

SYNOPSIS & EXCERPT FROM SCRIPT

Between The Flags



(Cover photo from Shutterstock)

A SUNSHINE COAST MUSICAL ROMANCE.

© 2002 Cathleen Roche Meggitt @ www.grannyblackberries.com

'BETWEEN THE FLAGS'

A) SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE - Takes place on a surfing beach on the Sunshine coast.

A surfing carnival and a singing competition for the girls. Gentle Coralie loves Jay but is too shy to come forward. She is intimidated by the aggressive newcomer Gloria, who makes a grab for Jay. Gloria 'bosses' the singing competition, expecting to win. All is filmed by David the cameraman, who is royally smitten by Gloria's volcanic character. She kicks his camera around but David bides his time, totally unfazed.

Four girls take part in the singing contest – 2 funny ones (they don't need good voices), one furious one (Gloria) and the winner who is Coralie.

Gloria convinces Jay that Coralie is thrilled to go up to Paradise Island in the Whitsundays, with Max the entrepreneur and accomplished ladies' man.

Jay goes out on his surf-board in the moonlight, having sung his heart-breaking love-song 'Coralie'. Is it suicide?

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACT ONE

<i>Opening chorus</i>	<i>MARCH OF THE LIFESAVERS</i>
<i>Confrontation</i>	<i>GET OFFA MY PATCH (Gloria)</i>
<i>Coralie's song</i>	<i>WHY AM I SO SHY?</i>
<i>Jay's lovesong</i>	<i>CORALIE!</i>

ACT TWO - Takes place at the Paradise Island Resort in the Whitsundays.

Much action and singing. Coralie gets her chance. Max drops her with 'Don't Ring Me.' Coralie gets a letter from Mandy with very bad news about Jay. Ms. Farrell, the resort manageress, is not sympathetic as Coralie is a professional now. Enter the Irish contingent ahead of time. More panic. But Coralie rises to the occasion. She is 'spotted' by Danny O'Rourke, a billionaire from the Emerald Isle who has become a Film Director. Coralie is lined up for a screen test. Enter Jay, who has been picked up by Danny's yacht.

Enter also, David and Gloria – on honeymoon. David is also Danny's newest cameraman, much to Gloria's chagrin. But the friends meet, and all is happy ever after.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACT TWO

<i>Ms. Farrell</i>	<i>HONEST DAY'S WORK</i>	<i>(a laugh at the Tax man)</i>
<i>Max & Coralie</i>	<i>THE WINE OF LIFE</i>	<i>(come-on and reply)</i>
<i>Max</i>	<i>DON'T RING ME</i>	
<i>Anthem for Australia</i>	<i>ARISE, NEW AUSTRALIA</i>	<i>(chorus)</i>
<i>Margaret and Coralie</i>	<i>SING-A-LONG-CAR</i>	<i>(chorus)</i>
<i>Finale</i>	<i>ON THE SUNSHINE COAST</i>	<i>(chorus)</i>

CORALIE So what's that got to do with it?

GLORIA *(suddenly aggressive)* Everything! Jay's for me. Anybody can see.

CORALIE Jay!

GLORIA Yeah. Jay. We've got the hots for each other.

CORALIE The 'hots' for *you*. ? In your dreams!

GLORIA We're an item!

CORALIE Huh! *(Nervous laugh)* You're a one-way street!

GLORIA *(becomes very aggressive and prods CORALIE in the shoulders and chest, pushing her backwards around the stage)*

Listen Miss Prissy, *(cue for music 'Get Offa my Patch')*
 Nobody talks to me like that!
(Parle on dit). Just get offa my patch!
(She then takes up the song with very aggressive action.)

ITEM 2 **'GET OFFA MY PATCH'** *(GLORIA SOLO)*

.....

MAX Now for the 'Surf Girl Singing Contest'. Courtesy of New Paradise Island.
 Come along surf girls - and all you girls who don't surf.

.....

(JAY looks around for CORALIE who is talking to AMANDA. HE takes Number 7 from the box and goes to her. CORALIE still holding off because GLORIA is glowering.)

JAY Come on Coralie! You've a better chance than anyone.

CORALIE Oh! I couldn't Jay. I'd be terrified!

JAY *(to AMANDA)* She's a great little singer. Have you heard her doin' that spoof - The Handsome Swaggie Man?

AMANDA Yeah! Have I ever! Do that one Coralie! Go on!

JAY It's a ripper.

CORALIE Oh Jay! I only do that for my friends. That's not - it's only foolin'.

JAY Well, get up there and fool away! The foolin' could win ya!

CORALIE I'd be terrified! I can't get up in front of all these strangers - and - *her*

AMANDA 'Course you can! Pretend yer doing it for yer mum and dad.

CORALIE (*doubtfully*) What about - what about Gloria?

JAY Aw! forget her. I *know* you can do this!

CORALIE (*sigh*) I'd be dreamin' I suppose.

AMANDA Give it a go Coralie!

CORALIE Well --!

JAY Just do it Coralie.

CORALIE Well. If **you** think so. But don't blame me! (*tosses her head*)
O.K. I'll give it a go.

JAY (*He smiles, hands her Number 7.*) Cool!

(*CORALIE joins the end of the group - farthest away from GLORIA.*)

MAX Right. Here we go. Let everybody see your numbers now girls. Hold them up there. That's good. O.K. Drumroll please.

(DRUMROLL)

MAX Now, could we have competitor Number One?

(*GLORIA marches up to microphone, tossing her hair.*)

GLORIA Number One. That's me! (*smirk*)

MAX Without a doubt. And you are?

GLORIA I'm Gloria.

MAX And what will you sing, Gloria?

GLORIA 'I'm a Flame'

MAX You're a flame?

GLORIA Yeah. NO! I'll *sing* 'I'm a Flame' - ya know - The Petrol Band?

MAX The Petrol Band ?

GLORIA Yeah. The Petrol Rags sing it - ya know (*goes into energetic rap*)

**Oh ya burn me up.
Yes ya burn me up
Oh ya burn me up and down!
I'm a flame of love
Just a --**

MAX Oh no! no, no! I'm sorry my dear, I should have made it quite clear. The Sponsors want a *traditional* Aussie song -- something tried and trusted with a real melody. Like your Mum used to sing.

(Groans from the line up of GIRLS.)

GLORIA Jeez. Ya mean - one of them old ballad-y things?

MAX Exactly.

GLORIA But the Petrol Rags sing Aussie songs!

GIRLS Aw gross- Who wants ta sing them old grannie things? - Yeah!

MAX Aw hold it girls! It's not my fault. I didn't write the rules.
(to GLORIA) Can't you just give us a verse of 'Click go the shears' or something?

GLORIA Arghh! (*pretends to vomit*)

(We see the two GIRLS WITH NUMBERS 5 AND 6 whispering together. Then they throw their Numbers back into the box, disappear into the crowd and sneak offstage.)

MAX Hey! Come back here you two! Where's your Aussie spirit?
Oh well. Sorry about that Gloria. So, what'll it be?

GLORIA (*exaggerated sigh*) Well, it's worth a try for the holiday I suppose - O.K.
"Click go the Shears"

ITEM 4 **'CLICK GO THE SHEARS'** (*GLORIA SOLO*)

GLORIA What's the first bit?

MAX 'Out on the boards'

GLORIA Oh yeah! (*sings*)

**Out on the boards the old shearer stands,
Grasping his shears in his old bony hands
Fixed is his gaze on a hm da-de-doh -**

Glory if he gets her won't he make the ringer go!

**Click go the shears boys, click, click, click,
Da da de-da**

Oh damn! I've forgotten the words!

MAX Never mind love. You did very well. Give her a big hand everyone.
GLORIA Stupid damn competition!

(AUDIENCE RESPONSE. While GLORIA was singing Number 2 sneaks away. DAVID has been following GLORIA with camera throughout her singing. Now GLORIA JUMPS down, grabs DAVID'S camera and tries to open it.)

DAVID Here! Whatya doin'? Give it here!

(DAVID grabs at camera but GLORIA twirls away.)

GLORIA *(viciously)* Nobody's goin' to watch you makin' a fool of me on Telly - you dropkick!

(GLORIA throws the camera on the 'sand' and begins to kick it. DAVID grabs and saves it.)

DAVID Hey! Wait on Coralie!

GLORIA *(slapping his face)* I'm not Coralie! *(points)* That one is Coralie - and I'll sue you, if this goes on Telly tonight - *(she rushes away)*

(JAY slaps DAVID on the back as DAVID stares admiringly after GLORIA.)

JAY A volcano - our Gloria. She'll be right - 'slongas ye get out o' the way when she's ready to 'blow'!

DAVID Gloria, did ya say? Glor-i-ous! Phew! What a woman!
(rushes after her) Hey Gloria! Wait on! I wanta talk to you.

(JAY smiles and shrugs.)

MAX Well, well! No shortage of drama here on the Sunshine Coast but nothing to the dramas up at New Paradise Island. Now, could we have competitor Number 2 please? *(looks around)* Where's competitor Number Two?

VOICE She's taken off for the Black Stump!

MAX Tsk! Hope she makes it. Well then, competitor Number Three? Where are ye, Number Three?

MAX *(Shaking head)* Folks, she's one of a kind. Good on yer, Mandy. And we all appreciate your advice.

MANDY Yer welcome.

MAX And so my friends, here we go again. Ready for competitor Number Four. Where are you, competitor Number Four?

(PENNY, comes hesitantly.)

MAX And what's your name, love?

PENNY *(whispers confidentially to MAX)* Penny.

MAX *(whispers confidentially to audience)* This is Penny. And what are you goin' to sing Penny?

PENNY *(whispering)* I'll sing 'Botany Bay'

MAX *(whispering to audience)* Penny will sing 'Botany Bay.'