



ROBYN

ROBYN is a young woman hardened to the world. As 1980 kicks off a new decade, Robyn is eighteen going on twenty-seven, and life in and out of juvenile detention has forced her to grow up quickly. Tough, resourceful and street smart, she holds a deep love for a family she doesn't fully understand and a strong mistrust of almost everyone else.

Not black, nor white, Robyn is somewhere in between - a yellow fella. And with short cut hair and baggy clothes, she doesn't care much for appearances. Her love of stealing cars - especially anything from the 1970s with 2 doors and a thumping V8 - has been a favourite pastime since she was a kid. Suffice to say it's a pastime that has sent her back to detention multiple times. But she's learnt a thing or two in juvie, and despite being unable to read or write, her colourful vocabulary is unrivalled. A lifelong vegetarian, Robyn loves animals and abhors the consumption of meat, much to the disgust of the rest of those carnivorous kids in detention. But Robyn's always been the outcast and being a fringe-dweller suits her just fine.

It's been two years since Robyn last saw her mum and dad – two years stuck behind bars. All because she was forced to drive the car that night. Not that she had much of a choice, with her sister Roslyn drunk in the backseat. You'd think losing your only sister would have been enough of a punishment. But someone had to take the blame - 'Underage, unlicensed driver kills own sister in fiery crash'.

During these years Robyn has also become selfish and impulsive, constantly looking for ways to escape life and get high. But hearing on the grape vine in juvie that her estranged mother Mary may be dead, something snaps in her. Wanting to know the truth and maybe see her one more time, she escapes the guards and embarks on an adventure that will both test her and open her heart and lead her ultimately to understand that there's the family you're born with and the family you choose and perhaps blood really isn't thicker than water.

SCENE 1

EXT. TOWN OUTSKIRTS – STREET - DUSK

(Robyn has just escaped juvenile detention. This is the first time we hear Robyn speak in the opening of episode 1. It drives the story forward as she has heard her mother is dead)

A PHONE BOX sits on a street towards the edge of town. The faint blue glow of the day fades as the orange tinge of sodium vapor lights warm up.

Robyn walks out of the dark and into a phone box. She uses two wires to successfully pick a lock on the side of the phone. The front swings open and a mountain of coins fall onto the dirt. Robyn picks a handful up, stuffing them into her bra. She saves one, closing the box she puts it in the slot. Dialing a number.

The phone rings a few times as Robyn waits. Her leg beginning to shake, anxious for someone to pickup. A police siren begins to scream in the distance. Maybe for her, maybe for someone else.

AUNTIE (THROUGH PHONE)
Hello?

ROBYN (FAST)
Get Ringer! Quick

AUNTIE (THROUGH PHONE)
Who?

ROBYN
Old man, Ringer.

AUNTIE (THROUGH PHONE)
Ringer... <casually> Yeah

ROBYN
Quick!

AUNTIE (THROUGH PHONE)
Hold on...

Robyn waits as the voice falls silent, She does her best to hide in the phone booth as a car passes on the road nearby.

OPERATOR VOICE (THROUGH PHONE)
Please insert more coins or your call will be disconnected.

Robyn pulls a few coins from her bra and inserts them. She waits.

RINGER (THROUGH PHONE)
Hello, who this?

An older male voice answers the phone, seemingly drunk.

ROBYN
Is Mum dead?

RINGER (THROUGH PHONE)
Who?

ROBYN
It's Robyn, someone said Mum's dead?

RINGER (Aboriginal, 60) doesn't answer straight away. Robyn paces on the spot. The distant police siren getting louder.

RINGER (THROUGH PHONE)
Nah... She's just crook...

A sense of relief on Robyn's face.

ROBYN
Okay... Where is she?

RINGER (*THROUGH PHONE*)
They took her town.

ROBYN
Where?

RINGER (*THROUGH PHONE*)
Hospital...

Robyn thinks.

RINGER (*THROUGH PHONE*) (*CONT'D*)
Where are you...

Robyn hangs up the phone then looks around. The night is getting colder. A few coins are disposed from the phone, she pockets them in her bra with the others.

SCENE 2

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY – MORNING

(This scene comes towards the end of episode 1. Robyn and Mary have pulled up where Robyn's sister died in a car accident. Robyn has realised Mary has taken her Weed, but questioning her finds out a family secret.

Mary sits in the dirt, under the shade of the tree. The sound of a car door slams offscreen, breaking the tranquillity.

ROBYN (O.S.)
Where you put it?

Mary doesn't answer. In front of her are a bunch of plastic flowers at the base of the tree's trunk.

Robyn walks up to her.

ROBYN (CONT'D)
Mum.

MARY (IN LANGUAGE)
Not good for you.

ROBYN
Fuck! Give it to me

MARY (IN LANGUAGE)
Sit down with me.

Robyn doesn't sit, deciding to remain standing. She paces back and forth, agitated.

ROBYN
Why didn't you visit me?

Mary doesn't answer

ROBYN (CONT'D)
Two years. No family came.

We now see Mary holds a faded photo in her hands

MARY (QUIETLY IN LANGUAGE)
You know who's in this photo.

ROBYN (FRUSTRATED)
Yeah, you.

We recognise a younger Mary in the image, she carries a baby in her arms. A woman, around fifteen stands next to them.

MARY (IN LANGUAGE)
Who's that baby?

ROBYN
Me. Can you give it back?

MARY (IN LANGUAGE)
And who's...

Robyn snatches the photo from Mary and rips it in half, throwing it on the ground.

ROBYN
My sister...

Robyn swallows, instantly regretful. Mary takes a few short breaths as she picks up the ripped photo.

MARY (IN LANGUAGE) Not sister...

Robyn looks at Mary like she didn't hear her correctly.

ROBYN
What?

Mary pauses.

MARY
...Your Mum.

Robyns face falls blank. What did Mary say?

SCENE 3

INT. TAXI – NIGHT

(This scene comes to the end of episode 2, where the main protagonist Robyn teams up with Gidge on the trip south)

ROBYN pulls out the keys and starts the Taxi, Music blasts out of the speakers loudly. She quickly turns it down.

She looks over to the seat where Mary sat. Now empty. She reaches down and releases the handbrake. Just as...

GIDGE opens the passenger door. Bag and guitar in hand. He throws them into the back and gets in.

GIDGE
Thanks.

ROBYN looks to him confused. He puts the seatbelt over his shoulder and clicks it in.

ROBYN
Huh?

GIDGE (HAPPILY)
I'll come with you. Where you going?

ROBYN
I'm going to Coober Pedy

GIDGE doesn't get the hint.

GIDGE
Weird town. Why we going there?

ROBYN
Out!

GIDGE
You know the way?

ROBYN
Out!

GIDGE
Okay.

GIDGE opens the door, but turns back to ROBYN before getting out.

GIDGE (CONT'D)
Maybe ill run over to that COPPA and let it slip where you're going.

ROBYN thinks.

ROBYN
Fuck you!!!

She has no choice, puts the car into drive and begins to moves forward. GIDGE closes the door with a smile as the police tape breaks across the windscreen. Casually she turns the car around, drives straight past the caravan and off into the night. MUSIC plays as...