

ORANGES AND SUNSHINE

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| FILM | Oranges and sunshine. |  The movie poster for 'Oranges and Sunshine' features a close-up of a young girl's face on the right side. On the left, there is a smaller image of a person in a field. Text on the poster includes: "Heartbreaking. Explosive. Top-notch." - Richard Kuipers, VARIETY; "A TRAGEDY THAT SPANNED DECADES A LOVE THAT CROSSED CONTINENTS A TRIUMPH THAT CHANGED TWO NATIONS"; "Emily Watson David Wenham Hugo Weaving"; "Oranges and Sunshine"; "A Film by JIM LOACH"; and "based on a true story". |
| MOVIE SCENE | IN SEARCH OF THE LOST CHILDREN | |
| SCENE LENGTH | 00:03:35 | |
| PLOT TEXT | 1.- Plot 2.- Scene script. | |
| VIEW the SCENE | http://eslmoviescenes.blogspot.com/2011/08/lost-children-of-empire.html | |
| LANGUAGE | English | |
| LEVEL | Upper-intermediate / Advanced. | |

1.- PLOT:

The Story In Brief

Based on a true story, Oranges and Sunshine provides a moving portrayal of Margaret Humphreys, a social worker from Nottingham who uncovered one of the most significant social scandals of recent times: the deportation of thousands of children from the United Kingdom to Australia.

Almost single-handedly, against overwhelming odds and with little regard for her own well-being, Margaret reunited thousands of families, brought authorities to account and drew worldwide attention to an extraordinary miscarriage of justice. Children as young as four had been told that their parents were dead, and been sent to children's homes on the other side of the world. Many were subjected to appalling abuse. They were promised oranges and sunshine: they got hard labour and life in institutions.

Source: (<http://thetalentzone.co.uk/games/movies/1243/oranges-and-sunshine-plot-and-trailer/>)

2.- THE SCENE SCRIPT.-

ORANGES AND SUNSHINE

SOCIAL AGENT: Shut the door, please. (over the phone to sb else) To the other department? OK. (to Margaret) Take a seat. (back to the phone) Two weeks? OK.

(now to Margaret) Well, as you know, Rita's filled me in with what you've been up to. I've read your report.

MARGARET: Look, I just want to say that I have kept on top of my case load and I went to Australia in my own time, that was my annual leave.

SOCIAL AGENT : Well, I think that's appalling.

MARGARET: What? What is?

SOCIAL AGENT: That you had to use your own holiday to pursue this.

MARGARET: Oh.

SOCIAL AGENT : I'm taking this to the social services committee. Tell me. What is it you want to do?

MARGARET: Well, uh, the people that I've met, they want to find a record of who they are. They just want to know where they came from.

<http://www.eslmoviescenes.blogspot.com/>

SOCIAL AGENT: What do you need?

MARGARET: Time. Time to find their families.

SOCIAL AGENT : How long?

MARGARET: Well... a year?

SOCIAL AGENT : How about two?

MARGARET: Yes, that would be...

SOCIAL AGENT : I'll make a recommendation to the committee.

MARGARET: So, are you talking about me working on this full-time?

SOCIAL AGENT That is what you want, isn't it?

MARGARET: Yes. Yes, it is.

SOCIAL AGENT Now, how are we going to fund you properly? We're going to have raise your profile to try and get some public funding and we need donations. Have you thought about going to the press?

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(Margaret gets home with a newspaper in her hand, showing a big headline LOST CHILDREN OF THE EMPIRE) Merv? It's being printed in the papers in Sydney and Melbourne too.

(they both at the kitchen table opening loads of letters)

MERV: - They're all the same.

MARARET: I know.

MERV: 'Dear Mrs Humphreys, I read the article in the paper. Please could you help me find my mother? I was sent to Australia in 1957. I have no birth certificate.'

MARGARET: I'm in trouble, aren't I?

----- Cut to a radio show-----

INTERVIEWER: Well, you've certainly caused quite a stir, Mrs Humphreys. There's been a lot of comments since you broke this story in the newspapers.

MARGARET: Well, I didn't exactly break the story.

INTERVIEWER: People are saying what happened to some of these children is an outrage. Would you care to comment on that?

MARGARET: - Well, I'd say it was, yes.

INTERVIEWER: That's rather a strong word, though.

MARGARET: I met a woman recently who was sent to Australia at five years of age and she wanted me to tell you that she lived with 15 other girls in an unheated, unventilated hut for ten years, and during that time, her only possessions were one dress and one pair of shoes. And then at age 15, she was told that she had to repay her debt of board and lodging and she was sent to work as unpaid slave labour on a farm that was 50 miles from the nearest road. (radio presenter butts in: So what this-) And in all that time, she never knew that she had a mother still living in England who had no idea where she was or what had happened to her. I'd like to know what word you would use to describe what that mother and daughter suffered.