munga Pete points to a poster on the wall of Sea Cow with
the heading "Save the Dugong".

SYLVIA
Nature's not a petting zoo

MUNGA PETE
What? No, you got me all wrong!

SYLVIA
I'm sorry. (sigh) It's just that
a lot of people seem to think
that wildlife are cuddly toys.

MUNGA PETE
That's really sick.

SYLVIA
I know. Look you could try a bay
tour but if you ask me that's
just exploiting the poor beast.

MUNGA PETE
That's great. Thanks.

Before Sylvia can elaborate, Munga grabs a brochure and
rushes out.

EXT. POOLSIDE COCKTAIL PARTY/CARPARK. NIGHT

The party is in full swing. Small town SOCIALITES are conga
dancing, getting drunk, swimming nude. The Mayor and
Mayoress Swineburn are chatting with Lexy.

LEXY
It's coming to me, sierra tint,
autumn highlights and, and, and a
corkscrew perm.

MAYORESS (PATS HAIR)
You think so?

Lexy motions scissor action with hands.

LEXY
Beauties are shorn not born
Mayoress.

MAYORESS

Oh Mr. Mentos, you are such an inspiration.

An obviously drunk MAYOR stumbles away after a departing drinks waiter.

MAYOR

Hey waiter!

MAYORESS

I'd love to see the new facility.

LEXY

Ah, Mayoress,...

The Mayoress presses her point and leans into Lexy, exposing her generous cleavage.

MAYORESS

You know your secret is safe with me?

LEXY (ALARMED)

What?

MAYORESS

The secret formula of your shampoos. You know I've always been fascinated by chemistry?

LEXY

Really? Maybe I could arrange a tour one day.

MAYORESS

What about right now, tonight?

LEXY

But my guests.

MAYORESS

Screw them. We'll only be a jiffy. You know, I'm a very influential woman Lexy, very in-flu-in-shall.

Mayoress Swineburn tosses her car keys into the air and ambles off in the direction of the car park.

MAYORESS

I'll be waiting.

Little Nipper approaches Lexy.

LITTLE NIPPER

Mr. Mentos, can we talk?

LEXY MENTOS
Not now Little Nipper. I've got
some important business to attend
to at the laboratory.

LITTLE NIPPER
But it's important.

LEXY (WEARY)
What is it?

LITTLE NIPPER
They're all these rumours around
town.

LEXY
What sort of rumours?

LITTLE NIPPER
Oh about how you made all your
money. Not being legal and stuff.

LEXY
Mother of God! Who? Who is saying
these things!?

LITTLE NIPPER
I promised I wouldn't say.

LEXY
You don't have to. It's the same
everywhere I go. Look around you,
Little Nipper. What do you see?

LITTLE NIPPER
Mr. Gosper throwing up. A lady
dancing with her dress over her
head...

LEXY
Vultures. Hangers on. Wannabees.
None of these people are my
friends. But I need them to do
business. And how do they repay
me. By going behind my back,
trying to poison my reputation...

Little Nipper nods appreciatively but is distracted by
Lexy's swivelling hairline (Toupee?)

LEXY
What? What are you looking at?

Lexy clutches his head.

LITTLE NIPPER
Nothing. I believe you, Mr.
Mentos. I was just thinking.

A car horn blasts off screen. Lexy shudders.

LEXY
I gotta go. You can finish up.

A burst of raucous male laughter turns Little Nipper's head. He sees a male party guest grab Rosemary Gunner who without a moment's hesitation pours a drink over the laughing man. He bellows with rage. Rosemary throws off her waiter's apron and storms out. Little Nipper runs after her.

LITTLE NIPPER
Hey, wait up!

ROSEMARY
What do you want? Teachers pet!

LITTLE NIPPER
You know you're all wrong about
Mr. Mentos.

ROSEMARY
Not about the carpet.

LITTLE NIPPER
Well, maybe not about that. But
he's a great guy!

Little Nipper and Rosemary turn from the garden path into the CARPARK.

Little Nipper and Rosemary's POV of Lexy Mentos dragging the unconscious form of Mayoress Swineburn into his car.

Little Nipper and Rosemary gasp.

Lexy Mentos jumps into the car and takes off, down the driveway at speed.

EXT. BLOW HOLE BAY POLICE STATION. DAY

Rosemary and Little Nipper tumble down the front steps of the Blow Hole Bay Police Station. Lieutenant Gillette towers over them. He tucks his gun back into his holster.

GILLETTE
What's more, a person has to be
missing 36 hours before we raise
a sweat! Ya' stupid brats.

Rosemary and Little Nipper dust themselves off.

ROSEMARY

Well I've seen enough of the
juvenile justice system. So long.

LITTLE NIPPER

You can't just give up. Mayor
Swineburn said his wife didn't
come home last night.

ROSEMARY

And is he worried?

LITTLE NIPPER

Lexy was going to his laboratory
out on Shark Island. Maybe we
should...

ROSEMARY

No way!

EXT. OPEN SEA. DAY

The tour BOAT "SS Passing Winds" cuts through the rough chop. Rosemary and Little Nipper, indistinguishable from all the other divers in scuba gear and masks, are sitting close to the stern. They whisper conspiratorially to each other.

ROSEMARY

I can't believe you talked me
into this.

LITTLE NIPPER

The laboratory is our best lead.
Think of the reward.

ROSEMARY

For that old bag?

LITTLE NIPPER

This way we'll know one way or
the other about Mr. Mentos. We're
nearly there.

Little Nipper points out the craggy outcrop. On top of its summit, sits the futuristic dome of Lexy Mentos' SECRET LABORATORY.

The boat comes to a stop. The DIVE TOUR OPERATOR, a leathery man dressed in only shorts and cowboy hat, addresses the group. His introduction begins with a formal query and then descends into casual indifference.

TOUR OPERATOR

Can everybody swim? No? Give that
man some water wings.

(MORE)

TOUR OPERATOR (cont'd)
Put your hands up if you're from
overseas. You got travel
insurance right?

The tour operator starts to count heads.

TOUR OPERATOR
How many we got today? 13 give or
take? Remember that number! We
don't want a repeat of last
week's miscount. Are we all
ready? BOMBS AWAY!

With that the tour operator pulls a lever and the
backboard, which Rosemary, Little Nipper and the other
divers are leaning against, falls away. They tumble
backwards, flippers over their heads into the water.

EXT. SURF CLUB DAY. DAY

Ruthie and Frank Nipper quiz some of the kids at the Surf
Club.

ALBERT
No, Mrs. Nipper, I haven't seen
Little Nipper.

RUTHIE
Frank, I'm worried.

FRANK
Now, Ruthie, there's probably a
perfectly good explanation.

CLIFFORD
That's what they say about my
sister Rosemary. But Mum reckons
she's gone for good, and good
riddance to her.

RUTHIE
Oh my God they've got Rosemary
too!

WILLY PECKER
Lucky barstards!

ALBERT
Maybe we should go to the police.

The group, Ruthie, Frank, Clifford and Willy look doubtful.

ALBERT
It's only a suggestion.

EXT. UNDERWATER. DAY

Rosemary and Little Nipper paddle along the seabed. Rosemary tugs at Little Nipper's arm and then swims down to retrieve a bottle, partially hidden in the sand.

She brushes the sand away to reveal the label "Mentos Extra Conditioning Shampoo". Little Nipper spots another bottle and then another.

A trail of shampoo bottles leads them to a storm water drain. A green effluent flows freely from the storm water pipe.

Little Nipper and Rosemary's eyes open wide in alarm. Slumped over a bottle of shampoo is the UNCONSCIOUS SEA COW.

EXT. SS PASSING WINDS DECK. DAY

The Tour Guide is flirting with a couple of GIRLS in bikinis and dancing to loud Rock and Roll music on deck.

INT. SS PASSING WINDS BRIDGE. DAY

Loud music over a fax. It reads "Bureau of Meteorology: Cyclone Warning". The CB Radio splutters to life with an urgent voice.

CB RADIO (O/S)
 ...I repeat, this is a storm
 warning for all vessels in the
 Blow Hole Bay and South East
 territories.

EXT. STORM WATER ENTRANCE. SEABED. DAY

Little Nipper revives Sea Cow with oxygen from his mask. Suddenly Little Nipper is attacked from behind. A MYSTERY DIVER wrestles with him. Rosemary jumps onto the mystery diver's back and pulls off his mask to reveal Munga Pete. All three tow Sea Cow upwards towards the light.

EXT. SEA SURFACE. DAY

Rosemary, Little Nipper, Munga Pete and Sea Cow break the surface of the water only to find themselves overwhelmed by the violent storm ("The Perfect Storm" spoof).

The SS Passing Winds is thrust up, momentarily, on the crest of an enormous wave and then disappears over its peak. The trio have to scream to hear each other over the wild weather.

ROSEMARY
What do we do now?

LITTLE NIPPER
We could try for the island!

MUNGA PETE
We'll never make it!

LITTLE NIPPER
I have an idea - Follow me!

All four, including Sea Cow, disappear under the waves

INT. BLOW HOLE BAY POLICE HQ. DAY

Frank and Ruthie Nipper, Albert, Clifford and Willy are standing crushed up against the wall of Captain Yardarse's office. Captain Yardarse enormous girth takes up most of the room in the tiny office.

YARDARSE
You're all aware of the 36 hour
rule with missing persons.

FRANK
But now there's three on the
missing list, our Little Nipper,
Rosemary and Mayoress Swineburn.
That's got to count for
something?

CONSTABLE KIBBLE
Sir, this just came in.

YARDARSE
Jesus not again? How can you lose
a whole bloody dive party?

EXT. STORM WATER ENTRANCE. SEABED. DAY

Little Nipper indicates that they could swim along the pipe and then UP to the surface. He leads Rosemary, Munga Pete and Sea Cow into the storm water pipe.

INT. LABORATORY - DIVE POOL. DAY

Little Nipper, Rosemary, Munga Pete and Sea Cow break the surface of a pool gasping for breath. They have emerged in the nerve centre of the LABORATORY.

The interior of the secret laboratory pays homage to the James Bond films of the 60's and 70's - The white walls of the dome are strung with floating platforms and suspension bridges. Generic looking men and women, in white overalls with hoods and dark goggles, run around clasping clipboards and conducting high tech experiments. The place is littered with percolating beakers, gismos with dials and knobs and the occasional arching electric current.

Realising the need for caution, the four struggle to control their breathing and take cover behind a pontoon stacked high with boxes. The boxes are marked, "Mentos Extra Conditioning Shampoo - Secret Formula". The pontoon pitches up and down with the chop sending a box sliding into the water.

MUNGA PETE

Poor Sea Cow has clearly been
poisoned by this bilge!

Munga Pete grabs a shampoo bottle, floating on the surface, and tosses it angrily to one side.

The splash of the bottle alerts a guard wielding a semi automatic firearm. He moves off to investigate.

ROSEMARY

Shh! Do you want to get us all
killed?!

LITTLE NIPPER

Let's get on with it and find
Mayoress Swineburn...

ROSEMARY

Or what's left of her.

LITTLE NIPPER

Munga, you don't have to come
with us, if you don't want to.
This was my idea.

MUNGA PETE

And miss all the action!

Munga Pete turns to Sea Cow

MUNGA PETE (CONT'D)

You'll be all right, Sweetheart?

Sea Cow batters her eyelids, settles her head on Munga Pete's chest and sighs. Little Nipper and Rosemary look away, clearly embarrassed. Suddenly gunfire peppers the water around them.

ROSEMARY

Dive!

All four plunge under the surface.

INT. LABORATORY - DIVE POOL/UNDERWATER. DAY

Little Nipper leads Munga Pete, Sea Cow and Rosemary to a vent under the water.

DIVE POOL - VENT

Little Nipper pulls off the grate covering the vent. He squeezes through, followed by Munga Pete but Sea Cow becomes stuck and Rosemary is unable to follow. Munga and Little Nipper try to free Sea Cow and pull from the front while Rosemary pushes from behind, but Sea Cow won't budge.

A dart from a harpoon whizzes past Rosemary's shoulder. She turns abruptly to find herself surrounded by armed FROGMEN. She raises her hands above her head and surrenders.

Inside the vent, Sea Cow is wrenched out and another harpoon shoots past Little Nipper and Munga Pete almost hitting them. Munga Pete pulls Little Nipper away.

INT. LABORATORY. INTERROGATION ROOM. DAY

Lexy Mentos sits reclined in a high backed chair petting an enormously overweight cat. His eyes dart one way and then the other. Behind him, outside the plate glass windows, the storm rages.

LEXY

You will tell me everything! Who sent you?

Lexy's POV - Rosemary and Sea Cow are imprisoned in twin glass TANKS. The only difference being that the tank Sea Cow is in is filled with water.

Rosemary's muffled and angry response cannot be heard from behind the glass.

LEXY

What?

Lexy tries a button on the console but the tank starts to ascend.

LEXY
Damn contraption!

Lexy tries another console button. The tank descends again and Lexy finds the volume button. Rosemary's voice booms across the room.

ROSEMARY
...ya baldy arsehole!

LEXY
How dare you! Again! Who sent you? Who put you up to this?

ROSEMARY
No one sent us. We came alone.

LEXY
No one knows you're here?

ROSEMARY
Yeh, so?

Rosemary realises that she has been caught out.

LEXY MENTOS
I think I'll give you some time to consider your options.

Lexy gets up from his chair, dropping the fat cat onto the console. He exits the chamber through automatic doors.

ROSEMARY
Hey, you can't leave us here!

The cat sits down knocking a lever on the console. A noisy pump starts up.

Water starts to be pumped from Sea Cow's tank into Rosemary's tank. Rosemary watches as the water level begins to drop in Sea Cow's tank as it swirls around her ankles.

ROSEMARY
Ahh shivers! Get up you fat mother. Friggin flea bag! Scat!

Rosemary takes the flannel shirt from around her waist and attempts to plug the pipe.

ROSEMARY
Help! Help!

INT. LABORATORY - TOILETS. DAY

The stall door opens a crack and spy a POV of TWO LAB WORKERS standing at the urinal.

Little Nipper and Munga Pete are hiding in the stall. The two glance at each other. They know what they have to do.

INT. LABORATORY - CORRIDOR. DAY

Little Nipper and Munga Pete are 'disguised' as LAB WORKERS. Their suits are a terrible fit; Munga's impossibly small and Little Nipper is swimming in his.

MUNGA PETE

Man! This place is enormous. How are we going to find them?

Little Nipper steps in front of one of the anonymous LAB WORKER's

LITTLE NIPPER

Excuse me. Do you know where we might find the prisoners?

LAB WORKER

Umm, third door on the left.

LITTLE NIPPER

Thank you.

LAB WORKER

My pleasure.

Munga Pete stands for a moment astonished by the exchange then rushes to catch up with Little Nipper.

MUNGA PETE

Hey, you nearly blew our cover. You've got to be less trusting, Little Nipper. I mean that's what's got you into trouble in the first place.

LITTLE NIPPER

What do you mean?

MUNGA PETE

Lexy Mentos is what I mean.

LITTLE NIPPER

He just seemed like a great guy in the beginning. We had quality time.

MUNGA PETE

Yeh, well the guy's a psycho killer and a druggie.

LITTLE NIPPER

A what?

MUNGA PETE
 Oh wake up and smell the
 amphetamines! What do you think
 they make here? Potpourri?!

They have arrived and try the door and find it's locked.

MUNGA PETE
 We'll have to break it down.

Munga Pete takes a run at the door.

INT. LABORATORY - HOTEL ROOM. DAY

The door suddenly opens and Munga Pete flies through the air and lands painfully on the floor. His goggles are knocked off his face. Mayoress Swineburn stands in the doorway of a tastefully decorated resort style hotel room.

MAYORESS (DISAPPOINTED)
 Oh it's you.

LITTLE NIPPER
 Mayoress Swineburn! (Beat) You're
 all right?

Mayoress Swineburn rubs her forehead and drops an Alka-Seltzer tablet into a glass of water

MAYORESS
 I don't know about that.

LITTLE NIPPER
 Have you seen Rosemary and...

MAYORESS (INTERRUPTS)
 That foul mouthed hussy. I
 believe you'll find her and that
 thing...

MUNGA PETE (HEART IN MOUTH)
 Sea Cow!

MAYORESS (CONTINUED)
 ...next door

Little Nipper and Munga Pete race out of the room.

INT. LABORATORY - INTERROGATION ROOM. DAY

Munga Pete and Little Nipper stumble into the room but are pulled up short by the spectre in front of them.

Cut to their POV of Sea Cow and Rosemary in the tanks. Rosemary gasps for breath in a tiny air pocket at the top of her tank while Sea Cow gargles the last drops of water from a puddle in hers.

Little Nipper races over to the console flicking switches at random in an attempt to reverse the pump. Munga Pete reaches Sea Cow and bangs his fist impotently on the outside of the tank.

MUNGA PETE
Hang on! Darling, Hang on! Do something!

LITTLE NIPPER
I'm trying!

Rosemary signals to Little Nipper and then to the cat.

ROSEMARY: (GASPS)
The cat!

LITTLE NIPPER
What?

ROSEMARY
Cat's (gasp)...arse(gasp)...under (gasp)...The cat's arse!

Rosemary is completely submerged as the last of the water is drained from Sea Cow's tank.

Little Nipper knocks the cat off the console and discovers the lever. He puts it into reverse.

Water begins to drain back to Sea Cow's tank from Rosemary's.

LEXY MENTOS
It's all over, Little Nipper. And to think I was going to make you a lieutenant. Get them!

Frogmen rush the room. But then suddenly the plate-glass windows behind Little Nipper explode.

Another spray of bullets sends Lexy's flunkies diving for cover. Gale force winds send paper and debris everywhere.

A HELICOPTER ascends into frame outside the shattered window, to reveal Lieutenant Gillette, armed with semi automatic gun, hanging out of the cabin of the COAST GUARD HELICOPTER.

GILLETTE (LOUDSPEAKER)
Hands ups! This is a rescue!

INT. POLICE STATION/YARDARSE'S OFFICE. EVENING

The room resounds with the noisy din of arguing voices. Constable Kibble hands out hot beverages. Little Nipper is wrapped in a blanket and flanked by his parents, Ruthie and Frank Nipper. Captain Yardarse howls them all down.

CAPTAIN YARDARSE

Shut up!

LEXY

Common thieves all of them!

MAYORESS

Well thank you very much...

Kibble offers hot chocolate and marshmallows to Rosemary.

KIBBLE

There you go, Miss.

MAYORESS

...just how much longer am I to be held prisoner?

MUNGA PETE

He's the criminal!

YARDARSE (SNATCHING MARSHMALLOWS)

Shut ya bloody traps! Mentos, you first.

LEXY

They were trying to steal the secret formula for my shampoo.

LITTLE NIPPER

We weren't!

Yardarse nods to Lieutenant Gillette who clips Little Nipper's ear.

FRANK

Is that completely necessary?

YARDARSE

Was I talking to you?

ROSEMARY

We thought Mentos here, had you know old Swineburn.

Rosemary runs her finger cross neck SLLLLITTT!

Lexy gasps and turns to Little Nipper.

LEXY MENTOS
You, can't believe that!

Little Nipper looks unsure.

MUNGA PETE
HELLO! He tried to kill Sea Cow.

LEXY
That was a mechanical
malfunction.

Kibble lifts a cage with the cat inside.

KIBBLE
We have the suspect in custody,
Sir.

YARDARSE
For Pete's sake, Kibble. Put the
damn cat down!

Munga Pete jumps to his feet and takes out a shampoo
bottle. He starts to squeeze its contents onto Yardarse's
desk.

MUNGA PETE
Here's your evidence. Laced with
narcotics!

Lexy lunges forward.

LEXY MENTOS
How dare you!

Lieutenant Gillette jumps up from his seat and pistol-
whips Munga Pete.

GILLETTE
I had the contents analyzed by
the lab. (Beat) Shampoo Sir.

Lexy eases off. Lieutenant Gillette sneaks him a
conspiratorial glance.

MUNGA PETE
I don't understand. Then why the
security, the guards...

Lexy offers an explanation.

LEXY
In the beauty business there is a
lot of bitchiness and suspicion.
I have to take certain
precautions to protect my
interests.
(MORE)

LEXY (cont'd)
 Sometimes (beat) people draw the
 wrong conclusions. I understand
 this is human nature. But it's
 sad to see the children become
 infected with this poison.

Little Nipper drops his head in shame. Lexy continues with
 his increasingly grandiose speech.

LEXY (CONTINUED)
 I regret that the Sea Cow was
 made sick. But as a sign of
 goodwill, I pledge to find a way
 to make the "Lexy Mentos range of
 beauty products" not only the
 best on the market but also bio-
 degradable.

MAYORESS
 Oh that's beautiful.

APPLAUSE all round.

INT. AQUARIUM. DAY

Lexy shakes the Mayor's hand and then approaches a podium
 in front of a LARGE AQUARIUM WINDOW. Sea Cow bobs up and
 down in the aquarium, surrounded by several small fish.

LEXY
 As part of the Lexy Mentos
 Foundation's commitment to the
 environment I'd like to
 demonstrate our new eco-friendly
 product range.

Lexy moves to one side to reveal a shampoo bottle sinking
 to the bottom of the aquarium.

Offside and restrained by security guards Sylvia La Plage
 holds a placard. She yells.

SYLVIA
 Free the Dugong!

Munga Pete stands alongside Sylvia but doesn't seem the
 least bit worried. He waves and takes a snap of Sea Cow.

Sea Cow waves back and then swims over to the shampoo
 bottle. She attempts to open the bottle with her flippers
 and then her teeth. But the cap won't budge. She drops the
 bottle in disinterest. The crowd, gathered at the aquarium,
 applauds. Little Nipper beams at his father. Frank Nipper
 ruffles Little Nipper's hair awkwardly.

Lexy catches the moment between father and son and turns on
 his heel.

LITTLE NIPPER

Mr. Mentos? I just wanted to say...Anything I can do to make it up to you, Mr. Mentos, just say the word.

Lexy puts an arm around Little Nipper shoulders.

LEXY

Actually there are a couple of errands you could run. You have a valid passport don't you, kid?

Hold on aquarium window. A large GROPER FISH swallows the shampoo bottle whole. It chokes, gags and then goes belly up.