



# SUBORN ROSE

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A FEATURE FILM WRITTEN BY ALANA GERDES





# LOGLINE

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On the verge of finalizing an unlawfully acquired business deal, a tough CEO and her remorseful sister meet their match when an auditor discovers their scheme, forcing them to confront their past before their family breaks apart.

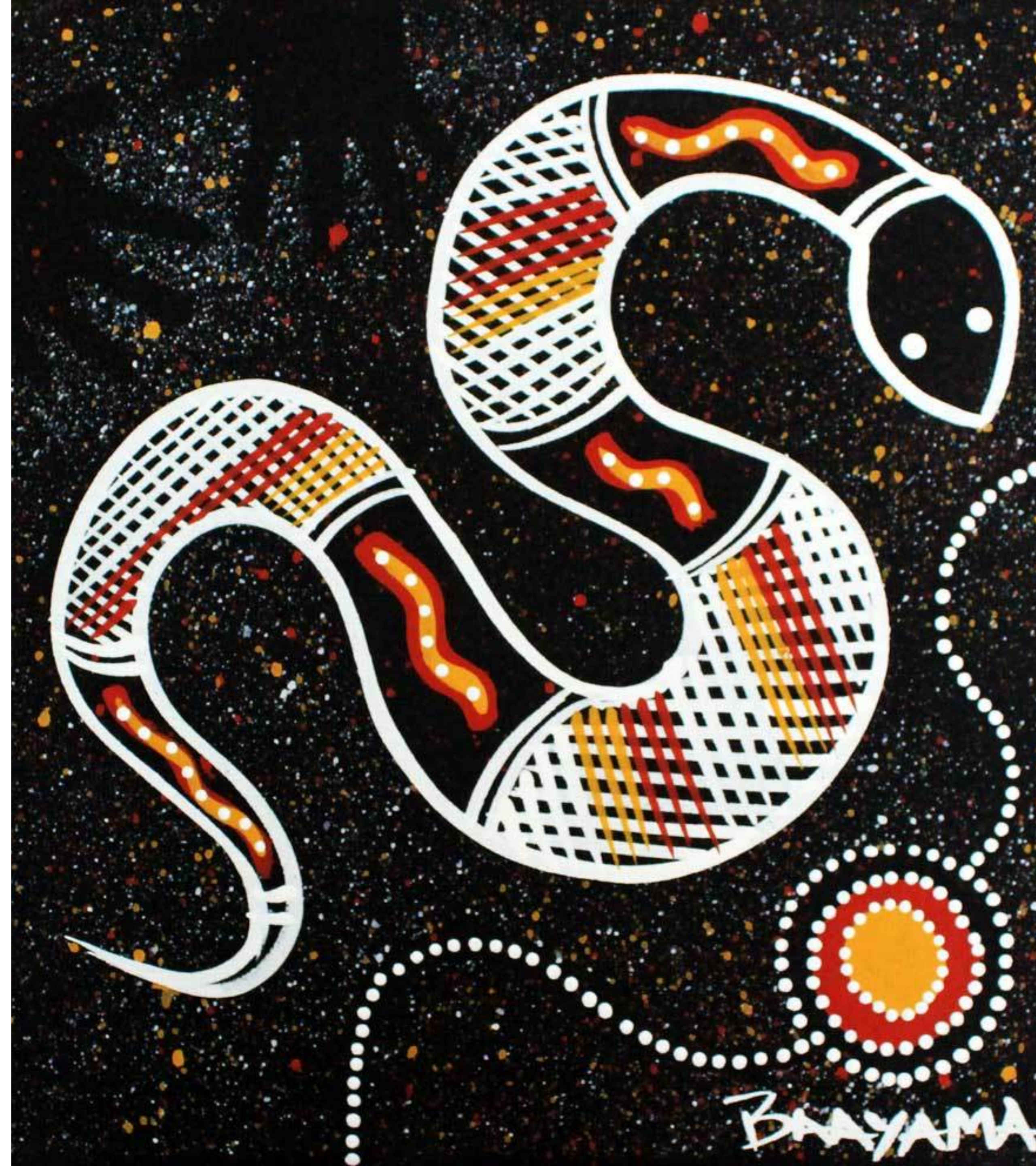


# INTRODUCTION

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Set in the unique Australian landscape, this story is inspired by today's businesswomen and the challenges they have to face, daring to ask if finding the cure for a hereditary disease justifies the destruction of a natural and cultural reserve as well as one's own family.

Covering the themes of ambition, forgiveness, and reconciliation, this crime drama features complex yet relatable characters, conflicting moral standpoints, custody battles as well as personal tragedies, making the audience appreciate their loved ones even more.





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We've got a knack for flowers.  
Plus we can be very spiky.

- *Briar Waters*

# MAIN CHARACTERS

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## Rose Waters

Driven to find a cure for her family's hereditary disease, this tough CEO isn't afraid to use illegal means to get what she wants. The closer she gets to achieving her goals, the more ruthless she becomes, risking the loss of her company and family.

## Poppy Waters

Trying to make up for a mistake in her past, this hardworking CFO does everything to support her sister in her dangerous plan. However, she starts to reconsider her values when she meets someone who shows her that there is more to life than work.

## Briar Waters

Wrongly blaming her mother for her father's death, this stubborn activist is not afraid to confront her family to protect a lake and an Aboriginal heritage site from corporate greed.

## Flora Waters

Coming to terms with her inevitable blindness, the matriarch to the Waters women provides counsel when needed most, not expecting to be the victim of her family's power play.

## Palmer Enright

This outdoorsy auditor and loving father believes in upholding the truth. But when forced to make a heartbreaking decision, he doesn't hesitate to give up his professional integrity in order not to lose the most important person in his life.

## Walter Weed

Starting to push boundaries to still his unstoppable greed, this corrupt councilman does not expect a family of smart women to be the reason for his downfall.





# SYNOPSIS - ACT I

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In present-day Australia, Rose is the CEO of a successful beauty company that she runs together with her sister and CFO Poppy. Unbeknownst to Rose, Poppy killed her husband in a traffic accident many years ago, guilting her into giving up her own ambitions to support her sister in whatever she needs. Rose's company is about to venture into the development of medical products as both sisters suffer from a hereditary eye disease that is on the verge of taking away their beloved mother Flora's eyesight.

In order to make this happen Rose strikes a deal with corrupt politician Walter Weed to have a decommissioned water pipe resurrected that will branch off water from a river to her company's crop grown for research purposes, draining a local water reservoir that serves as habitat for various wildlife. For this reason, Poppy has set up a scheme whereby she pays the company's management team excess bonuses that they in turn spend on favors for the councilman.

One day auditor Palmer Enright, a father in the middle of a custody battle for his daughter, appears with the mandate to look at the company's books. Rose implores Poppy to do whatever it takes to keep him in the dark about their illegal doings, to which she willingly obliges. While Palmer audits the company under the watchful eyes of Poppy Rose meets Weed to discuss his additional demands. To her surprise, she finds her estranged activist daughter Briar at the forefront of a rally against the pipeline. Rose confronts her, and the subsequent fight about the trade-off between medical research and nature conservationism pushes them further apart.



## SYNOPSIS - ACT II

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Poppy and Palmer grow closer at the company's summer party, where she finds out that he has picked up some clues about the bribery scheme. However, she manages to dispense his suspicions, and they end up spending the night together. At the same time, Briar and her girlfriend Violet uncover Weed's plan to build a housing project on the drained river bank, destroying a heritage site of the local Aboriginal people.

Shortly after Palmer uncovers the full scheme of the sister's illegal actions. Despite Poppy's attempts to bribe him into destroying his evidence, he insists on reporting the sisters to the authorities. Poppy goes to Rose to help, who in turn asks Weed to have the judge repeal Palmer's shared custody rights to his daughter if he doesn't comply. Torn between his professional duty and his love for his child, Palmer turns in all his documentation to Poppy. Poppy, heartbroken and appalled by her sister's actions, confronts Rose, and a heated argument ensues during which Poppy confesses to killing Rose's husband all those years ago.

Having found out about Weed's plan to not only destroy a natural habitat but also an important cultural site, the furious management team turns up and takes a stand against the Waters sisters. Finally realizing that the search for a cure for a disease can't outweigh the importance of preserving nature, Aboriginal history, and their family, Rose agrees to let Palmer reveal the truth.







## SYNOPSIS - ACT III

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While Poppy goes to Palmer to let him know that the sisters are prepared to live with the consequences of their actions, Rose makes her way to the lake where she finds Briar and Flora at the forefront of a rally. Despite Rose's best intentions, Briar starts to fight again, blaming her mother not only for her involvement in corrupt politics but also for the death of her father.

Just when Poppy turns up to tell Briar the truth of their family's history Flora gets pushed by the crowd and falls head-first onto a stone, uniting the Waters' women in their anguish over their matriarch's pain.

A couple of days later Weed is taken into custody, and Rose resigns from her company while awaiting her trial. She meets Briar at her father's grave, where mother and daughter finally make up. Palmer meets Poppy at the lake where, finally free of the burden of guilt and with time to spare, Poppy shows herself open for a fresh start in life.

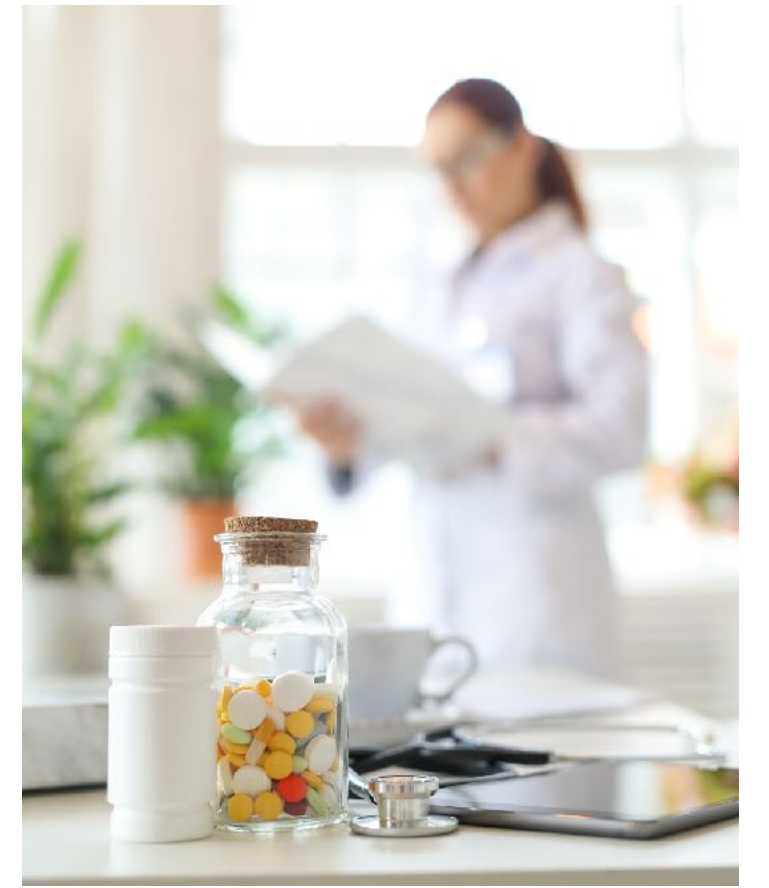
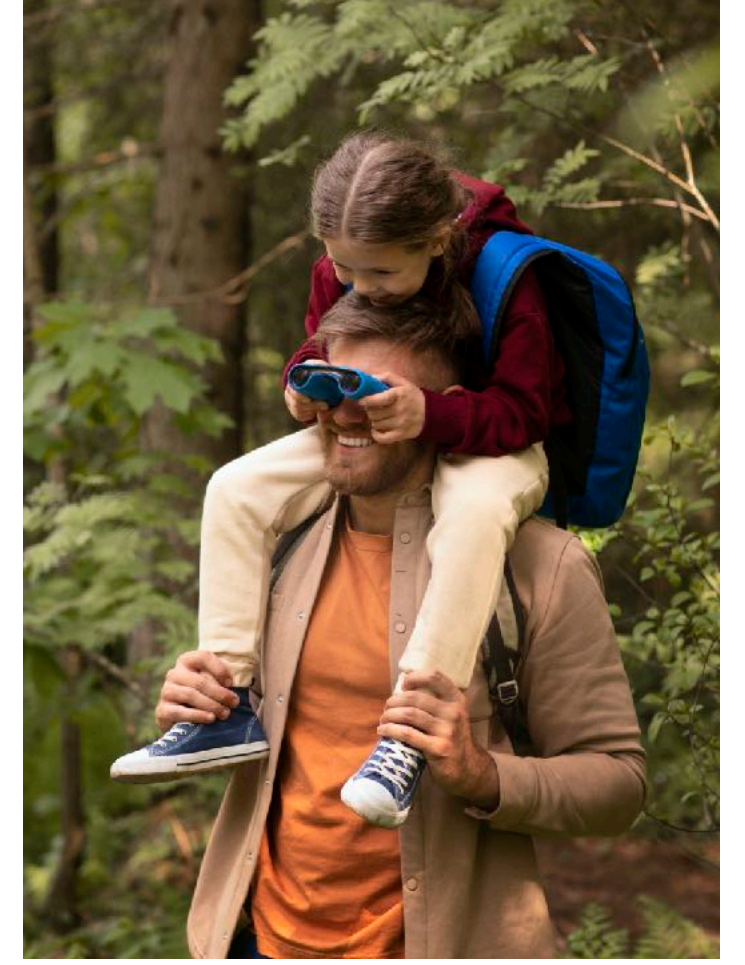


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You think that I'm blind, but in reality, you're the one who cannot see.

- *Flora Waters*





# MOOD BOARD

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And John Rockefeller naming a skyscraper after himself isn't egocentric?

- *Poppy Waters*





She brought a  
small town to its feet  
and a huge company  
to its knees.

Julia  
Roberts  
is  
Erin  
Brockovich

Based on a true story.

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MISERY  
LOVES  
FAMILY  
**August: Osage County**

Meryl Streep Julia Roberts Ewan McGregor Chris Cooper Abigail Breslin Benedict Cumberbatch  
Juliette Lewis Margo Martindale Dermot Mulroney Julianne Nicholson Sam Shepard Misty Upham

# REFERENCES



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Having responsibility is one thing.  
Taking accountability the other.

- *Rose Waters*



# ABOUT THE SCREENWRITER

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Alana Gerdes is a Swiss-Australian financial crime prevention expert who specializes in writing crime dramas (the irony is not lost on her). She likes to spice things up with romance and comedy, thus creating complex and relatable characters that resonate with the audience. Self-motivated and committed to innovative and original scripts, she has gained recognition in multiple screenwriting competitions including “Suborn Rose” being selected for the Sydney Lift-Off Film Festival.





# THANK YOU FOR READING

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