

Torres Strait

CAST

The actor who plays Bayeau Lanfranco in 2015

will also play the young JP in 1968

AND *will play Torrens Winter in 1932 and following.*

TORRES STRAIT late 1920's until the death of Torrens in 1994

TORRENS WINTER	<p>Veterinary surgeon who covers the islands of Torres Strait when not busy fraternising with the ladies (of all shades) on the islands.</p> <p>Born in 1904 as Torrens Winterbottom, we met Torrens as a 16-year-old boy in "Hope for Homeless Men".</p> <p>Married to MOIRA.</p> <p>Has three children: his son is LLOYD.</p>
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LONDON, February 2015

LIBERTY LANFRANCO	<p>aka LIBERTY SPINTLER</p> <p>Major British stage actress</p> <p>Second wife of JP.</p>
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BAYEAU LANFRANCO	Liberty's son and son of JP (although neither man is aware of this). Age: 39.
MONTESQUIEU TINKERMAN	One-time TV actor and back-room boy at the Night Owl Theatre, London. Age: late 40's?

ROSALIE (stage announcer)

Female stage hand

Party goers

SYDNEY, February 2015

JP STAFFORD-BRIGHT	John Philip. Elderly Australian celebrity who is now cantankerous and difficult.
SHERYN STACKPOLE	JP's hard-working Girl Friday. Age: 36.
MARK TELMER	Fairfax journalist who has the onerous task of interviewing JP. Age: 49.
ROWENA TELMER	Mark's horse-mad daughter. Age: 22

POLICE SERGEANT BRUCE ALTIMO

POLICE SENIOR CONSTABLE SIMON BERESFORD

The concierge

TORRES STRAIT, EMBLEY ISLAND February to May 2015

BRENDA TIRRITANA	Matriarch aged 90. Mother of LULU TIRRITANA. Has hardly spoken a word out loud since the 1980's.
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	Lives with her grandson Phillip and his wife Nadine.
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PHILLIP TIRRITANA (Brenda's grandson, early 30's)

NADINE TIRRITANA (Phillip's wife, early 30's)

DR CASSIE DIGNAM (Brenda's doctor, age 68)

Pilot seaplane

Two children of Nadine and Phillip

Clyde the old pony

CAIRNS AIRPORT & TORRES STRAIT May 2015

POLICE DETECTIVE INSPECTOR ED SWAN	Strong and very fit. Ex-AFL footballer now in early 40's. Works in the Cold Cases Department for the NSW police. He is indigenous.
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STEWARDESS

Passenger extras

SYDNEY 1933

BLAIR TOOVEY (Occasional narrator, consultant and man of affairs)

On the "Titania" (in 1925): Lord and Lady Nesute, the captain

A young Gertrude Aulder

SYDNEY, THE CLYDE RIVER CLUB 1936
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Past Students of The Sydney Girl's Grammar School (all aged 28):

MOIRA WINTER (nee Fallowfield) (Wife of TORRENS WINTER)

VERNA WESTBRACE

LESLEY CROOK

AGNES PLUMMERIDGE

JOAN BENTLEY

TORRES STRAIT, BYNGHAM ISLAND 1932

THE SEAPLANE PILOT & BLACKIE THE DOG

GLAMIS CASTLE, CHOLWICH ISLAND, TORRES STRAIT 1932

GLASGOW STAFFORD-BRIGHT	Original owner of (and builder of) Glamis Castle on Cholwich Island, Torres Strait. Grazier of beef cattle.
GERTRUDE STAFFORD-BRIGHT	Homemaker. Glasgow's wife.
LULU TIRBITANA	Superbly beautiful mother of Brenda (Born 1907).

PEGGY CONNELL, GUSSY, DOLLY, BABY JACK, YOUNG BRENDA

ROY BENTONG (Captain of the "Strait Star".)

WALLY SNOUT (Sea-going assistant to BENTONG.)

YOUTHIA (nondescript native woman)

PARIS 1968.

GAYNOR MANGOLD (A model who became JP's first wife. Was the subject of a very famous newspaper photograph taken during the 1968 riots.)

BRENDAN TEAGUE (The British photographer who took the famous photo of Gaynor).

FARUN AL-BAGHI (Mysterious negotiator. Works for Domain Gas Company).

YOUNG JP (Aged 38 when in Paris in 1968).



SYNOPSIS

The tale of Torres Strait winds around a bit.

To make it absolutely clear where we are (and why) I have presented the story in blocks which are clearly marked. Thus I have dispensed with the usual ACTs and SCENES.

There are seven flashbacks. The subject matter and plot devices enclosed in the flashbacks will be known by (or available to) the 2015 characters. Thus, these details can assist with Mark Telmer's magazine article on JP ... and/or ... they can form part of the subsequent Cold Case investigation headed by Ed Swan.

However, there are seven interludes. Except for the last interlude, we (the audience) are the only people who will probably have the information enclosed within each interlude. Yes that may prove frustrating (in that the investigators are kept out of the loop) however, the interludes clarify things for us **AND** they are entertaining.

So here are the core sections of the story:

Mark Telmer interviews JP with the result that Mark and others head off for Cholwich Island in April 2015. During this visit human remains are discovered and can be linked to JP's son Bayeau Lanfranco (following a DNA match). The identification of the remains reveals that they were those of Gertrude Stafford-Bright (JP's mother).

It that is so, then who was the Potts Point woman murdered in 1936 (and formally identified as Gertrude Stafford-Bright)? Moira Winter (Torry's wife) has apparently been corresponding with that woman for years, utterly believing her to be her old school chum Gertie.

NSW police follow-up Marks' magazine article and then the whizz-kid from the Cold Cases Department (Ed Swan) is called in. This results in another trip to Torres Strait, this time concentrating on Embley Island. Mark, Bruce, Ed and Lloyd are joined by the Englishman Tinkerman (who has been assisting Bayeau in sorting out his late mother's affairs).

The denouement occurs because the matriarch (Brenda) finds voice again. Not because of Lloyd – but due to her recognizing Tinkerman (from old TV shows). All the threads are pulled into place.



THE BEGINNING

PRELUDE TO THE POLICE INVOLVEMENT

Mark Telmer is a top-line journalist with Fairfax. His assignment takes him to Room 114 of the unfashionable St Martin's Hotel in Sydney. Here he begins to interview John Philip Stafford-Bright in preparation for a glossy weekend magazine feature article. Mark is hamstrung in that JP (as he is known) refuses to allow discussion of all the vital areas.

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Notwithstanding the provisos, JP melts for the first time. He likes Mark. There is some kind of connection there. Mark is now privy to some juicy details which will no doubt furnish a first-class magazine article. JP talks about his father (Glasgow) whom he believed to have been a cruel criminal. JP's mother (Gertrude) fled Cholwich Island (supposedly terrified of Glasgow's wrath) when JP was only two years old.

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Further, JP has never stopped wondering about his father's life niche: Cholwich Island in Torres Strait where the senior Mr Stafford-Bright grazed beef cattle. To this end, JP insists that Mark checks out Glamis Castle which stands forlorn and neglected on Cholwich Island. He is to take JP's glamorous Girl Friday (Sheryn Stackpole) with him – in order that Mark can make love to Sheryn on the beach. Of course this shocks Mark. Nevertheless, Mark and Sheryn head for the island in company with Lloyd Winter. Lloyd is an elderly man whose own father was the district vet (Torrens Winter). JP fervently believes that Lloyd will shed light on the proceedings.

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Also in the party are JP's unknown son Bayeau Lanfranco and Mark's adult daughter Rowena Telmer. On attempting to introduce Bayeau to JP, a shocking and tragic occurrence overwhelms them: JP keels over and dies on seeing his look-alike son (of whose existence he was ignorant).

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JP's funeral and wake (a major event in Sydney given JP's fame) provide loads of detail regarding the "goings-on". It is not until after the wake that the party of five embarks on their tour of Torres Strait.

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Despite JP's demise, the party of five attempt to discover whatever they can in Glamis Castle. While Rowena exercises a pony belonging to a neighbouring island (brought over to Cholwich on a tender) she comes across human remains in the rusting hulk of a wrecked seaplane. The pathologist at Weipa (that is Cape York) is able to confirm that the remains are a familial match with Bayeau's DNA. Thus, it is clear that this body is that of Bayeau's grandmother: Gertrude Stafford-Bright.

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All this activity occurred between February and April 2015. Mark's magazine article is completed (without any reference to the human remains which Rowena discovered). It is a very fine piece and Mark is pleased with it.

Mark unloads the tale to the cops ...

So now we are at the beginning of the story where Mark is in the company of Sergeant Bruce Altimo and Senior Constable Simon Beresford. It is May 2015 and the conversation happens at a harbour-side eatery on Sydney Harbour.

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Bruce and Simon are following-up on the human remains found on Cholwich Island. However Mark's magazine article along with the story which Mark tells them (centred on his research) is fascinating. They want to know everything. Fortunately Bayeau and Rowena (now devoted lovers) rock up.

Bayeau can now deliver his side of the story to the eager cops, as follows.

## Bay unloads the tale to the cops ...

Bayeau discusses with Bruce and Simon the death (in London) of his mother which occurred at about the same time that JP met his end. Shocked to find out who is his real father, Bayeau sets out for Sydney, links up with Mark and is dragged off to Torres Strait. In Glamis Castle, Bayeau makes some interesting discoveries. We assume (but are not actually told) that Bayeau will relate these findings to the police.

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Bruce and Simon now divulge to Mark and Bayeau that this case is now of interest to the Cold Case team. An ex-AFL footballer of renown (Detective Inspector Ed Swan) will head this investigation. We first meet Ed at Cairns Airport as he waits to board the Beechworth Air King (headed for Weipa Airport, Cape York). From Weipa, Ed and his party will fly in a seaplane to Embley Island. The plan is to interview an elderly matriarch: Brenda Tirritana. This woman has not spoken for decades. Some kind of trauma has caused this problem. However, on meeting Lloyd in the previous April (the first trip to Cholwich Island) it

appeared that Brenda sparked-up somewhat and was making a genuine effort to speak. Thus, Ed's party consists of Mark, Bruce and Lloyd.

Dr Dignam takes Lloyd aside, flying him to Embley Island in her own plane. She wants to tell him privately of her relationship with him (she is his half-sister). Lloyd takes this in good stead.

The Cold Case Investigation

Ed Swan (along with Bruce and sometimes Simon) has the onerous task of sorting out who did what to whom.

- Ed has to explain the human remains found in the wreckage of the seaplane (from 1932). The remains are identified as Gertrude Stafford-Bright following a DNA test on Bayeau Lanfranco (Gertrude's grandson). There is a 100% match.
- That means that the murdered woman (Potts Point 1936) is not Gertrude. The mystery of the dead woman's identity is unsolved.
- Who took on the mantle of pirate "Monsieur Allé"?
- It may be down to the unidentified sea-rover that the missing NSW policeman (Senior Detective Lawrie Carmichael) met his end (if indeed he did).
- What lies behind the blackbirding operation in which countless native women and girls were shipped off against their will to work in factories and on plantations.

The Cold Case Investigation continues ...

BRENDA & TINKERMAN

It was hoped that Lloyd's presence would entice Brenda to speak aloud for the first time in decades. However, it was in fact Tinkerman who excited Brenda's outburst. Although in 2015 Tinkerman was simply a theatre back-room boy, he had had a successful TV career during the 1980's and 1990's. Brenda recognizes him as one of her favourite TV characters. She opens up like a gerbera in the sun.

Ed is able to solve most of the points raised in his Cold Case Investigation through the offices of Brenda's many memories.

Finally one of Glasgow's letters to Liberty is revealed. It seems to answer the prize question which has had everyone stumped.

FLASHBACK

FIRST: Paris May 1968. Divulges more details about JP's personality as seen through his behaviour in Paris during the riots.

SECOND: London February 2015. Liberty's fall which proves fatal. Prior to her death she explains to her son (Bayeau) the details about his unknown father. We learn to appreciate Tinkerman's character.

THIRD: London late February 2015 (following Liberty's death). Bayeau is in Sydney – this is a phone call between Tinkerman and Bayeau regarding correspondence received by Liberty from Glasgow Stafford-Bright. **Important plot progression.**

FOURTH: Paris 1968. JP and the Lincoln Petrochemical deal. This scene brings into the foreground JP's bias against his mother *and* against his father. We know that JP has been misled. The information covered in the interludes was not available to JP.

FIFTH: 1920 at Worrilee. The emergency crisis scene (featuring a 16 year old Torrens) from the earlier script "Hope for Homeless Men" is included to illustrate what a "dag" Torrens was.

SIXTH: Embley Island April 2015. During the first visit to Cholwich Island, Rowena discusses "life" with Phillip. This is not plot progression but merely allows us more knowledge of Rowena's pleasant character.

SEVENTH: Sydney 1936. Moira Winter (the wife of Torrens) is pregnant with Lloyd. Along with her old school chums, Moira discusses the young Gertrude Auldern (who married Glasgow and is JP's mother). The report that Gertrude's murdered body has been discovered at Potts Point is erroneous. **This is a very important scene for plot progression.**



END OF FLASHBACK



Torres Strait Interlude

THE INTERLUDES

There are 7 interludes which are only available to the audience (that is us). The characters (from the year 2015) in the movie who are trying to work out what actually happened are very much hampered in that they don't see these scenes. But we do!

First Interlude: Monsieur Allé raids a home in 1932. Our suspicions are aroused when the family dog is welcoming rather than forbidding. The "pirates" are actually Gertrude and Youtha. Page 18

Second Interlude: Glamis Castle in its heyday gives the lie to Glasgow being a drunken wife-beater AND that Gertie is a mousewife. Page 31

Third Interlude: Bentong and Snout have a boatload of females (island girls and women) to transport to plantations and so on. This is the blackbirding operation. Bentong is very keen to bed Lulu (who is one of the slaves). Page 48

Fourth Interlude: Lulu and Youtha escape from the boat. Lulu is wary of Youtha and keeps her distance. Lulu wears the genuine Radnor Trove diamond necklace. Youtha chips at Lulu, but Lulu strikes on in the dangerous waters (sharks).

Youtha and Snout have a very physical encounter. Youtha now knows everything.

Lulu safely reaches her island (not Cholwich) whereas Youtha heads for Cholwich such that she can apprise Gertie of events.

Glasgow talks about the expected arrival of the Vet in the seaplane.

Lulu is assisted by the island women and is pleased to hug Brenda. She explains what happened. Says she does not trust Youtha nor any of the crowd from Cholwich. Forbids Brenda to go back there. Brenda cries: she loves looking after Jackie.

When Lulu wakes, the necklace is gone. There is a terrific storm brewing. Page 58.

Fifth Interlude: The storm and Torrens. 1932. The salvaged plane. Glasgow confronts Torrens about the latter's sexual exploits and hints (very strongly!) that JP might be the son of Torrens (rather than of Glasgow himself).

Sixth Interlude: 1933. Bill Grundy has met up with Blair Toovey to discuss his insurance claims. The men drank Schnapps.

Our sixth interlude covers Toovey's recording of the claims made by Grundy to a payout for property to which he had no claim. As Toovey remarks: "Stiff cheddar".

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Torry and Lulu begin a torrid love affair. Torrens discovers Lulu lying naked on her back in bed covered by a sheet and with Brenda on top of her. Torrens shoos away the child and makes love to Lulu. Torrens admits to Lulu that he is very close to chucking in his family and living with her. But his wife has just given birth to a son (that is Lloyd).

**Seventh Interlude:** Glasgow between 1976 and 1978 in correspondence with Liberty. We see her in the theatre, getting her make-up on. She reads his letters. I'm sending you a lovely gift for being the only good thing in my life. Glasgow dies in 1978.

Unlike the earlier six interludes, the letters are part of Tinkerman's investigations.



***Ed Swan makes a triumphant return in the following movie script ...***

## **IMPOVERISHED AND POORLY**

**aka**

## **BROKE 'N' ILL**

Priceless rare monotreme fossils are vanishing.

Meanwhile Cooper is asked to give a DNA sample.

Jeremy Hurstbridge is concerned at the disappearance  
of his younger sister Winlagh in Broken Hill, NSW, Australia.

Ed Swan picks up a 12 year old cold case to investigate:  
that of a pharmacist (murdered execution-style).

"Swannie" also gains an assistant: Constable Blaike Penfold.

Along with a couple of gifted indigenous locals.

All this while a new disease called F-PROTA has taken over  
where COVID left off.

The race is on for Ed, Blaike, Cooper and Jeremy to solve the mystery.

