

RACE

FADE IN:

EXT. LIGHTING RIDGE. COUNTRY NEW SOUTH WALES - DAY

Loud classical music plays.

Pan over vast brown fields and onto the '*Royal Lightning Ridge Goat Races*' track. A starter fires a gun.

INT. BUTCHERS SHED - DAY

Alina (8), an dark aboriginal girl, enters the shed. She pulls along a race goat with a blue sash on it.

EXT. GOAT RACE TRACK - DAY

The kids buggies and goats race down the track.

INT. BUTCHERS SHED - DAY

Alina pulls back a syringe full of sleep medicine and squirts it up. She flicks it to let any air out.

EXT. GOAT RACE TRACK - DAY

The goats continue to race. Reveal MERTLE MAY (8), a competitive and bitchy white girl with blonde hair dressed in a pink tutu and ballet shoes. She is in the lead with her goat, MR GOATIE. The goat wears a blue sash.

INT. BUTCHERS SHED - DAY

Alina sharpens knives on the table.

EXT. GOAT RACE TRACK - DAY

The goats reach the finish line. Mertle May wins the race.

STARTER (O.S.)

And the winner is the May family
and their lucky goat Mr Goatie.

INT. BUTCHERS SHED - DAY

Alina removes the blue sash that reads '*Mr Goatie*' on the goat that lays asleep on a slab.

The shed door slides open. Alina turns off the classical music.

CALCA

How's our plump buck going? He
asleep?

ALINA

Yes momma. The fire's ready, the grinder's going and I've sharpened your tools.

CALCA

You're a gem. How about you get the tray ready. I'll skin the kid and we'll get him out to the winner in no time.

ALINA

Yes momma.

Alina walks over to the tray area. She hums '*Baa Baa Black Sheep*' as Calca loudly chops the goat on the slab.

EXT. GOAT RACE TRACK - DAY

People stand around the event stage. The STARTER, a tall scrawny man, stands at the podium. Mayor May, plump and proud stands on stage with his catty daughter, Mertle May.

STARTER

And now... The winners of the 75th annual royal goat, the May family.

Alina walks on stage and hands the tray to Mayor May, who gleams with pride. The blue sash is wrapped around the tray.

STARTER (CONT'D)

-a freshly cut tray of meat.

Mertle May tugs aggressively on her father's arm.

MERTLE

Daddy! Where is Mr Goatie?

MAYOR MAY

(Through grinning teeth)

I'll tell you after dinner pumpkin.

Mertle May loudly sighs. She fixes her posture and puts on a phony smile for the crowd.

INT. BUTCHERS SHED - DAY

Alina enters the shed, gleaming.

ALINA

Mertle May won again momma.

CALCA

Mhmm.

ALINA

She's so wonderful momma.

CALCA

Mhmm.

ALINA

Did you know. Shes the best at everything. She's a marvelous singer.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Mertle May sings an over-the-top solo in church. Alina stares at Mertle from the chorus behind her infatuated.

MERTLE MAY

... Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound...

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

ALINA (V.O)

She's got the most beautiful golden hair.

Alina sits in class with her head resting on her hands. She stares at Mertle May as she brushes her golden locks.

INT. SCHOOL STAGE - DAY

Mertle May dances centre stage in the same pink tutu and ballet shoes. Alina dressed as a tree sways behind her.

ALINA

And she's always the lead in the end of year concert.

INT. BUTCHERS SHED - DAY

Chop! Calca clunks down her knife and severs a goat foot.

CALCA

That's coz your teachers a racist.

ALINA

I wish I could be Mertle May.

CALCA

And I wish I could be the Mayor of this bloody town. Ain't gonna

(MORE)

CALCA (CONT'D)

happen. You'll never wear her shoes
love. She's white and you're black.
As long as she's got her skin,
she'll always be better than you.

(Beat)

Now bring in the next billy, won't
cha?

Alina frowns and exits to get the next goat.

EXT. STREET - EARLY EVENING

Alina takes down bunting from the side of the street. Mertle
May storms down the street, visibly angry and crying.

ALINA

Why the red eyes Mertle May?

Mertle wipes her eyes.

MERTLE MAY

If you must know. The goat I won
with and that tray of meat you gave
my daddy. They're the same. Daddy
told me after dinner.

(Beat)

He was delicious.

Mertle May cries. They are loud sobs. Alina goes over to
Mertle and apprehensively tries to calm her down.

ALINA

Don't cry. Please don't cry.

Mertle May gets louder.

ALINA (CONT'D)

He's not dead Mertle May!

Mertle May perks up and stops crying.

ALINA

(Lying)

Um... The goat you ate was... ah...
one of the other children's. It was
one of the losers!

Mertle May grins a devilish grin.

MERTLE MAY

Take me to him!

Alina's eyes widen.

ALINA

Um... Um...

MERTLE MAY

It's my goat. Take me to him now!

ALINA

I can't. No.

MERTLE MAY

I don't think you heard me Abo.
Maybe your english isn't so good.

Alina shakes her head.

MERTLE MAY

Daddy says you black folk, you're
all just slaves. So do what I say
or I'll make sure you and your mum
are locked up like the rest of your
kind.

INT. BUTCHERS SHED - EARLY EVENING

They enter the shed. There are flies everywhere. Mertle May
holds her nose and searches for Mr. Goatie.

MERTLE MAY

Mr Goatie! Mr Goatie. Where is he?

Alina pours sleeping medicine on a rag from her pocket.

ALINA

He must have escaped.

Mertle May loudly sobs. Alina gives her the rag. She sobs
into it and becomes drowsy. Alina helps her up on the slab.

ALINA

Mertle May you're so pretty.

MERTLE MAY

I feel sleepy.

ALINA

It's all the crying you've been
doing.

(Beat)

Do you mind if I try on your shoes
Mertle May?

MERTLE MAY

My shoes?

ALINA

Do you mind if I try on your hair
Mertle May?

MERTLE MAY

Why do you want my-

ALINA

What about your skin Mertle May?

Mertle May falls asleep on the slab. Alina turns on the
classical music. She lays sharp knives on the table.

EXT. STREET - LATE AFTERNOON

It's getting dark. Mayor May calls out to the street.

MAYOR MAY (O.S.)

Mertle? Mertle May? Where are you?
It's bedtime Mertle May.

INT. BUTCHERS SHED - EVENING

Alina starts the fire and the meat grinder.

EXT. STREET - LATE AFTERNOON

Mayor May knocks on a neighbours door. An older lady opens
it.

MAYOR MAY

Sorry to disturb you but have you
seen my daughter?

The old lady shakes her head.

INT. BUTCHERS SHED - EVENING

Alina throws bones and excess meat into the grinder.

EXT. GOAT RACE TRACK - EVENING

Mayor May finds Calca taking down decorations.

MAYOR MAY

You there. I'm looking for my
Mertle? Have you seen her?

INT. BUTCHERS SHED - EVENING

Alina ties up her new ballet shoes. She brushes her new
golden hair. She turns to the mirror and sees herself in
Mertle's skin suit. She dances like a ballerina.

CALCA (V.O)

You'll never wear her shoes love.
She's white and you're black. As
long as she's got her skin, she'll
always be better than you.

ALINA

Now I'm better than you Mertle May.
And actually I like my own skin.

Alina strips down and throws the hide into the fire.

The butcher's door slides opens, Calca walks in. Alina turns
off the music.

CALCA

What are you doing in here love?

ALINA

Just practicing.

CALCA

Well can you prepare a meat tray
for Mayor May. His daughters gone
missing.

ALINA

Yes mamma.

Alina goes to the tray area. Calca sees her shoes.

CALCA

Alina where did you get those shoes
from?

ALINA

Oh my ballet teacher. I'm the lead
ballerina in the end of year
concert this year mamma.

CALCA

Well I guess I was wrong about her...

Alina smiles.

END CREDITS BEGIN.

EXT. THE MAYS RESIDENCE - MORNING

Knock, knock, knock. Mayor May opens the door. Alina
presents him with a delicious fresh meat tray.

THE END.