

# Bones of Ribbon

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When a new teacher arrives in the Australian Outback, he unites with a strong-willed, compassionate student counsellor to fight the systemic racism, homophobia, transphobia, and child abuse plaguing the town.

Rufus Wood is an alcoholic, haunted by memories of a student's death. A death he is wrongly blamed for. His transfer to Woomera School in the Australian Outback proves challenging with alleged juvenile delinquents for students, amplified by the punitive measures in place by Head Mistress, Francine Piening. Disturbed by the township's overt racism, homophobia, transphobia, and child abuse, Rufus sobers up in order to fight the bigotry, beginning with empowering the students. After witnessing his messages of equality, student counsellor Jay Bloom invites Rufus to the Outsiders' Village, a place where people of LGBTQ+, Indigenous, and other minority communities are banished. Word of Rufus and Jay's methods reach Tony, who blames them for his son Oliver coming out as a transgender girl. Tony's foster child Tarka, an Aboriginal boy, saves Oliver from their dad's beating and takes the brunt of it himself. Oliver attempts suicide due to the prejudice. These facts are twisted by Francine, who calls for Rufus and Jay to be removed from the town. The children unite with the residents of the Outsiders' Village to defend Jay and Rufus, and ultimately win. News of these events spreads nationwide, spurring the discourse over the treatment of minority groups.

## NOTES

This screenplay was written under consultation with those underrepresented in film - Indigenous and LGBTQ+ communities. These communities are also underrepresented in many areas of Australian society, and their voices aren't being heard. This is an important representation of their voices, and having these communities involved throughout the process has, and will continue to be paramount.

Thank you for reading.